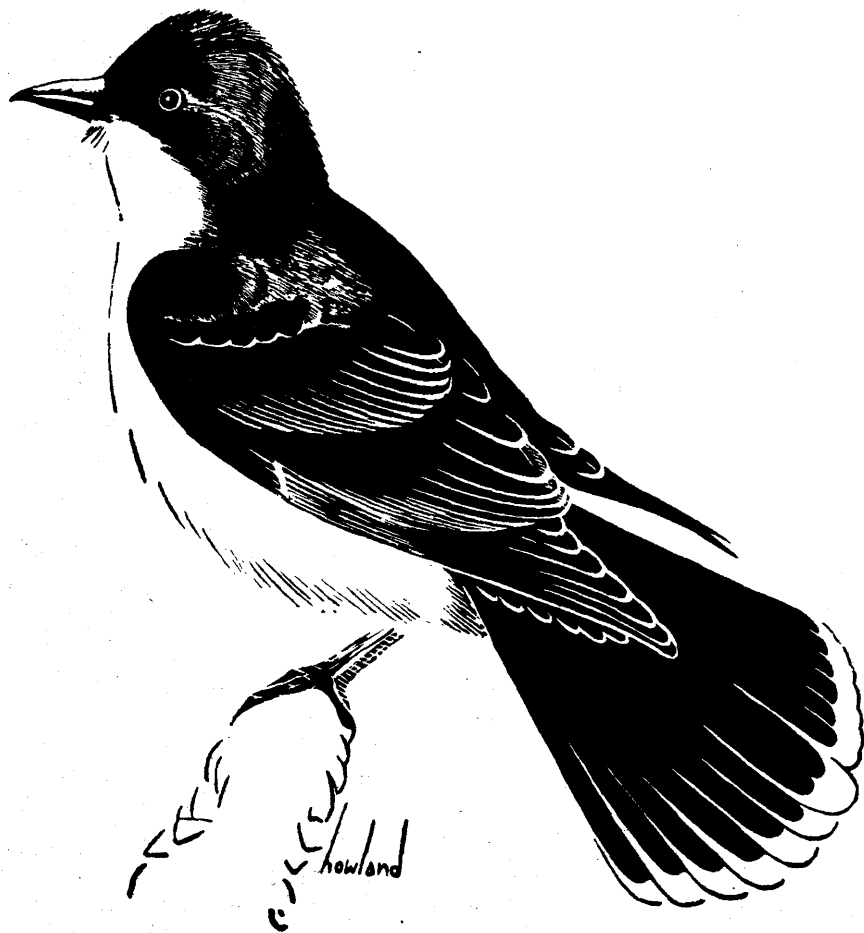


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EDITORIAL — REGIONAL REPORTS AND RECORDS DOCUMENTATION

Robert Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster NY 14580

Since the change in *The Kingbird* editorship early this year, we have been wrestling with many issues relative to the Regional reports. The intent is to continue to strike some balance between providing interesting, readable reports and producing a compilation of records likely to be of use to researchers trying to locate data. The experiences of many of the authors of species accounts for the new state bird book in progress have driven us to a few changes in format of the reports, such as virtually eliminating the use of the term "intro" in the body of the species records. Any data worth putting in the introduction of a report will be summarized again in the body of the species summaries for easy location.

In a recent meeting with many of the regional editors and through notes from the rest, there has been reinforcement of the recognition that they walk a tightrope in many ways. In order to encourage the submission of records, the editor wants to be as non-judgmental as possible and to include recognition of as many individual contributors as possible with initials on individual records. Yet, in the interest of science and credibility, rarer records, either due to where found or when, must be adequately documented and the editors are called upon to push for documentation from the observers and to eliminate as simply as interesting rumors those for which written documentation is not submitted. Since we are generally not collecting specimens, good written documentation is all that we have to support sight record validity and to add some degree of science to our efforts. In the interest of space (= cost), we must recognize that all records are not of detailed interest at the state level. The editors are called upon to select records which illustrate what happened in their Region in a given season, with emphasis on special events and records which relate to longer term trends of some kind. Periodically, this will mean noting that a given stable species or family is still just that, but every species can not be covered every season.

We have asked that initials be added only to "special" records, though every observer/contributor should be acknowledged in the **Contributors** section of the report. However, it is imperative that as many records be gathered as possible so that we can first obtain a feel for any given season, then later begin to see trends in data. It is hoped that all the submitted records will be retained

in some fashion and passed along when the local editorship changes. It is also very useful if more of the records can be published in some form in club newsletters within the local Region.

Issues remain around the gathering and reporting of data such as this. Early and late dates, while interesting to birders, are mainly weather, observer effort, and luck driven, so may tell us little about population trends. High counts again may be driven by special conditions forcing unusual concentrations, thus requiring much care in interpretation. Counts also require that we carefully spell out the "level of aggregation" or level of effort spent if we are to make meaningful comparisons. Totals from a BBS route or a bird count or a set of bird counts in a Region are not immediately comparable with each other or with reports from single field trips. We must all be as clear as possible in our reporting. Over time we must figure out how to best portray such varying data. We generally feel strongly that data are essential to driving rational decisions in the environmental arena, thus the more that we can gather, the better, even if we don't know exactly how to analyze it now. We may be able to figure out useful methods of analysis later, but we have no hope of finding data we didn't take or gather and save now.

Records with the greatest level of detail you are willing to provide and with your comments on the circumstances and the season in the areas you visited will be of the most interest and use. Counts and careful numerical estimates at specific sites are preferred. However, even the simple presence or absence of a species in an area on a date indicated by a check on a list may have some utility. Submission on checklists of some kind, or at least summarized in checklist order, will ease the task of the Regional editor in assembling and trying to make sense out of a season's input. In the end, any form of written submission will be appreciated. As always, any of us would like to hear your comments and suggestions.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE 1994

The Committee evaluated and made decisions on a total of 58 records of birds involving 85 reports. Included are 69 reports from 1994, 13 from 1993 and single reports from 1954, 1969 and 1989. Twenty-one reports remain to be resolved. Any observer who wishes to know the disposition of his or her report by the NYSARC as soon as possible after a decision is made may request this from the Committee. Such requests, reports and any other correspondence for the Committee should be sent to the Secretary:

Jim Lowe, Secretary,
New York State Avian Records Committee
c/o Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

1994 ACCEPTED REPORTS

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). 1994-27-A-D: one flying toward the Hudson River over Ferncliff Forest Preserve, Mount Rutsen Road, Town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., 11 May (RC). Probably the same individual was reported the same day at the mouth of Rondout Creek, City of Kingston, Ulster Co., (RP,TB) and at Tivoli South Bay, Town of Red Hook, Dutchess Co., 12 May (CN,GB).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). 1994-20-A,B: one adult at North Bay, Tivoli Bays, Town of Red Hook, Dutchess Co., 14, 17 April (MD,AB). 1994-23-A: one adult at Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, Erie Co., 8-12 May (WD).

Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*). 1994-8-A-C: one off McGraw Road, one mile north of Chittenango, Town of Sullivan, Madison Co., 28, 29 March (SA,JT,DC). Photograph on file. This is the eighth record for the state.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). 1994-38-A-C: one female at Batavia Sewage Treatment Plant ponds, Batavia, Genesee Co., 2, 8, 16 October (DS,WD, RS).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1994-28-A: one adult at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 14 May (RK). This is the ninth record for the state.

- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1994-15-A: one adult off Chase Road, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 12 March (RSp).
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1994-51-A,B: one adult at Buffalo, Erie Co., 24 December (RA,WD).
- Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1994-16-A: six over Dewey-Latta Park, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 30 March (RM). 1994-41-A: two at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Tyre, Seneca Co., 28 October (GW). 1994-53-A: one near Sagg Pond, Town of Southampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 31 December to first week of April 1995 (ES). Photograph on file.
- Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). 1994-34-A,B: one on shore of Lake Champlain between mouths of Great Chazy and Little Chazy Rivers, Town of Champlain, Clinton Co., 4 August (CM,WK).
- Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*). 1994-33-A-C: one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 8, 30 July (JF,JQ,RK). The possibility of these being two different birds on these widely separated dates remains, as the descriptions in the reports do not appear to contain any information that would indicate they were either the same individual or two different ones. This is the third (and fourth?) record for the state.
- Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). 1994-7-A: one adult at Jones Inlet, Point Lookout, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 17, 20 March (ML,LF,AW). Photographs on file. This is the second record for the state.
- Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). 1994-1-A-E: one immature at Sodus Point, Town of Sodus, Wayne Co., 2, 3 January (D & DT, RSp,WG,DL). Photograph on file.
- White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). 1994-22-A: one adult at Stone Mills Pond, Perch River Wildlife Management Area, Town of Orleans, Jefferson Co., 10 May (RW). This is the fourth record for the state.
- Common Murre (*Uria aalge*). 1994-3-A: one at Point Lookout Inlet, Long Island, Nassau Co., 5 February (HB).
- Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*). 1994-42-A-C: one at Summerville pier at the mouth of the Genesee River, Lake Ontario, Rochester, Monroe Co., 31 October to 4 November (RM,AC,RSp). This western North American species was seen by many observers. It has

previously been sighted in several midwestern and northeastern states and this is the first New York record. Photographs on file.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). 1994-46-A-D: one adult male at feeder at 80 Main Street, Cambridge, Washington Co., 11, 12, 20 November and 3 December (BP,DC,SA,RY). This bird was first reported in October. It was captured and banded on 3 December, then released in a sunroom at Saugerties where it died on 9 December. This is the second New York record. Photographs on file.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). 1994-30-A,B: one at Nine Mile Point Road, 0.3 mile south of Lake Road, Town of New Haven, Oswego Co., 28 May (MK,MDr). Photograph on file. This is the third upstate New York record.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*). 1994-43-A: one on Fire Island, 0.3 mile west of Fire Island lighthouse, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 3 November (ML). This is the fifth record for the state.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). 1994-48-A: one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 20 February (CJ). This is the fifth record for New York.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). 1994-32-A: two at Arnot Forest, Town of Cayuta, Schuyler Co., 14 June (JG,SG). 1994-50-A: one on Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 8 December (KM).

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). 1994-55-A: one at Massawepie Bog, Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence Co., 25 June (JH). Audiotape on file.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). 1994-21-A: one at Braddock Bay Park, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 3 May (KG).

Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). 1994-40-A: one at Baker Hill, Hurleyville, Town of Fallsburg, Sullivan Co., 26-30 October (KC). 1994-52-A: one at Basher Kill access site, Westbrookville, Town of Mamakatin, Sullivan Co., 28 December (DN).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1994-19-A: one at Church Road, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 11 April (RM).

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1994-4-A,B: one at Gardner Road, Town of Pompey, Onondaga Co., 11, 13, 21, 23 January (DC,EB). Photographs on file. 1994-5-A: one at Game Farm Road, Quaker Hill,

Town of Pawling, Dutchess Co., 1 February (SGi). 1994-6-A: one at Kestrel Haven Farm, four miles southwest of Mecklenburg, Town of Hector, Schuyler Co., (JG,SG). 1994-10-A: one at Virgil, Town of Virgil, Cortland Co., 18 January (EB). 1994-11-A: one at Gates Road, Town of Pompey, Onondaga Co., 19 March (DC). 1994-18-A: one at Oneonta, Town of Oneonta, Otsego Co., 10-12 April (MDo).

1994 REPORT, IDENTITY ACCEPTED, ORIGIN UNCERTAIN

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). 1994-12-A: one at pond near Russell Power Plant, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 12 February, still present 12 March (RSp). Photographs on file. Attempts are being made to introduce this species in the Northeast and it is breeding successfully in Ontario.

1994 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*). 1994-24-A.B: one at Crown Point peninsula, two miles southeast of Port Henry, Town of Moriah, Essex Co., 8 May. This bird was seen over the walls of the fort as it flew westward across the tip of the peninsula. The NYSARC agrees that it was an albatross of the genus *Diomedea* but cannot assign it to a species. On 29 May 1960, *D. chlororhynchos* was photographed off Jones Beach, Long Island (Bull J. 1974. *Birds of New York State*, p. 56).

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1994-13-A: one over Whiting Road, Town of Webster, Monroe Co., 12 February. 1994-14-A: one at Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 16 February.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1994-9-A: one at Irondequoit Bay outlet, Town of Irondequoit, Monroe Co., 8 January.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*). 1994-35-A: one at Mecox Inlet, Town of Southampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 23 August.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 1994-39-A: one at Jones Beach State Park, Nassau Co., 23 October. 1994-45-A: one at Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 8 November.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). 1994-37-A: one in Oswego Co., late September.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1994-2-A: one at Henderson, Town of Henderson, Jefferson Co., 4-10 January.

1993 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1993-74-A-C: one adult at Creamery Road, three miles west of Westfield, Town of Westfield, Chautauqua Co., 2 May (LD,JL,JS). Videotape on file.
- Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). 1993-73-A: one at State University College at Oswego, Oswego Co., 28 April (CF).

1993 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

- Arctic (Pacific) Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). 1993-35-A: one at Irondequoit Bay outlet, Town of Irondequoit, Monroe Co., 2 January.
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1993-2-A: off Indian Brook Road, one mile west of Taconic Nature Center, Garrison, Town of Philipstown, Putnam Co., 2 January. 1993-9-A: one off Lighthouse Road, Stony Point, Town of Henderson, Jefferson Co., 26 February.
- Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1993-17-A: three over New York Route 3 between New York Route 178 and Smith Road, Town of Henderson, Jefferson Co., 5 April. The NYSARC accepted this only as Crane sp. 1993-50-A: one over Braddock Bay Park, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 9 August. 1993-54-A,B: one off Route 79 near Windsor, Town of Windsor, Broome Co., 13 September.
- Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). 1993-57-A: one on route 32, Saugerties, Town of Saugerties, Ulster Co., 22 September and for over two weeks subsequently. The NYSARC accepted this as *Selasphorus* sp. 1993-66-A: one at Floral park, Queens Co., 22 November to 1 December. The NYSARC accepted this as *Selasphorus* sp. See previous reports in *The Kingbird* 31: 210, 1981; 40: 210-211, 1990.

1989 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). 1989-17-A: one at Jones Beach State Park, Town of Hempstead, Long Island, Nassau Co., 25 May

1969 ACCEPTED REPORT

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). 1969-1-A: one at Dryden Lake. 1.6 miles southeast of Dryden, Town of Dryden, Tompkins Co., 6 October (RH).

1954 ACCEPTED REPORT

Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). 1954-2-B: one at Kitchawan, Town of Yorktown, Westchester Co., 4 or 5 November (RO). A prior report of this bird was not acceptable to NYSARC (*Kingbird* 34:216, 1984). This is the first record of this western species for New York. Bull (*Birds of the New York Area*, 1964) previously had accepted it and then later (*Birds of New York State*, 1974) relegated the species to the hypothetical category. He gave dates of occurrence at this locality as 27 October to 6 November.

ADDITIONS TO NEW YORK STATE LIST

This report contains two additions to the New York State list, Ancient Murrelet and Lewis' Woodpecker. The list now totals 452 species. This total includes the new species which resulted from the recent taxonomic changes by the American Ornithologists' Union. See *The Kingbird* 46: 102, 1996.

New York State Avian Records Committee

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EARLY FLEDGING OF COMMON TERNS

William Watson

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On both 30 Jun and 2 Jul, 1995, four fledgling Common Terns were observed at Jaeger Rocks in Fort Erie, Ontario. Although these fledglings were observed in Canada, one can be reasonably certain that these are New York birds. There are two Common Tern colonies in New York State, Donnelley's Breakwater colony and Short Breakwater colony, only one and a half miles or less from the observation site, while the nearest colony in Canada is 18 miles to the west on the Port Colburn Breakwater. Since published dates for Common Tern fledglings are between July 10 and September 9 (Meade 1988), June 30 represents a new early record for New York State.

The four juveniles were about an inch shorter than the adults that attended them, but other than the length, the juvenile Common Terns had the same shape as the adult Common Terns. The plumage and field marks were the same as the adults with the following six exceptions:

1) The base of the bill was light orangish yellow in contrast to the adult's bill which was deep orange.

2) The feet and legs were orange-yellow in contrast to the adult's that were orange. These differences were not subtle.

3) The forehead and top of the crown were white. Behind the crown and eye, the hind cap and nape were black. The hind neck was also black, and this black hind neck was nearly separated from the hind cap in some of the juveniles. In contrast to the adult's cap was complete.

4) The folded wing showed a dark gray carpal bar.

5) Unlike the adults, the gray feathers of the young were edged in white on the back, upper wing coverts, scapulars, primaries, and secondaries. The primaries caused four white lines to be seen on the wing when the bird was

resting.

6) In good light the backs of the fledglings were brownish gray, in contrast to the adult's backs that were pure gray.

On both days the fledglings were observed begging for food, but no food was given to them by the adults. The fledglings were also observed flying in to this evening roosting location. These observations were made with a 50x eight inch Celestron telescope at a distances of 50-80 yards. On June 6, 1993, researchers observed eight Common Terns that were 21 days old or older, based on their feather development (which was studied in the hand) at the Short Breakwater colony. Since these observations are not uncommon and Common Terns fly at four weeks, early to mid June fledglings should not be unusual. Note: These eight Common Terns were considered fledglings based purely on their feather development (McBrayer and others 1995).

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PROBABLE EXTRALIMITAL BREEDING OF LINCOLN'S SPARROW IN FINGER LAKES HIGHLANDS

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ABSTRACT—Five Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*) in new or juvenal plumage were banded near Mecklenberg in Schuyler County NY on 1, 4, 5, and 14 Aug 95, some 135 air miles from their closest confirmed breeding site in the Adirondacks. Identification was validated by recaptures in Sep and Oct. A breeding adult female was also captured on 26 May 96. Plumage descriptions and mensuration data are provided.

INTRODUCTION

On 1 Aug 1995 we banded and released two hatching year (HY), sex unknown (U) Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*) (LISP) at our research station in Schuyler County. We are located in the southwest corner of the Cayuga Lake Basin, approximately four miles southwest of Mecklenberg and some 135 air miles from the closest confirmed LISP breeding site in the Adirondacks. A third HY-U LISP was banded on 4 August, a fourth on 5 Aug, and a fifth on 14 Aug. All five birds were in new or juvenal plumage, suggesting a very recent fledging.

We were indeed surprised by the juvenal plumaged birds on 1 Aug and totally flabbergasted by the time number five checked in! From the beginning, our concern was to confirm our identification before banding so we relied heavily on plumage description and mensuration as indicated in Pyle (1987) and other dichotomous keys (Anon 1977 and undated draft, Wood 1969, Rimmer 1986, Roberts 1955). Nevertheless, we were more than a little relieved when three of the birds were recaptured in September and October, having completed first prebasic (post-juvenal) molts and presenting themselves as "obvious" Lincoln's Sparrows! The following are descriptions and mensuration from our field logs.

OBSERVATIONS

"PLUMAGE: Sparrow with overall pale appearance, slim bill. Buffy, broad superciliary. Crown is buff brown with obvious and distinct dark streaking. Throat is coarsely streaked. Breast band is creamy buff and distinctly streaked (necklace). Lining of roof of mouth is grayish to grayish white. Bend of wing is off-white. Gapes are all swollen. Overall appearance is that of juvenile LISPs."

MENSURATION: data are presented in Table 1.

We eliminated Song and Swamp sparrows as alternatives by our field experience, the above features, and the mensuration data.

DISCUSSION

We ended up banding 2700 birds during this fall migration, a station high. Our LISP total was 42, bringing the number handled in nine seasons to 129. A cooperative study of selected migrant species coordinated by the authors receives arrival, peak, departure, and number banded data on 22 species from 40 banding stations along the Atlantic Flyway ranging from Canada to Florida. Kestrel Haven's experience with the species is second only to Powdermill, Pennsylvania. Only four Atlantic Flyway sites have reported more than 25 LISPs in the past five years. Since the study's inception in 1991, the previous early date for LISP was reported by Elizabeth Brooks at Braddock Bay on 24 August 1992 (personal communication). At Kestrel Haven, we have seen an increasing number of LISPs from 10 in 1987 to 42 in 1995.

These were our first juvenal plumage birds. We have extensive experience with Song Sparrow in all plumages (over 5000) and believe four or five races pass through our site. We band a smaller number of Swamp Sparrow but, as they are local breeders, we routinely handle juvenal plumage birds. This fall's 42 LISPs were 5 in August (all juvenal, of which 3 repeated after first pre-basic molt), 18 in September, and 19 in October. Only 4 of the 42 were adults (AHY), 2 in September and 2 in October; none showed cloacal protuberance or active brood patch. By way of contrast to the 5 in consideration, our first September LISPs were three on 8 Sep and all had completed their first PB molt.

Meade (1988) cites nest record data for fledglings as 21 August and Peterson (1988) reports no data outside the Adirondacks. Bull (1974) reports and casually dismisses a sight record from 1903 in Monroe County and a 1967 "nest record card" submission from Tioga County (to our southeast). The New

York breeding range is the southernmost extension of the main breeding range, which is circumboreal from Alaska to Newfoundland.

Table 1. Mensuration data. Measurements are in millimeters or grams. Dates are 1995. Bird band numbers are: A = 2011-28676, B = 2011-28677, C = 2011-28689, D = 2011-28698, E = 1211-70979. All birds were in juvenal plumage at banding. Repeats completed first PB molt. Wing is an unflattened chord measurement. Weight was by a Pesola scale. Skull grades were on a scale of 0 = unpneumatized to 7 = fully pneumatized. Fat was graded on a scale of 0 = none to 6. Primary measurement was by transparent rule and calipers. P = primary feathers.

Bird	Wing	Tail	Weight	Fat	Skull	P9-P4	P5	Repeat	Skull /weight
A	55	54	15	0	0	>	=	17 Sep	1/15
B	56	57	15	0	0	>	+1		
C	59	58	15	0	0	>	+1	30 Sep	1/15
D	60	59	15	0	0	>	=	3 Oct	1/15
E	61	59	15	0	0	>	+2		

DEDUCTION

We first thought that the very severe drought experienced throughout the state had caused our five juvenal plumage LISPs to move from the closest known breeding population in the Adirondacks. The order of relatively quick appearance coupled with the later recapture confirmation led us now to believe that an extralimital breeding occurred in our immediate area. Proper habitat is available very nearby, from 900 to 1700 feet on regenerating farmland, with mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlots. A bog in largely hemlock cover is also nearby. Our photos and mensuration data were peer reviewed by experienced banders and biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Biological Service and found to be correct. A nesting must have been very close by as the young birds would not have left their breeding ground in juvenal plumage (Chan Robbins, personal communication). This reasoning is strengthened by their recaptures in September and October and our most recent addition to the saga.

On 26 May 1996, we banded an adult female LISP which presented with a very edematous brood patch. While some species are suspected of biological "en route" preparation while nearing their northern breeding ground, this has

been limited to the male enlarged cloacal protuberance. We have seen this phenomena in spring White-crowned Sparrow. To our knowledge, no species is known to develop a vascular brood patch until the female is in the breeding territory and active.

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THE OLDEST SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER ON RECORD

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ABSTRACT -- A banded Semipalmated Sandpiper sighted at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge was determined to be the oldest Semipalmated Sandpiper on record: 13 years old.

On 25 Jul 1996, while observing shorebirds on the south shore of East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens County, we noticed a banded Semipalmated Sandpiper preening and scratching on the mud flat. We observed the bird for ten minutes through a 20x Nikon ED spotting scope from a distance of approximately 15 yards. It was 2:00 p.m. on a calm, sunny day. The bird was in a tight group of six Semipalmated Sandpipers that was among approximately two hundred peeps, including some Least and Western, and roughly two hundred dowitchers, mostly Short-billed. The bird displayed four leg bands configured as follows:

Right leg below joint--aqua above, white below;

Left leg above joint--silver above, ochre below.

We reported the sighting to Dr. Cheri L. Gratto-Trevor, Research Scientist, Canadian Wildlife Service, because, as a representative of the Pan American Shorebird Program, she had responded to a previous shorebird sighting of ours. Dr. Gratto-Trevor, author of the Semipalmated Sandpiper chapter of *The Birds of North America*, studied the breeding biology of Semipalmated Sandpipers for eight years at La Perouse Bay, Manitoba (approximately 40 kilometers east of Churchill). She responded with enthusiasm to our report, saying that she had used such a color pattern on birds she banded at La Perouse Bay in 1984. To clarify what we meant by "ochre" and "aqua," she enclosed with her letter samples of the bands she used at La Perouse Bay.

Based on our interpretation of the colors of her bands, Dr. Gratto-Trevor concluded that the bird was most likely a female banded in late spring 1984 as a yearling, making the bird greater than thirteen years of age at the time of our sighting. The previous record for Semipalmated Sandpiper longevity was twelve years (Holroyd and Brown 1970). Dr. Gratto-Trevor allowed that, even if the band colors had faded and what we called "ochre" had been orange rather

than yellow, the individual we sighted would still have been one of two other birds, both of which were also banded as breeding adults in 1984.

Dr. Gratto-Trevor included in her communication with us individual histories of all three of these birds. We submitted copies to Dave Taft, Refuge Manager, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

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CORRECTION TO THE 1994 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Vivian Pitzrick was incorrectly given as the author of the following article. This study was done in Windsor County, Vermont, and should not have been included in the 1994 bibliography of New York state ornithology.

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Please send any additions or corrections to the above bibliography to: Phyllis R. Jones, *Sullivan County Community College, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759. E-mail: jonespr@sullivan.suny.edu*

LETTER - REGIONAL REPORTS

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I applaud Angus Wilson's proposal to systematize Regional Reports by species. It would indeed be an easy and rapid reference as well as a comprehensive overview. Cumulatively, it could be computerized into a formidable data bank.

I foresee difficulties. Wilson provides for the retention of Regional commentaries. Reporters regularly "open up" the dense text clusters of their species accounts with notes about such things as observers being almost struck by marauding accipiters. Are all such observations to be expunged from the accounts or worked into the general essay? A huge problem will be formatting. Each Regional Report features three sets of abbreviations, statewide, Regional, and observer initials.

Putting together a sample account for Lesser Black-backed Gull is easy enough. Cobbling together the data for any common species will inevitably yield an unwieldy tapeworm of telegraphic tidbits. If the species also happens to be regular in four Regions but marginal in six, but also a bit intransigent about breeding (for example, White-eyed Vireo), you have the makings of a pretty formidable fusillade of abbreviations. It is hard to see how you could avoid such a farrago.

Withal, I believe Dr. Wilson's idea is cogent and pregnant with possibilities. I suggest that it might best be implemented by retooling it carefully so as to render it capable of being formatted in tabular form.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON 1996

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The weather of the summer of '96 was relatively benign across the state, suggesting a good season for nesting birds. June was generally warm and wet, July cool and wet, and August average to cool and drier, though with no hint of the droughts of years recently past. In several Regions to the SE, nearly half of the high rainfall totals for July came from the tail end of Hurricane Bertha on the 13th. Only two Regions noted logging a single 90°F day, the rest not reaching that mark all season. The result was lush growth and abundant crops of seeds, nuts and fruits produced. Weather related negatives were the losses of Tree Swallow and E. Bluebird nestlings in early June and high water levels producing limited shorebird habitat. Late nesting after a cool, late spring led to some late fledglings in some Regions.

In contrast to the frequently dull summer seasons, Summer '96 produced a substantial number of both late spring migrants and early fall arrivals and a good number of exciting breeding records and midsummer stragglers. Looking first at the late spring migrants, we find many waterbirds tallied well into June, including: Horned Grebe in Region 8, Brant in Regions 7 & 8, Greater Scaup in Region 1, Common Goldeneye in Region 5, and Common Eider to 1 June and 15 June in Region 10. A Black Vulture passing Derby hill on 2 June was a summer season first for Region 5. Shorebirds straggled through to mid June, with highlights a Ruddy Turnstone on 13 June and White-rumped Sandpiper on 16 June in Region 3. Among the passerines, there were also many late records, with Philadelphia Vireo to 10 June in Region 4 and Blackpoll Warbler to 17 June in Region 3 the most notable.

Turning to the early migrants of fall, the same families provided most of the excitement. Early waterbirds included: a record early Eared Grebe on 29 August in Region 1; Horned Grebe, both scaup, Black Scoter, and Bufflehead in Region 2; and White-winged Scoter in Regions 1, 2, & 7. Baird's Sandpiper arrived early on 15 July in Region 10 to represent the shorebirds, and early passerines included Olive-sided Flycatcher on 22 July in Region 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 18 August in Region 3, and Gray-cheeked Thrush on 7 August and Philadelphia Vireo and Blackpoll Warbler on 13 August in Region 4. In addition, migrant Merlins were sighted in August in five Regions and the season's first Parasitic Jaeger passed the lakewatch on Lake Ontario in Region 2.

Midsummer brought some of the real surprises of the season. First were the host of reports of birds rarely seen at this season, though still with no evidence of breeding. These included: Common Loon on the Finger Lakes and other larger bodies of water away from normal breeding locales; Great Cormorant at a beach site in Region 10; a single Snowy Egret in Region 3 and a record high inland count of three Snowy Egrets on 19 June in Region 7; four **Trumpeter Swans** in Region 3; Snow Goose in Region 7; Brant in Regions 4 & 7; many diving ducks scattered across the state, but especially noteworthy a female Tufted Duck in Region 1, a Regional first summer record of Ring-necked Duck in Region 4, and several Common Eiders in Region 10; multiple Turkey Vultures in Region 10; a 12 July record of Golden Eagle in Region 8; **Black Rail** calling on 16-24 June in Region 6; Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, and Short-billed Dowitcher either as summer stragglers or very early, late June, fall returns in Region 7; Little Gull on 4 July in Region 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull in Regions 1 & 10; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded on 1 July in Region 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 18 July in Region 8; Clay-colored Sparrow in Regions 2, 4, 5, & 6; and reports of "winter finches," Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak from six Regions each.

As noted earlier, reports indicated a good nesting season for most species, and the season certainly produced many positive notes of breeding increases and range expansions. Among the waterbirds we find: Double-crested Cormorant colony increases in Regions 1, 6, & 7 and a first nesting on the main body of Long Island in Region 10; a first successful inland nesting of Great Egret, with three pairs each fledging three young in Region 1; Trumpeter Swan nesting successfully in Regions 2 & 6 [Recent details from Steve Kelling suggest that these are probably dispersed offspring from an ongoing, private captive breeding activity near Montezuma NWR where many young have been raised for several years with none of these pinioned or restrained. It is highly likely also that last summer's swans nesting at Perch River WMA, thought to be Tundra Swans, were actually the Trumpeter Swan pair which nested there again this year. This same supposition applies to the imm. Trumpeter Swans wintering in Region 2 the past two years. [Do we applaud this introduction of another large waterfowl with no historical evidence of former breeding in this part of the continent?]; expanding Mute Swan populations - noted in 7 of 9 Regions reporting, definitely not applauded; increases in Am. Wigeon young in Region 1.

Raptor notes included: Osprey and Bald Eagle doing well in many Regions, though with some losses due to the mid-May snows in Region 7 and 3 of 4 nests unsuccessful in Region 8; breeding Merlin continuing to increase in

Region 7 and with a strong "Probable" for breeding added from Region 6; and Peregrine Falcon nesting spreading to include Regions 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, & 10, though no young were fledged from the eyrie in Syracuse in Region 5. Gulls and terns are doing well in the colonies in the east end of Lake Ontario in Region 6 and on the Four Brothers Islands in Region 7, as well as in Region 10, and Great Black-backed Gull produced a first nesting record for Clinton Co. in Region 7. Red-bellied Woodpecker was noted expanding to the south into higher country and Black-backed Woodpecker and other boreal specialties were located at a new site in Region 5. Among the passerines there are so many species that coverage among Regions is somewhat sporadic for any one, but the positives included: Fish Crow stable or expanding in Regions 3, 4, 5, & 8; the continued spread of Com. Raven, including a nesting on City Hall in Elmira, Region 3; Sedge Wren at six locations in Region 6; Prairie Warbler noted in seven Regions; increased numbers of Cerulean Warbler breeding sites; Hooded Warbler expanding to new breeding locations in Regions 1 & 5; Yellow-breasted Chat reports increased, with notes from Regions 2, 3, 4, & 6; some good grassland species counts where specific searches were carried out, including 72 singing Henslow's Sparrows in night surveys in Region 6 and four Clay-colored Sparrows on the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base in Region 7.

The breeding bird picture is not all rosy, there are still many species with reasons for concern. Among these were: continued low numbers of reports for nesting Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal; few reports of nesting N. Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk; loss of some tern breeding colonies in Region 10; Black Tern still low, though some increases were noted in both Regions 5 & 6; both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will very scarce in most Regions; Carolina Wren numbers still low; only a single Sedge Wren report outside of the Region 6 breeding areas noted above; no Loggerhead Shrike reports; continued decline of Golden-winged Warbler as Blue-winged Warbler expands and more "Brewsters's" and "Lawrence's" hybrids are noted in former Golden-winged breeding strongholds; the continued scarcity of many grassland species away from the study areas in Regions 6, 7, & 8; and few reports of nesting Purple Finch.

Much of the data for the Regional reports for this season comes from special studies underway in the various Regions, as many regular reporters are away on vacation or just don't study and report resident bird records. Among these, possibly providing ideas for projects of interest to birders in more Regions, are: a daily lakewatch from late August to early December and a study of breeding birds in a local park, with counts on a set route daily, in Region 2; an annual (2nd year in 1996) census in a CBC circle in Region 3; note of regular analysis

of the data from the eight BBS routes in Region 4 and a plea from the Region 8 Editor that observers there send her copies of their route summaries [This would be useful in all Regions, as the national summary data will never be available in time for the season's reports for *The Kingbird*.]; colonial nesting monitoring in Region 6; the annual Four Brothers Islands banding work and a concerted Palm Warbler survey effort in Region 7; long-term banding notes from Region 8; and pelagic trip summaries and colonial waterbird nesting observations in Region 10.

Finally, this summer found numerous rarities visiting the state. The best of these by Region were: Region 1 - Am. White Pelican, Anhinga, Snowy Egret, Tufted Duck, and Lesser Black-backed Gull; Region 2 - Trumpeter Swan, Mississippi Kite, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Dickcissel; Region 3 - Cattle Egret, Trumpeter Swan, Am. Avocet, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper; Region 4 - Brant, Ring-necked Duck, & Connecticut Warbler; Region 5 - Black Vulture, Willet, & Laughing Gull; Region 6 - Trumpeter Swan, "Kridler's" Red-tailed Hawk, singing Black Rail, & Connecticut Warbler; Region 7 - Snowy Egret (3), Snow Goose, Brant, & Connecticut Warbler; Region 8 - Golden Eagle; and Region 10 - Manx Shearwater, Great Cormorant, Common Eider, Black-necked Stilt, Am. Avocet (several), Sooty Tern, Sandwich Tern (several), Williamson's Sapsucker, and Bullock's Oriole. The obvious standout among these for the BOTS Award is the Williamson's Sapsucker, a female netted, banded, photographed, and released on 22 Jun in Region 10. If accepted by NYSARC when submitted, this is a first for NY. According to the 6th Edition of the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1983) the species had not been recorded east of the Mississippi River.

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Standard abbreviations: Regional rarities appear in *bold italics*; 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; CBC — Christmas Bird Count; 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; NYSDEC — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; 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

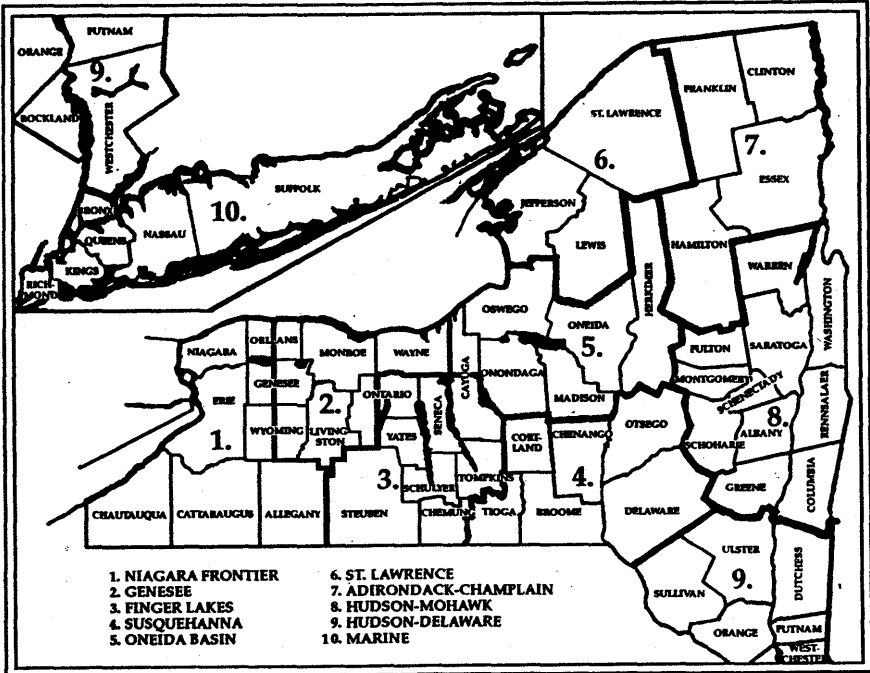
Winter Season: December, January, February - Deadline is 7 March

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

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After a wet spring, May ended with the kind of weather one expected would continue into June. However, a quick turnaround began on 2 Jun, the first of 13 consecutive days with rain and one of 22 such days for the month. At 5.20 inches the total precipitation was well above the average of 3.55. Despite the lack of sun, which made this the third cloudiest June of the century, temperatures averaged nearly two degrees above normal. The spring's inclement weather was enough to keep a few migrants here into early June, more than have been seen in recent years. Vivian Pitzrick reported continued mortality of Eastern Bluebird nestlings due to the weather and also that Tree Swallows fared well in spite of it. At least it was not a total loss for the bluebirds on her nest box trail, as they fledged an average of 2.2 young per nest. July was cooler than normal and also wetter. With most of the rain falling in thunderstorms on only ten days, at least it did not seem that wet. August temperatures were normal at Buffalo but well below average at Amity Lake ALLE. In Buffalo at least, it felt more like a typical summer month with higher humidity than the previous two. The season's hottest days were in August when the thermometer reached a modest 87 degrees on three dates. Precipitation was only about half of normal.

Rare nesting species grabbed the headlines this season. The Region's first nesting Peregrine Falcons successfully fledged three young in July from an eyrie on Buffalo's City Hall. The DEC arranged use of a room in a nearby building for monitoring the birds while they were still flightless. Excellent views of intimate behavior and spectacular aerial displays were the result. All in all these birds were a big hit with the media and anyone who has an interest in birds or nature. Motor Island in the Niagara River was again the site of Great Egret nestings. This year three pairs fledged three young each for the first successful nests ever in the Region. Also seen at Motor Island, 42 American Wigeon were probably the result of nestings in the vicinity, if not on Motor Island itself (WW). Bald Eagles were successful at all three of their nest locations, a first for the site on the Allegheny Reservoir.

Several species of birds with increasing population trends continued to do well. Double-crested Cormorant increased on the lighthouse colony at Buffalo

above the Peace Bridge. However, at Buckhorn Island SP, where attempts for several years to bring off young have been futile, fewer pairs even made the effort. Those that did again failed. Both of the cuckoos were well reported and widespread. Common Raven may be spreading with a report in ERIE for the second straight season. If only we had more active observers in WYOM, they could surely document its spread as a breeder there. Hooded Warbler, a common breeder in our Southern Tier, is increasing on the Tonawanda Indian Reservation in GENE. It was also found at a site near Lake Ontario, as far north as it can reach in the Region. Prairie Warbler continues to prosper in ALLE and CATT with several reports.

Species generally on the decrease include Black-crowned Night-Heron. However, at Motor Island where they were first noted just a few years ago, they seem to be doing well. On 9 Jul Watson counted 52 young birds there. This is one of only two nesting sites in the Region, the other a long established colony above Niagara Falls. Sedge Wren was not found this summer. Its nesting location of the previous three years, Buckhorn Island S.P., was disturbed by the construction of a new dike there. It is a little unnerving to report that "winged warbler" hybrids are recorded nearly as often as pure Golden-winged Warblers. This season two male Lawrence's type were found on nearby territories along Crick's Run at Allegheny SP, where one has been seen the previous three years. Grassland species are not doing well on the continent. Their status in the Region is less clear though it is definitely not positive. This year Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from only three sites in ALLE and ERIE, while Henslow's Sparrow was found at only two sites in the same counties.

The Batavia Sewage Lagoons deserve mention as one of the best places to find rare summering birds and the only place this season with any numbers of shorebirds. The latter group included Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Baird's Sandpiper, all inland rarities. Unusual waterfowl there included Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, two Lesser Scaup, two Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, and four Ruddy Duck. The rarest of all were a probable Eared Grebe in changing plumage and a female **Tufted Duck**. The latter must be considered as a possible escape, though reports in the northeast are numerous enough to suggest that a genuine vagrant is also possible. A record of this species in fall or winter would have more acceptance.

Finally, the summer season marks the beginning of the southbound passerine migration. Reports were unremarkable, with the first migrants not noted until the third week in August. There was one exception. An Olive-sided Flycatcher, a doubtful breeder, was found on 22 Jul and 5 Aug at Amity Lake, ALLE.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Anna Bauer, Marion Bee, Paul Benham, Craig Braack, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis, Kurt Fox, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Jane Heyer, Michael Morgante, Catherine Mueller, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Chuck Rosenburg, Olga Rosche, Gail Seamans, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Debra Suggs, Joe Thill (weather data), Michael Turisk, William Watson, Peter Yoerg

Abbreviations: BSL-Batavia Sewage Lagoons GENE; Buffalo RBA - Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; INWR-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF-Niagara Falls; NR-Niagara River; Tiff NP-Tiff Nature Preserve Buffalo; TWMA-Tonawanda WMA.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: **Red-throated Loon:** last Golden Hill SP 1 Jun, late. **Eared Grebe:** probable BSL 24 Aug (MM!), still no acceptable summer records. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** Strawberry I - NR 1,2 Jun (WW!), about the 12th record. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 564 Buckhorn I SP 11 Aug, decrease in nesting attempts there; nesting at lighthouse colony Buffalo increased. **Great Egret:** ten Iroquois NWR complex 3 Aug, max away from Motor I; three pr each fledged 3 y Motor I, *first successful Regional nesting.* **SNOWY EGRET:** Motor I - NR 26-28 Jun (WW!), only the third summer record. same bird as in early May? **Cattle Egret:** Beaver I SP 15 Jun (PB), unverified. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 52 y Motor I 9 Jul; generally decreasing in the Region. **Mute Swan:** INWR to 2 Jul, only report. **Green-winged Teal:** max eight TWMA 8 Jul. **N. Pintail:** six BSL 29 Jul (WW), high count for the date. **N. Shoveler:** arr BSL 8 Aug. **Am. Wigeon:** 42 Motor I - NR 16 Jul, possibly from nearby nesting. **Redhead:** BSL 3 Aug; Motor I - NR 12 Aug, rare in summer away from INWR. **Ring-necked Duck:** INWR thru (WW!), second summer in a row; BSL 29 Jul thru (WW!), very rare in summer. **TUFTED DUCK:** BSL 8,14 Jul (WW!,GS,WD!), escape?. **Greater Scaup:** Motor I - NR 1 Jun, later than usual. **Lesser Scaup:** two BSL 8 Jul thru; 1,2 Motor I - NR 6,31 Aug (WW); rare in summer. **White-winged Scoter:** ten T Wilson 17 Aug (WD!), very early. **Bufflehead:** 1-2 BSL 8 Jul through, very rare in summer. **Com. Merganser:** two Niagara Falls - NR 1,21 Jun, non-breeding; 1 ad + 11 y Wellsville ALLE early Jun; Allegany SP 2 Jul, breeding location. **Red-breasted Merganser:** 14 NF 1 Jun, late for so many; BSL 8 Jul (WW), rare inland in summer. **Ruddy Duck:** six max INWR to 27 Jun, no breeding evidence this year; four BSL 8 Jul thru, breeding status there unknown.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey:** 1-2 INWR thru; only known breeding site is still Allegheny Reservoir CATT. **Bald Eagle:** imm over T Hamburg 5 Jun, late migrant; T Charlotte 3 Aug, only reports away from breeding sites; three active nest sites all successful. **Peregrine Falcon:** 3 y fledged from well-monitored eyrie on Buffalo City Hall, *first Regional nesting*. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr 15 T Wilson 9 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 40 over BSL 24 Aug (MM), high count for the early date. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr T Alabama 29 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr BSL 4 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr BSL 8 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BSL 14 Jul. **Upland Sandpiper:** no reports away from previously known breeding sites. **Ruddy Turnstone:** three BSL 24 Aug (MM), rare inland. **Sanderling:** four BSL 24 Aug (MM), rare inland. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr five BSL 14 Jul. **Least Sandpiper:** arr six BSL 14 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper:** 2-1 BSL 24-31 Aug, rare, only report. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr T Wilson 17 Aug. **Stilt Sandpiper:** two INWR 3 Aug (BRBA), only report. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** last 36 Oak Orchard WMA 1 Jun (WW!), high count for the late date; arr T Wilson 17 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope:** BSL 31 Aug (MM), rare but perhaps regular at this site. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr away from NR nine BSL 8 Aug. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** basic II NF - NR 23 Aug (WD!,PO), only second summer record. **Black Tern:** Chautauqua Lake CHAU 21 Aug (MM), rare in Southern Tier.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Cuckoos:** both species widespread and in good numbers. **Com. Nighthawk:** arr T Tonawanda 17 Aug; well down in numbers.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** T Amity 22 Jul & 5 Aug (VP!), only the second Jul record; T Arkwright 18 Aug, only reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last T Newstead 1 Jun; arr T Alfred 21 Aug, only reports. **Acadian Flycatcher:** T Yates 1 Jun (WD!); T Ward 1 Jun (EB!); rare in both areas - these records are possible migrants. **Tree Swallow:** nesting apparently not seriously impacted by cool, rainy Jun. **Com. Raven:** probable T Elma 6 Jul (MM!); intro. **Carolina Wren:** West Seneca ERIE late Jul, only report; well down. **Sedge Wren:** no reports. **E. Bluebird:** hard hit by cool, rainy Jun, yet nestboxes in ALLE averaged 2.2 y/box (VP). **N. Mockingbird:** T Alfred 11 Jun (EB), rare in southern tier.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **White-eyed Vireo:** TWMA 1 Jun (PY!), late migrant? **"Brewster's" Warbler:** T Shelby 15 Jun; T Barre 30 Jun. **"Lawrence's" Warbler:** Tonawanda Indian Reservation 1-30 Jun (PY!,BH,WW!); two males Allegany SP 16 Jun & 1 Jul (TB), fourth straight

year there. **Tennessee Warbler**: last Blasdell ERIE 3 Jun. **Pine Warbler**: 1-2 Bush Hill State Forest CATT 17-28 Jun (BC!), probably breeding. **Prairie Warbler**: good numbers in ALLE and CATT. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: last T Tonawanda 1 Jun; arr Tiffitt NP 26 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: last Buckhorn I SP 9 Jun (WW!); arr Fort Niagara SP 31 Aug. **Hooded Warbler**: increasing Tonawanda Indian Res GENE; one at site near Lake Ontario, breeding range expanding in Region. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr NF 24 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Grasshopper Sparrow**: T Clarence, T Alfred & T Andover, only breeding sites. **Henslow's Sparrow**: T Clarence & T Alfred, only breeding sites. **Red Crossbill**: T Birdsall 21 Jun (EB!); T Ward 30 Jun (EB!); three T West Almond 14 Aug (EB!); irregular in ALLE. **Pine Siskin**: 1-5 Amity Lake ALLE 3-30 Jun (VP!), rare in summer.

REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

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It should have been a pretty good breeding season. The overall picture was of a relatively dry and cool season. Scattered periods of heavy rain dominated the rainfall patterns, with many days passing without precipitation. June was warm with an average temperature of 68°F, 2.9° above normal. Precipitation was also up, with a total of 6.65", 3.65" above normal. July reversed the trend at 2.1° below the normal at 68.1° and precipitation 2.18", a mere 0.53" below normal. August was just about normal, with temperatures 1.3° above the norm at 69.3° and precipitation a scant .06" higher than the 3.40" norm.

Things generally looked pretty average for the passerines. Most observers indicated that typical summer birding seemed to turn up the usual fare. Conditions were good for the most part. The natural food supply was adequate, with good insect populations and the wild fruit crop only a bit down at worst.

Once again Common Loons were located on the smaller Finger Lakes within the Region, though there have still been no "Confirmed" or even "Probable" breeding records. While never really abundant, Pied-billed Grebes were very low along the lakeshore this summer. Rumors of nesting on Round Pond in Greece were just that; no records were submitted.

The status of herons was typical of recent years. Both bitterns were scarce, and Black-crowned Night-Heron went unreported, probably in part due to the high waters along the lakeshore.

Waterfowl nesting season was somewhat interesting. **Trumpeter Swans** were reported nesting in the wetlands of Wayne County. Access to the private land was allowed only to DEC biologists who confirmed their presence. The origin of the birds is unknown at this point [Ed: See Season's Highlights for a recent update.]. While it could possibly be from the relocation efforts in Ontario, Canada, the possibility exists of a local waterfowl breeder being the source. Mute Swans continued to nest along the lakeshore between Irondequoit Bay and Braddock Bay. A number of young were produced but fortunately not all managed to survive. Quite likely the healthy snapping turtle population helped curtail the numbers. They still seem to be doing much better than is desired. Wood Duck and Mallard did well, but Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal were down again. The usual summer totals for ducks seemed lower than in recent years.

Nesting raptors were typical. Turkey Vultures inhabited their usual haunts. Northern Harriers were found at Braddock Bay, but no nesting was confirmed at Beatty Point this year. N. Goshawk nested once again in the hills south of the city. The traditional scattered reports of Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk came from the higher elevations in the southern parts of the Region. A highlight of the season was a pair of Peregrine Falcons which nested on a building in downtown Rochester. One of four young fledged successfully.

Pheasants continued their downward trend while Wild Turkeys were common and widespread. Observers noted that the high water levels in wetlands along the lakeshore seemed to contribute to a lack of moorhens and rails. Reports were down, and they were generally difficult to find.

Cuckoo numbers were pretty good but in relatively few locations. Common Nighthawk was unreported as a nesting species. It is very likely that they still are nesting on buildings downtown, but their status has not been well monitored. There was a report from Silver Stadium, home of the Rochester Red Wings, during a night game. Birds were observed catching insects around the lights. Whip-poor-will was completely unreported.

Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently had a good year in the Nations Road area near Avon. Kurt Fox tallied some good totals late in the season. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported more regularly this summer. It may have been a result of more thorough coverage rather than of an increase in numbers.

Flycatchers seemed to have a good season. Numbers of Eastern Kingbird were good. However, Acadian Flycatcher was not located in a couple of traditional locations. The swallow picture was mixed, with about average totals for most species. Purple Martins seemed down, as did Bank Swallow, with both reported from fewer active colonies and failing to mass in the usual high totals at the July staging areas. Cliff Swallows were a bit tougher to find this year, especially evident in the decline in numbers near Braddock Bay since the demise of the Elmheart Hotel and nearby structures.

The trend to fewer Carolina Wrens continued, and Sedge Wren was not reported from the lone site it has occupied the last couple of years. Thrushes remained stable. A real highlight was a Bicknell's Thrush which was banded by Robert McKinney on 1 June at the Kaiser - Manitou Beach Banding Station.

Vireos and warblers were noted in about average numbers for the season. Golden-winged Warbler continued to be scarce. Yellow-breasted Chat was reported more regularly this summer, but the totals have never been very high, so it doesn't really give us an indication of status.

There was very little change in the sparrow picture. Grassland species continued at recent, low levels. Vesper Sparrow continues to be scarce along the lake shore but generally more common in the southern parts of the Region. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows were located in a few restricted locales, as is usually the case. The Dickcissel found by Kurt Fox along Nations Road was reported into the summer, and a Clay-colored Sparrow was found in the town of Parma by Gary Chapin and Dominic Sherony. Clay-colored is fairly regular in the Region, but the date and location were unusual.

Of interest among the icterids was the report of Orchard Oriole from the Geneseo area. Kurt Fox and Jim Kimball confirmed their nesting in that area. There wasn't really much doing with the finches. House Finch seems to be declining in the Region. A number of observers have reported birds with conjunctivitis. Of interest were reports of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak into June, but this has happened from time to time over the years and they have even occasionally nested in the past.

The reporting period also covers the tail end of the spring migration and the front end of the fall migration. With things as late as they were this spring, there was a surprisingly light push of migrants into June. Of note were: the Mississippi Kite reports from the Braddock Bay area, while reported nearly each spring now, still of great interest; the numbers of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Swainson's Thrushes banded on June first at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station; and White-throated and White-crowned sparrows late with early June reports.

The usual shorebird species were reported in June, but habitat was limited and numbers low. Warblers had begun their dispersal in August and were carefully monitored daily by Bob Marcotte in Badgerow Park. The Hamlin Beach Lakewatch began daily counts again in August and a record number of early migrants were reported. Some early waterfowl were reported, with sightings of Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter and Bufflehead. The first Parasitic Jaeger of the season was seen on 25 Aug.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, C - Charlotte, CL - Conesus Lake, G - Geneseo, GR - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, LW - Letchworth State Park, M - Manitou, MP - Mendon Ponds Park, NR - Nations Road, P - Perinton.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** one-two CL 27-28 Jun; one CL 1 Jul; one Hemlock Lake 5 Jul, typical summer reports. **Horned Grebe:** arr one HB 15 Aug. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 385 HB 24 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one IB 30 Jul, unusual in summer. **Greater Scaup:** arr one HB 15 Aug; max nine HB 24 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** arr one HB 16 Aug; max five HB 29 Aug. **Black Scoter:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **White-winged Scoter:** arr five HB 15 Aug; max 34 HB 24 Aug. **Bufflehead:** one GR 6 June, not an uncommon visitor but unusual nonetheless; arr one HB 24 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr one HB 22 Aug.

HAWKS-AICIDS: **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** one imm BB 1,3 Jun (RO'H, ML). **Merlin:** one BB 24 Aug, only report. **Peregrine Falcon:** one C 6 Aug (KG); one Hogan Point 17 Aug (GC,K&JF); one GR 21 Aug (KG). **Virginia Rail:** max 10 P sev Jun. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr one H 10 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr one C 25 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr one P 11 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr one P 3 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr one P 11 Jul. **Whimbrel:** arr one H 13 Jul. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr one C 22 Jul. **Sanderling:** arr one C 10 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr two C 10 Jul. **Western Sandpiper:** arr

one C 30 Aug. **Least Sandpiper**: arr two P 5 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper**: arr one C 3 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr one P 13 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: arr one H 7 Jul. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr one P 13 Jul. **Parasitic Jaeger**: arr one HB 25 Aug (WS). **Laughing Gull**: one BB 3-5 Jun (R O'H); one C 10 Jun (BM); one IB 19-20 Jul (D&DT) adults, uncommon. **Iceland Gull**: one C 1 Jun (BM), late. **Forster's Tern**: two-three BB 1-2 Jun, 14,19 Jul; one C 30 Jul. **Black Tern**: last one BB 26 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Com. Nighthawk**: arr one G 21 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: two C 8 Jun, last. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: max 13 M 1 Jun; last one M 6 Jun; arr one M 16 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher**: max three LW 13 Jun. **Com. Raven**: one Portageville 22,25 Aug (AW). **BICKNELL'S THRUSH**: one M 6 Jun (RMc), banded. **Swainson's Thrush**: max 16 M 1 Jun; arr one M 26 Jul, banded.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Philadelphia Vireo**: last one NR 7 Jun; arr one BP 30 Aug. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr one BP 15 Aug. **"Lawrence's" Warbler**: one LW 30 Jun. **Tennessee Warbler**: last one Brighton 11 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: arr one M 26 Jul, banded. **Magnolia Warbler**: arr one BB 17 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr one BP, BB 28 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr one M 6 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr one BP 5 Aug. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: last one M 1 Jun; arr one BP 9 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: last one C 10 Jun; arr one BP 31 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler**: last one BP 19 Aug. **Ovenbird**: arr lakeshore one BP 25 Aug. **N. Waterthrush**: arr lakeshore one BP 10 Aug. **Mourning Warbler**: arr lakeshore one BP 5 Aug. **Wilson's Warbler**: last one M 6 Jun, arr one BP 14 Aug. **Canada Warbler**: arr 11 BP 12 Aug. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Rush 6,8 Jun (AC), new location; one MP 9-10 Jun (J&KF); one LW 6 Jul (KF).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: one Parma 7 Jul (DS,GC), uncommon. **DICKCISSEL**: one NR 1-30 Jun, 1-9 Jul. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: max 8 NR 28 Jun. **Henslow's Sparrow**: one-four LW 1-30 Jun; four West Bloomfield 1 Aug, new location. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: last one M 4 Jun, late. **White-throated Sparrow**: one Rattlesnake Hill WMA 8 Jun (GH), unusual location. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one M 1 Jun, last. **Dark-eyed Junco**: arr lakeshore one BP 22 Aug. **Orchard Oriole**: one Retsoff 1 Jun (KF); two NR 17 Jun (KF); two-three G 30 Jun, 11 Jul (JK), good totals

for summer. **Pine Siskin**: one G 6 Jun; one M 21 Jun, late. **Evening Grosbeak**: one G 24 Jun, late.

Corrigendum: HED: In my various table manipulations in editing and formatting the hawkwatch table in the spring report for Region 2, Am. Kestrel was dropped out and some of the kestrel data ended up opposite Golden Eagle. The correct table lines in **The Kingbird**, vol.46, p. 233, should read:

Golden Eagle	53	5 - 16 Apr	25 Feb - 16 May
American Kestrel	971	170 - 19Apr	1 Mar - 5 Jun

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Weather during the summer of 1996 was a mixed bag. June began the season warm and wet in the Finger Lakes. July was cooler than usual, with precipitation slightly above average, while August was warm and dry. The first major cold front passed through the Region on 23 August.

These summer weather conditions seemed to bode well for certain breeding birds, while others suffered. The wet and initially cool conditions of early June had a detrimental effect on early breeders such as Tree Swallows and many ducks, and hatching success for these species was down. On the other hand, Barn Swallows double-brooded, as did several species of warblers. Rare Regional nesting species, including Acadian Flycatcher and Prothonotary and Worm-eating warblers, successfully fledged young. The passage of the cold front in late August initiated the first wave of migrants through the Region, and the first mixed flocks of fall migrants began to appear throughout the Region.

The second annual bird count done in the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count circle was conducted on 15 June. While party hours and the number of participants were the same for 1995 and 1996, total number of species counted was down by almost 20. For the majority of year round residents, numbers were appreciably down from 1995. For example, Wild Turkey, Hairy and Pileated woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Northern Mockingbird and American Goldfinch all showed at least a 35% reduction in numbers when compared with last year.

Alternatively, for birds which only nest in our Region and winter elsewhere, i.e. vireos, warblers, and most sparrows, numbers were similar to the 1995 count. One possible explanation for the winter resident decline may be due to the severe winter weather and cold, wet spring.

Evidence of the fall shorebird migration began in early July. Several Short-billed Dowitchers of the subspecies *hendersoni* were observed at and near the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Also an Am. Avocet was briefly observed on Cayuga Lake. During late August shorebird numbers peaked at Mays Point Pool at the Montezuma Refuge. For example, over 600 individuals of 19 species were observed on 27 August. The importance of this refuge for migratory shorebirds cannot be overstated, and it was a positive development to have the refuge designated as New York's first Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

A total of 200 species of birds was reported. In addition to those species already mentioned, the many interesting highlights include Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: CH - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; DL - Dryden Lake, Town of Dryden; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; HH - Hammond Hill, Town of Dryden; IJC - Ithaca June Count, 15 June in the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count Circle; MBBS - MacDougall Breeding Bird Survey, 9 Jun; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MP - Myer's Point, Lansing TOMP; ORBBS - Orleans Breeding Bird Survey 16 Jun; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh SCHU; SC - Salmon Creek Rd, Town of Lansing; SL - Seneca Lake near Watkins Glen; STP - Stewart Park and Newman Golf Course, Ithaca; SWP - Sapsucker Woods, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

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LOONS-WATERFOWL:

Pied-billed Grebe: entire period MNWR; max 30 MNWR 22 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: one IJC (early, A&JW!); 50 MNWR 16 Jul.

American Bittern: one MNWR 16 Jul; one QCM 15 Aug. only reports!

Least Bittern: one MNWR 16 Jun; one Cayuga Marsh SENE; one QCM 17 Aug.

Great Blue Heron: numerous QCM; 52 IJC; 84 MNWR 22 Jul.

Great Egret: arr MP 26 Jul, avg arrival date; five QCM 24 Aug.

Cattle Egret: one Burdett 6 Jun (JB!).

Green Heron: ten IJC; numerous QCM and MNWR.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: two STP 1-10 Jun; one QCM 27 Jul; numerous MNWR.

TRUMPETER SWAN: four MNWR 18 Jul thru (KM !), origin undetermined, probable escapes.
Canada Goose: 359 IJC; numerous thru Region.
Wood Duck: 37 IJC; 300 MNWR 18 Jul; numerous thru Region.
Green-winged Teal: five MNWR 18 Jul; 25 MNWR 31 Jul; 24 QCM 24 Aug.
Mallard: 109 IJC; 500 MNWR 22 Jul; 100 SP 23 Jul; numerous thru Region.
Blue-winged Teal: two MNWR 18 Jul; one QCM 27 Jul.
Hooded Merganser: two IJC; one MNWR 22 Jul; two QCM 4 Jul.
Com. Merganser: nine MP 25 Jul; eight SL 21 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS:

Turkey Vulture: 25 IJC; six MP 31 Jul; Seneca Lake cliff side group (6-8) present past 10 years disappeared (JB).
Osprey: three MNWR July; one STP July.
Bald Eagle: one imm QCM 27 July; three pairs MNWR and vicinity hatched six.
N. Harrier: one IJC; two MNWR 18 Jul; one Danby 29 Jul; regular QCM.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: four IJC; one WG 22 Jul.
Cooper's Hawk: three IJC; one Caroline 6 Jul.
N. Goshawk: one HH 6 Jun.
Red-shouldered Hawk: two HH 6 Jun; one Shindaigin Hollow 7 Jun; one Caroline 6 Jul.
Broad-winged Hawk: one HH 1 Jun; two IJC; one Caroline 6 Jul; one Arnot Forest 11 Jul.
Red-tailed Hawk: 26 IJC.
American Kestrel: seven IJC.
Ring-necked Pheasant: four IJC; one MNWR 14 Jul; 20 ORBBS; none at QCM (JB!).
Ruffed Grouse: 15 IJC.
Wild Turkey: 12 IJC; 12 FLNF.
Virginia Rail: one DL 6 Jun, only report.
Sora: two QCM 26 Jul, only report.
Com. Moorhen: one DL 6 Jun; 50 MNWR 22 Jul.
Am. Coot: one MNWR 18 Jul; one MP 26 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: arr MNWR 17 Aug; four MNWR 27 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 18 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: two MNWR 16 Jun (late); arr MP 15 Jul; 34 MNWR 27 Aug; 3 QCM 27 Aug.
Killdeer: 78 IJC.
AM. AVOCET: one MP 26 Jul (KD!, NYSARC).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 14 Jul; eight QCM 26 Jul; 56 MNWR 21 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Canoga 16 Jul; 110 MNWR 17 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 12 Jul; three QCM 27 Jul; four MNWR 27 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: seven IJC; seven MP 13 Jul; 12 Flat Rock IT 13 Jul; 12 MNWR 18 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: two Freeville 10-29 Jun; one MNWR 18 Jul.
Ruddy Turnstone: one MP 13 Jun, late; arr STP 31 Jul; two MNWR 27 Aug.
Sanderling: arr MP 15 Jul; two MP 31 Jul; one MNWR 27 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: two MP 7 Jun; arr MP 13 Jul; 95 MNWR 27 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: one MNWR 25 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: arr MNWR 7 Jul; 123 MNWR 27 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: eight MNWR 10 Jun; last MNWR 16 Jun (late); arr MNWR 21 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: two MP 2 Aug; two MNWR 18 Aug; seven MNWR 21 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 31 Jul; 66 MNWR 27 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr Canoga 18 Jul; three MNWR 25 Aug.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1-2 MNWR 18 Aug thru (KD, BE!).

Short-billed Dowitcher: one MNWR 7 Jul; one MNWR 18 Jul (SK), *hendersoni* subspecies; five MNWR 21 Aug.
Com. Snipe: two MNWR 22 Jul.
Am. Woodcock: three IJC.
Wilson's Phalarope: one MNWR 18-27 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: one MNWR 18-19 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr MP 26 Jul.
Ring-billed Gull: 145 IJC; 250 SP 27 Jul.
Herring Gull: two IJC; three STP 31 Jul.
Great Black-backed Gull: 2 IJC; one 1st yr MP 26 Jul; one SL 29 Aug.
Caspian Tern: one SP 8 Jun; max 18 MNWR 31 Jul; five SL 28 Aug.
Com. Tern: one MNWR mid-Jul, only report.
Black Tern: one Canoga 16 Jul, only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:

Rock Dove: 176 IJC.
Mourning Dove: 198 IJC.
Black-billed Cuckoo: nine IJC.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: five IJC.
E. Screech-Owl: three IJC; one WG 13 Jul.
Great Horned Owl: two IJC; one QCM 20 Aug.
Barred Owl: seven IJC.
Chimney Swift: 63 IJC.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 34 IJC.
Belted Kingfisher: 27 IJC.
Red-headed Woodpecker: two Ringwood Nature Preserve 9 Jun; two ORBBS; one QCM 1 Jul.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 62 IJC.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 37 IJC; two Arnot Forest 11 Jul-4 Aug.
Downy Woodpecker: 74 IJC.
Hairy Woodpecker: 35 IJC.
N. Flicker: 61 IJC.
Pileated Woodpecker: 11 IJC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one SC 8 Jun.
E. Wood Pewee: 165 IJC.
Acadian Flycatcher: one Danby 2 Jun; one Locke 5 Jun; two (one fl) SC 9 Jun-14 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: 82 IJC.
Willow Flycatcher: 66 IJC; three MNWR 18 Jul.
Least Flycatcher: five Shindaigin Hollow 7 Jun; 46 IJC.
E. Phoebe: 72 IJC.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 90 IJC.
E. Kingbird: 49 IJC.
Horned Lark: ten MBBS; seven IJC; 34 ORBBS.
Purple Martin: >1000 MNWR 21 Aug.
Tree Swallow: 720 IJC; numbers fledged down in Cornell's nestbox program; 3000 MNWR 18 Jul.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 38 IJC.
Bank Swallow: 50 IJC; >1000 MNWR 22 Jul thru; 400 SP 30 Jul.
Cliff Swallow: 20 Freeville 2 Jun; 30 SP 13 Aug.
Barn Swallow: 341 IJC; >1000 MNWR 31 Jul thru.

Blue Jay: 216 IJC.
Am. Crow: 709 IJC.
Fish Crow: four IJC; STP entire period.
Com. Raven: one Caroline 25 Aug.
Black-capped Chickadee: 379 IJC.
Tufted Titmouse: 80 IJC.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: eleven IJC.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 42 IJC.
Brown Creeper: 30 IJC.
Carolina Wren: one SC period; four IJC.
House Wren: 261 IJC.
Winter Wren: three IJC.
Marsh Wren: nine MNWR 18 Jul; low numbers QCM.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: one IJC.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one FLNF 28 Aug (JB!), very early.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nine IJC; six SP 24 Aug.
E. Bluebird: 29 IJC.
Veery: 241 IJC; nocturnal migrants 25 Aug thru.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: one SWP 1 Jun (JAW!), nocturnal migrant, late.
Swainson's Thrush: several SW 1 Jun (JAW), nocturnal migrant.
Hermit Thrush: 19 IJC.
Wood Thrush: 205 IJC.
Am. Robin: 364 ORBBS; 885 IJC.
Gray Catbird: 368 IJC.
N. Mockingbird: nine IJC.
Brown Thrasher: two MBBS; one ORBBS; 16 IJC.
Cedar Waxwing: 314 IJC; 100 SP 24 Aug.
European Starling: 1579 IJC.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:

Solitary Vireo: 55 IJC.
Yellow-throated Vireo: 16 IJC.
Warbling Vireo: 56 IJC.
Red-eyed Vireo: 470 IJC.
Blue-winged Warbler: 55 IJC.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: one SC 8 Jun; one SW 16 Aug.
Tennessee Warbler: two FLNF 28 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: two IJC; one CH.
N. Parula: one Danby 6 Jun (KD!).
Yellow Warbler: 560 IJC; 12 SW 8 Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 97 IJC.
Magnolia Warbler: five Shindaigin Hollow 7 Jun; 23 IJC.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 38 IJC.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 48 IJC.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 88 IJC.
Blackburnian Warbler: 21 IJC.
Pine Warbler: period Cornell Plantations; one WG 3 Jun and 13 Jul.
Prairie Warbler: one Caroline 3 Jun; one IJC; one CH 6 Jul.
Blackpoll Warbler: last MNWR 17 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: eight SC 10 Jun; one MNWR 16 Jun; two CH 6 Jul; one Savannah 22 Jul.

Black-and-white Warbler: 21 IJC.
Am. Redstart: 140 IJC.
Prothonotary Warbler: one QCM 6 Jun; one SP 9 Jun; one Savannah 22 Jul.
Worm-eating Warbler: five West Danby 22 Jun.
Ovenbird: 274 IJC.
N. Waterthrush: 13 IJC.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 8 IJC.
Mourning Warbler: 12 IJC.
Com. Yellowthroat: 545 IJC.
Hooded Warbler: 17 IJC.
Wilson's Warbler: one SWP 23 Aug.
Canada Warbler: 25 IJC.
Yellow-breasted Chat: one IJC (K.&JM!)

TANAGERS-WEAVERS:

Scarlet Tanager: 100 IJC.
N. Cardinal: 237 IJC.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 11 ORBBS; 76 IJC.
Indigo Bunting: three MBBS; 19 ORBBS; 113 IJC.
E. Towhee: 116 IJC.
Chipping Sparrow: 348 IJC.
Field Sparrow: 75 IJC.
Vesper Sparrow: 42 ORBBS; seven IJC.
Savannah Sparrow: 18 MBBS; 116 ORBBS; 168 IJC.
Grasshopper Sparrow: one MBBS; two ORBBS; 23 IJC.
Henslow's Sparrow: one IJC; three Freeville 4 Aug.
Song Sparrow: 965 IJC.
Lincoln's Sparrow: one Lansing 2 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: 51 IJC; 30 MNWR 18 Jul.
White-throated Sparrow: one Shindaigin Hollow 9 Jun; two IJC; one SW 22 Aug.
Dark-eyed Junco: 179 IJC.
Bobolink: 256 IJC; 100 Caroline 25 Aug. nocturnal migrants.
Red-winged Blackbird: 1230 IJC; 500 MNWR 19 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: one MBBS; six ORBBS; 40 IJC.
Com. Grackle: 412 IJC; 500 MNWR 17 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 260 IJC.
Orchard Oriole: one MP 1 Jun; one Sheldrake 15 Jun.
Baltimore Oriole: 152 IJC.
Purple Finch: 26 IJC; two Caroline 6 Jul.
House Finch: 290 IJC.
Red Crossbill: two flocks Summerhill Wildlife Management Area 5 Jun.
Pine Siskin: one SWP 3 Jun; one Brooktondale 5 Jun; two Dryden thru 17 Jun; one FLNF 2 Jul.
Am. Goldfinch: 354 IJC.
House Sparrow: 486 IJC.

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REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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Summer weather was far from perfect, but it was nearly normal. There were no heat waves. The mean temperature for the season at Cooperstown was one degree above normal according to Harold Hollis, National Weather Service observer. At Binghamton Airport, the daily high temperature never rose above 83°F. June was warm with the mean temperature 2.3 degrees over average. August's mean temperature was one degree warmer. July was the spoiler month; the average mean temperature of 65.7°F was two degrees colder than normal. It was also a very wet month in parts of the Region. Although Hurricane Bertha missed us, its heavy rains hit the area 13 July with downpours for the day ranging from 3.30 inches at Roxbury DELA to 1.24 inches at Binghamton. For Binghamton, July's precipitation was only a fraction over average. However, at Cooperstown precipitation for July was 3.83 inches above normal and August rainfall exceeded the average by an inch. Following a wet spring, the abundant rainfall kept it one of the greenest summers ever. Lawns and fields sprouted thick new growth after each mowing. Trees and shrubs bore such masses of leaves, it was near impossible to find birds once they stopped singing. Fruits, berries, nuts and seeds all developed in abundance. Water levels of rivers, lakes, even ponds remained high.

The birding season had its usual surprises and disappointments. Waterfowl smiles included the first known summer reports of Brant and Ring-necked Duck. Most of the possible water birds for the Region were reported, but Mallard and Common Merganser were scarce. High water discouraged migrating shorebirds as it covered their possible feeding areas.

A rare Turkey Vulture nest with "one young about adult size" was found on 7 July by Chris Vredenburg and five companions in a mini-cave east of Oneonta. It was only the second confirmed breeding report for the species in the Region. The first was an Atlas find. The only other verified breeding raptors were Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel. In this ninth year of the CORT Nest Box Program, Bill Toner, director, reported 21 Am. Kestrel fledglings, third highest success rate for the program. Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, tracked in the CORT program since 1981, also had good nesting success. Eight Breeding Bird Surveys were reported, the same number received by this editor each year since 1991. Comparisons of annual totals for those six

years were made for a few selected species and are noted in the species accounts.

Very high counts were reported for such uncommon species as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Fish Crow, Pine Warbler, and Philadelphia Vireo. Chimney Swift reports, which had been good in the spring, were even better by late summer. Other species which fared well this period included Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow and Baltimore Oriole. A population shift was noted for Blue-winged Warbler from the southern to the northern sector of the Region.

Early fall arrivals made the warbler species list at least equal to the best on record. The rare Yellow-breasted Chat and Connecticut Warbler appeared in August, and Elva Hawken reported very early arrivals for Bay-breasted Warbler on 3 Aug and Blackpoll Warbler on 13 Aug. Except for these two birds, fall migration seemed to move at a normal pace. The first "waves" were noted 21 Aug at Round Top Park, Endicott by Marie Petuh on a Weed Walkers field trip. The park continued to be a productive site for her the rest of the month. Rarities for the season not already mentioned were Red-headed Woodpecker and Gray-cheeked Thrush.

Summer records were poor for Alder Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, most swallows, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow Warbler, both Northern and Louisiana waterthrush and most grassland species. Missed entirely were: Ring-necked Pheasant, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Carolina Wren, Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler.

Observers: Derek Alcott, Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos (Oxford BBS), Broome Naturalists Club, Anna Casselberry, John Davis, Mary Dobinsky, Sue Gaynor, Bob Grosek, Elva Hawken (McDonough BBS), William Howe, Spencer Hunt, Sara Kinch, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch, Vestal bander), Mary Mahlum, Andy Mason (Oneonta BBS), Robert Miller (Milford BBS), Robert Pantle (Lisle BBS and Whitney Point BBS), Marie Petuh, Tom Salo (Laurens BBS), Joe Sedlacek, Julian Shepherd (Downsville BBS), Julie Smith, Eric Sullivan, Bill Toner, Chris Vredenburg, Weed Walkers of BNC, Nancy Weissflog, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: BF1 - Burlington Flats, OTSE; Bo Pd Boland Pond, BROO; Br Pd - Brick Pd, TIOG; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center, BROO; Gdy L - Goodyear L OTSE, J City - Johnson City; Mir L - Mirrow L, Owego TIOG; RT Pk - Round Top Park, Endicott BROO.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** TIOG Jun, only report. **Pied-billed Grebe:** singles CHEN, DELA Aug, not seen every summer. **Double-crested Cormorant:** GDY L all summer daily Aug max three: J City 21 Jul; four Mir L Aug, average. **Am. Bittern:** Br Pd 31 Aug (C&JB), first summer in five years. **Great Blue Heron:** max 12 Bo Pd 4 Aug. **Great Egret:** arr early Endwell 30 Jun; one Jul; three BROO reports Aug; two TIOG; OTSE 7 Aug, good count. **Green Heron:** five to seven reports month, max two, average numbers. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Br Pd 31 Aug (C&JB), often missed. **Mute Swan:** Bo Pd 11 Jul, only report. **BRANT:** eight Otsego L 30 Jul "standing on our dock after midnight - seen earlier in the month by other birders" (MM), *first regional summer report*. **Canada Goose:** abundant several locations: eight pair with y by 13 Jul BF1 farm pond (NW). **Wood Duck:** several reports of ad with y, most later than usual. **RING-NECKED DUCK:** male Bo Pd 21 Jun (ES); several Mir L Aug (C&JB), *first known summer report for this Adirondack breeder*. **Hooded Merganser:** with y Greene (BB), missed some years. **Com. Merganser:** S. Norwich 28 Aug; one TIOG report, scarce.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture:** nest with one y OTSE 7 Jul, intro; max 63 Gdy L 20 Jul, 40 daily Aug (IW). **Osprey:** arr Gdy L 29 Jul; five Aug reports. **Bald Eagle:** Canadarago L Jul; four TIOG reports. **N. Harrier:** Long Pd 27 Jun (EH); no others until 28 Aug, scarce. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** WPR 27 Jun "chased by territorial orioles" (ES); singles Binghamton, Greene and Norwich July; two other CHEN sites Aug, good count. **Cooper's Hawk:** four singles, all BROO. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** T Preston CHEN 9 Jun and 24 Jul (EH,MP). **Broad-winged Hawk:** two singles BROO early Jun; CHEN late Jul; arr TIOG 28 Aug, scarce. **Red-tailed Hawk:** TLOG, same nest active fifth year. **Am. Kestrel:** 21 y fledged from 10 nesting attempts CORT nest box program (BT), third best report of last nine years. **Merlin:** T Preston 12 Aug (MP), early arrival. **Ruffed Grouse:** W Burlington "large brood in June" (TS), generally scarce. **Wild Turkey:** BF1 "nested later than usual; unfortunately several nests baled up by our neighboring farmer T's round baler" (NW). **Virginia Rail:** Greene 13 June "new species for my pond" (BB), only report. **Killdeer:** max 50 Mir L 4 Aug (MP,SK). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** Portlandville Marsh OTSE 23 Aug, often missed. **Spotted Sandpiper:** several BROO Jul (JS), generally scarce. **Upland Sandpiper:** BOCES Milford 17 Aug (MD,SG), sometimes missed. **Com. Snipe:** Milford BBS, only report. **Am. Woodcock:** McDonough BBS, scarce. **Ring-billed Gull:** max 60 Otsego L 31 Aug.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove:** 72 on eight BBS, lowest total since 1990. **Black-billed Cuckoo:** juv Endicott 21 Aug (WW), last of 10 widespread reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** W Burlington "occasional through period" (TS), four other reports. **E. Screech-Owl:** T Preston, Vestal, TIOG, all Aug reports, good count. **Great Horned Owl:** Oneonta BBS, only report. **Barred Owl:** T Preston 24, 28 Jul, only reports. **Com. Nighthawk:** three reports each Jun, Jul, max three; last 30 Aug, scarce. **Chimney Swift:** max 400 over Binghamton 27 Aug. "circling and feeding during a heavy rain" (ES); 30 on eight BBS, best counts since 1987. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max six T Preston 16 Aug: "fewer than usual" (TS). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** TIOG feeder (SH), first summer since 1988. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 15 on eight BBS, slightly above six year average. **N. Flicker:** ad at nest hole OTSE 2 Jul; max four including y that area 20 Jul. **Pileated Woodpecker:** average numbers.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **E. Wood Pewee:** max 27 on seven BBS, above average of last six years; ad with two y OTSE 27 Jul. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** W Burlington few mornings early Jun, "sitting atop young saplings and singing" (TS); banded Vestal 16, 24 and 27 Aug (GK); Crumhorn Mt OTSE 29 Aug, best count since 1982. **Alder Flycatcher:** nine on eight BBS, tied 1992 for lowest count of last six years. **Willow Flycatcher:** 19 on eight BBS, second highest count of six years. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** 14 on seven BBS, record low; best was 43 in 1994. **E. Kingbird:** W Burlington, two broods, second fledged 19 Aug. **Purple Martin:** max seven Owego 18 Jun (ES); two Greene "looked over my houses" 14 Jun (BB), continue scarce. **Tree Swallow:** 150 fledged from 43 nesting attempts in the CORT nest box program, second most successful year since 1981 (BT). **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max five Oxford BBS; three singles Jul, scarce. **Bank Swallow:** max 30+ T Oneonta 7 Jul; only four other singles, scarce. **Cliff Swallow:** max 26 Downsview BBS; Oneonta 6 - 16 Aug max 13, scarce. **Barn Swallow:** 76 on eight BBS; good numbers Aug. **Fish Crow:** "abundant southern BROO this summer" (ES); several TIOG reports, increasing. **Tufted Titmouse:** max 12 RT Pk 28 Aug; good counts of y at feeders BROO, OTSE. **House Wren:** max 75 on eight BBS, low count. **Winter Wren:** scarce. **Marsh Wren:** Greene, "first song 6 Jun, late arriving" (BB), only report. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** ON FHNC 21 Jun (ES); two on two BROO reports late Aug two TIOG 20-25 Aug, good counts. **E. Bluebird:** 19 fledged from six nesting attempts CORT nest box program, second best count since 1981(BT). **Veery:** 64 on eight BBS; seven

banded Vestal Aug (GK), average counts. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: T Preston 7 - 12 Aug (EH), only third summer report in 12 years. **Hermit Thrush**: max 11 Downsville BBS; post breeding max six Oneonta 3 Aug, average. **Wood Thrush**: 49 on eight BBS, record low for counts of the 90's. **Gray Catbird**: 32 banded Vestal Aug, max seven 11 Aug. **N. Mockingbird**: T Davenport DELA to mid Aug (JSm); singles three BROO sites, one OTSE Jun, low count. **Brown Thrasher**: seven on five BBS; max four Bainbridge 10 Jul; none Aug, continues scarce.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo**: seven on two BBS, record low for counts of the 90's. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: only four reports each Jun, Jul max two; last BROO 29 Aug, scarce. **Warbling Vireo**: 22 on six BBS; none Jul or Aug except single RT Pk 29 Aug. **Philadelphia Vireo**: W Burlington: 1, 5, 10 Jun; T Preston 13 Aug; T Union 22 Aug; RT Pk 21, 24, 29 Aug, max four, record high count. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 24 on eight BBS, record high for survey counts of the 90's; one feeding cowbird J City 10 Aug. **Blue-winged Warbler**: max five Oneonta BBS; eight banded Vestal Aug; increased numbers Region's northern sector Jun, Jul. **Golden-winged Warbler**: Oxford BBS, only report. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: Bainbridge 1 Jul (DA); 2 y T Preston 4 Jul being fed by Blue-winged female, young were identical except one had the normal yellow wing bars, the other had white wing bars (EH). **Nashville Warbler**: unprecedented absence of Jun reports; T Preston 13, 17, 31 Aug max four; single Endicott 24 Aug. **Yellow Warbler**: 166 on eight BBS, below average count for third successive year. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 97 on eight BBS, record high for surveys of the 90's. **Magnolia Warbler**: max six Downsville BBS; a few CHEN; two banded Vestal Aug, continues scarce. **Cape May Warbler**: T Preston 3 Aug, only report. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max four CHEN 8 Jul; three banded Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 22 on five BBS, high count. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 24 on six BBS, second highest survey count of the 90's. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max 11 Downsville BBS; three CHEN reports max two Aug; three banded Vestal, good count. **Pine Warbler**: singles Oxford BBS; Waverly 9, 10 Jun (WH); four widespread reports Aug max two, excellent count, missed most years. **Prairie Warbler**: max six Oxford BBS; banded Vestal 21 Aug; last Owego 22 Aug, good count. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: T Preston 3 Aug, very early; RT Pk 26, 28 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: four T Preston 13 Aug, very early. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max nine Downsville BBS; 10 banded Vestal Aug, average counts. **Ovenbird**: 16 banded Vestal, most after 20 Aug. **N. Waterthrush**: six on three

BBS; at n Otsego feeder 26 Jun-mid July (LC); last DELA 26 Jul, scarce. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: singles Downsville BBS; CHEN 16 Aug, record low count. **Connecticut Warbler**: Bainbridge 26 Aug (DA fide EH), only fourth report since 1980. **Mourning Warbler**: 14 on seven BBS, good total for the 90's; singles banded Vestal 20, 22, 24 Aug. **Com. Yellowthroat**: 35 banded Vestal max eight 27 Aug. **Hooded Warbler**: Bainbridge 16 Jul, 10 Aug max two (DA); German Bog CHEN 14 Jul (BG), first since 1993. **Canada Warbler**: max three at several OTSE sites Jun, Jul; last banded Vestal 21 Aug, early departure. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: BF1 5 Aug "flitting around in field of goldenrod"(NW), rare, especially in summer.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: 36 on seven BBS, average numbers through period. **N. Cardinal**: several Aug reports of ad feeding y. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: five OTSE reports of ad feeding y at feeders July; good counts through period. **Indigo Bunting**: J City pair feeding y 21 Jul; average counts, last banded 27 Aug. **E. Towhee**: only eight on six BBS's, poor count. **Field Sparrow**: 22 on five BBS, record low count for surveys of the 90's; post breeding max five 17 Aug. **Vesper Sparrow**: BROO 4 Jul (BG); TIOG Aug (C&JB), scarce. **Savannah Sparrow**: 29 on seven BBS; BROO six on 17 Jul (WW); W Burlington 10-12 daily late Aug, generally scarce. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: Long Pd CHEN 9, 27 Jun, 1 Jul max three (EH); W Burlington 13, 15, 16 Jun (TS); Whitney Point BBS; BROO 17 Jul (WW); best report since 1991. **Henslow's Sparrow**: seven Long Pd 27 Jun, 1 Jul (EH), the Region's only dependable site since 1990. **Swamp Sparrow**: scarce Jun, Jul; no Aug reports. **White-throated Sparrow**: max eight McDonough BBS. **Bobolink**: max 20 Long Pd 27 Jun; small flocks with y two sites 6, 7 Jul; last 26 Aug. **E. Meadowlark**: max eight Whitney Point BBSt, scarce. **Com Grackle**: max 50 Bainbridge 13 Aug. **Baltimore Oriole**: 77 on eight BBS, best survey count in at least 17 years; "several eating seeds on hop hornbeam trees" RT Pk 27 Aug (MP). **Purple Finch**: max 12 T Preston 13 Aug; BF1 farm, three pair nested successfully (NW); TIOG several reports of y. **Red Crossbill**: two in spruce plantation n OTSE 28 Aug (HK), record early. **Am. Goldfinch**: "stripping seeds from knapweed plants all Aug" BROO. **Evening Grosbeak**: singles TIOG Aug (C&JB); Oneonta 28 Aug (SG), the usual summer report.

Spring 1996: a late report was: **Pine Siskin**: max five T Preston to 10 May.

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The weather in Region 5 for the summer period was significant only in its lack of records, storms, or unusual occurrences. An average temperature of 69.3°F was recorded for the three month period. The highest temperature was 90°F recorded on 7 August, which was the only day with a 90 degree temperature recorded for the entire summer period. (The actual hottest day of the year was 19 May when a temperature of 91°F was recorded!). The lowest temperature for the period was 42°F on 1 June. June's average temperature was 68.2°F, with the highest temperature of 87°F recorded on 30 Jun and the low of 42°F on 1 June. July had an average temperature of 69.4°F with a high of 88°F recorded on 18 July and a low of 51°F recorded on 29 July. August data recorded a high of 90°F on 7 Aug and a low of 50°F on 31 August with an average temperature of 70.3°F. Overall, the averages, highs, and lows for the three months remained very similar. Rainfall totaled 9 inches for the period with August almost 2 inches below average - dry but not dry enough to reach into the top ten driest Augusts on record. June had 3.05 inches of rainfall and July had 4.24 inches reported.

Reports from birders in Region 5 were fewer as many took vacations, chased butterflies, and simply reduced their time spent birding after the rush of spring. An adult Common Loon was noted from the lower Salmon River Reservoir, Oswego County, but no evidence of breeding was seen. Two adult loons on small Quiver Pond in Herkimer County may represent pressure to find new nesting or feeding sites. A number of reports of Pied-billed Grebe using beaver flows was encouraging for that species, but Canada Goose has also found the same niche in the lower Tug Hill. Great Blue Heron continues to do well in two large heronries in southern Oswego County.

A pair of Peregrine Falcons, present in downtown Syracuse for a year, left in early June after what was thought to be an unsuccessful attempt to nest. Osprey successfully fledged five young from three nests in the Baldwinsville area and three young from two known nests at the Lower Salmon River Reservoir. In Pompey, Dorothy Crumb had a pair of Cooper's Hawks nesting in the same white pine for the second year. They used a different nest higher in the tree, fledging five young which remained in the vicinity through the season.

South winds at Derby Hill on first two days of June brought five Bald Eagles and over 500 Broad-winged Hawks plus an adult **Laughing Gull** on the 1st and a **Black Vulture** on the 2nd. The Laughing Gull was the second Regional summer record and the Black Vulture was the first summer record for the species.

Wild Turkey, ever on the increase in the Region, was widely reported throughout the summer period with a last hatch of eggs noted from a Jamesville cornfield on 26 July. The Spring shorebird flight continued through 10 June at Sandy Pond with several late and unusual birds noted. Delta Lake water levels remained high throughout most of the report period - resulting in improved shorebird habitat only at the end of August and few shorebird reports from the area. For the first time in many years, Black Tern nested in Sage Creek Marsh as a result of higher water levels in the marsh.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was more in evidence as reported by the Region's birders - possibly a good sign for that species or just the fact that more birders were actively seeking them out. From 18-31 Aug a total of 218 Common Nighthawks were seen migrating over Slocum Heights in Syracuse, a bit lower than recent averages, and few breeding nighthawks were reported by all observers. Gene Huggins reported a small southward range extension of Red-bellied Woodpecker from Oriskany Creek Valley to Pleasant Valley in the Town of Sangerfield. Red-headed Woodpecker observations continue to be few.

Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee, which are only found in the far northern fringe of the Region and require some effort to find, were all seen in a five minute period in a bog near the Rock Dam in Herkimer County. Cliff Swallow seems to be doing well along the north shore of Oneida Lake and eastward into Oneida County although some nesting sites may change from year to year and most colonies tend to be on the small side, about three to eight nests. Bernie Carr reported a pair of Eastern Kingbirds fledged three young on the south side of Syracuse in a residential neighborhood where kingbirds are normally very rare even as migrants.

In Oswego County 464 bluebirds fledged from John Rodgers' boxes, down from the 1995 number (570), probably due to the severe winter last year which hurt bluebirds in the wintering areas resulting in fewer nesting pairs. Tree Swallow mortality was higher - largely as a reflection of the late spring storms, snow and cold weather. Both Warbling Vireo and Cerulean Warbler at Quiver Pond in Herkimer County on 22 June were further into the Adirondacks than usual, while Pine Warbler reports appear to be on the increase from northern Oneida County in the lower Adirondacks. In Oneida County, Matt Perry noted 66 instances of neotropical species feeding young, 11 of those young were

Brown-headed Cowbird. Clay-colored Sparrow gave us two summer records this year and although no breeding was noted, range expansion seems to be indicated. There were no reports of breeding Sedge Wren or Henslow's Sparrow in the Region this year.

Observers reported 200 species and one hybrid for the summer, a good total for a season in which many birders pursue other activities. The highlights included **Black Vulture**, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, **Laughing Gull**, Little Gull, Prairie Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Orchard Oriole.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Bob Asanoma, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Lee Chamberlaine, Dorothy Crumb, Robert Evans, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Andy Leahy, Gary Lee, Robert Long, David Nash, Wayne Powell, Greg Pryor, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, John Rogers, Marge Rusk, Jean Ryan, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Maureen Staloff, Judy Thurber, Judy Wright.

Abbreviations: CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, Syr - Syracuse, UM - Utica Marsh, WDCr - West Dead Creek, Baldwinsville.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** last Spring OnonL 6 Jun; max 20 Beaver River HERK 9-11 Aug; one ad Lower Salmon R Res OSWE 24 Jul, no evidence of breeding. **Pied-billed Grebe:** one SSSP 12 Jun; three imm Amboy 18 Jul; ad with three imm UM 23 Jul. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 480 SPd 18 Aug. **Am. Bittern:** singles CM 5 Jun and 10 Aug; Beaver River 9-11 Aug, only reports. **Least Bittern:** max five UM 9 Jul; one UM 23 Jul; SPd 9&12 Aug. **Great Blue Heron:** 21 nests with 20 y West Monroe; 39 nests Mallory. **Great Egret:** spring birds did not persist; widespread reports of single birds after 18 Jul. **Green Heron:** max 27 CM 10 Aug. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Kirkland 14 Jul, only report. **Mute Swan:** one of unknown origin Three Rivers GMA 17 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** max eight Delta Lake 22 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 25 Delta Lake 19 Aug. **N. Shoveler:** one male OnonL 6 Jun, unusual. **Gadwall:** one LOL 5 Jun, only report. **Com. Goldeneye:** one male OnonL 12 Jun, late. **Hooded Merganser:** three females with 12 y reported. **Com. Merganser:** max 55 Verona 9 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** last Spring three SPd 1 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **BLACK VULTURE:** one DH 2 Jun, eighth regional record and latest spring by 7 weeks. **Osprey:** five nests fledged seven y. **Bald Eagle:** max three DH 1 Jun; seven other individuals reported. **N. Harrier:** female with nesting material West Monroe 13 Jul; male dropped food to female at possible

nest site in Oneida 29 Jun; nine other individuals reported throughout Region. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: nested Kirkland, fledged two y; six individuals reported throughout Region. **Cooper's Hawk**: nested Pompey, five y fledged. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one Sangerfield 17 Jul; two Kirkland 22 Aug; one Kasoag 22 Jun. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 257 DH 1 Jun. **Merlin**: arr one female Delta Lake 29 Aug. **Peregrine Falcon**: pair in downtown Syr regular thru 2 Jun; one Syr. 4 Aug. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: max four SVB 19 Aug; few reports. **Wild Turkey**: widespread reports. **Virginia Rail**: max four UM 16 Jul. **Sora**: two UM 3 Jun, only report. **Com. Moorhen**: 2 ad with 4 day-old imm 8 Aug SPd; max nine UM 27 Aug. **Am. Coot**: one UM 3 Jun, only report. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr SPd 19 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover**: last spring three SPd 7 Jun; arr SPd 20 Jul; max eight SPd 17 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 89 T Lysander 4 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr CM 3 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr UM 6 Aug; max 15 Delta Lake 26 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr and max ten WDCr 31 Jul. **Willet**: one flying over Oswego Harbor 4 Jun, unusual. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max seven SPd Jul-Aug. **Upland Sandpiper**: max 12 Syr Airport 1 Aug; last 29 Aug. **Whimbrel**: max two SPd 17 Jul; one SPd 24 Aug; **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr two SPd 20 Jul; max four SPd 24 Aug. **Sanderling**: arr and max 40 SPd 19 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: last spring migrants eight SPd 7 Jun; max 150 SPd 17 Jul. **Least Sandpiper**: last Spring two SPd 5 Jun; arr SPd 2 Aug; max 30 WDCr. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: last Spring one SPd 7 Jun; arr and only report one SPd 12 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: arr two SPd 18 Aug; also two SVB 23 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr one WDCr 29 Jul; max seven Delta Lake 29 Aug. **Dunlin**: last Spring one SPd 7 Jun. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: two SPd 23 Aug, only report. **Com. Snipe**: max five Holland Patent 5 Jul. **Am. Woodcock**: three individual reports 12 Jun - 17 Jul. **Wilson's Phalarope**: one f SPd 7 Jun. **LAUGHING GULL**: one ad DH 1 Jun, second Regional summer record; **Little Gull**: one 2nd year SPd 17 Aug; one juv SPd 26 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr two SVB 13 Jul max 90 SVB 2 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 4000 SPd 19 Jul. **Caspian Tern**: max 81 SPd 5 Aug. **Com. Tern**: 60 OneIL nest island 13 Jul; max 88 SVB 2 Aug. **Forster's Tern**: one ad SPd 20 Jul, early. **Black Tern**: max 30 SPd 9 Aug; two pr breeding Sage Creek Marsh after several year absence.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove**: max 106 Syr Airport 15 Aug. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: max four Remsen 3 Aug. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: five reports, higher than usual; two Howland I 14 Jun; one Three Rivers WMA 17 Jun; one Baldwinsville 24 Jun; one Kirkland 22 Aug; one New Hartford 5

Jun. **E. Screech-Owl**: singles Howland I 3 Jul, Constantia 14 Jul, Baldwinsville 22 Aug. **Great Horned Owl**: singles Kirkland 25 Jun and 9 Jul, West Monroe 30 Jun, New Hartford 19 Jul. **Barred Owl**: pair Whiskey Hollow thru; imm Pompey 7 Jul; one Old Forge 28 Jul; one Beaver River HERK 9-11 Aug. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 73 Syr 19 Aug. **Whip-poor-will**: max six Constantia 26 Jun & 14 Jul. **Chimney Swift**: max 38 Harden Forest 24 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 7 New Hartford 23 Aug. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Scriba 13 Jun; one West Monroe 25 Aug, only reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: max five Kirkland 18 Jun; one Pleasant Valley T Sangerfield, small southward range extension from Oriskany Creek Valley. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max eight McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: two Rock Dam HERK 11 Aug, only report.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: arr two Labrador Hollow 24 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: last Spring SPd 5 Jun; arr SVB 19 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher**: breeding pair plus second singing male Whiskey Hollow. **Alder Flycatcher**: max ten Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: max 16 CM 12 Jun. **Least Flycatcher**: max 9 Dewitt Marsh 29 Jul. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max ten Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: max 17 SPd 18 Aug. **Horned Lark**: max four T Van Buren 12 Jul; two other reports. **Purple Martin**: max 35 ad & 15+ juv at one box SVB 13 Jul. **Tree Swallow**: max 220 SPd 12 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max eight Hastings 10 Jul. **Bank Swallow**: max 350 at Oriskany colony 9 Jun. **Cliff Swallow**: max 55 West Monroe 19 Aug. **Barn Swallow**: max 1960 Clay Marsh 12 Aug. **Gray Jay**: two Rock Dam HERK 11&29 Aug, only site noted. **Fish Crow**: 2 ad & 2 juv Shop City Syr. **Com. Raven**: max five Bald Mtn. Old Forge 19 Jun; no reports away from Adks. **Boreal Chickadee**: one Rock Dam HERK 11 Aug; three Third Lake Creek HERK 29 Aug, only reports. **Tufted Titmouse**: max five New Hartford 12 Jul. **Carolina Wren**: singles SPd mid-Jul, Camillus Aug. **House Wren**: max 21 Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **Winter Wren**: one N. Syr 26 Jul, unusual location. **Sedge Wren**: migrant T Richland 7 Jun, only report. **Marsh Wren**: max 19 Clay Marsh 12 Jun. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 15 Remsen 21 Aug. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max seven CM 2 Jul; arr three SPd 12 Aug. **E. Bluebird**: max 11 West Monroe 28 Aug. **Veery**: max 24 Kasoag BBS 22 Jun. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Rock Dam HERK, only report. **Hermit Thrush**: max 20 Constantia 26 Jun. **Wood Thrush**: max 15 CM 3 Jul. **N. Mockingbird**: max two Syracuse Airport 18 Aug; one mimicking at least 17 species Oswego 12:30 AM 2 Jul, scarce.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo:** max eight Alder Creek BBS 9 Jun. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max six Howland I 7 Jul. **Warbling Vireo:** max 15 SPd 1 Jun; one Quiver Pond 22 Jun, unusual location. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Kirkland 31 Aug. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 81 McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max six Sangerfield 26 Jul. **Golden-winged Warbler:** max three singing birds Noyes Sanctary early June. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** with Blue-winged mate feeding up to 3 very young fledglings 22 Jun Paris; **Golden-winged/Blue-winged:** pair feeding 3 fledglings 26 Jun New Hartford, seen chasing ad Brewster's, last year's y?, which would periodically beg to both parents. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr one Kirkland 25 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** arr Whiskey Hollow 23 Aug. **N. Parula:** one pair breeding Whiskey Hollow, only site outside Adks. **Yellow Warbler:** max 65 SPd 12 Aug. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 14 McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Magnolia Warbler:** max 12 Sangerfield 8 Jul. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max six Old Forge 28 Jul; arr T Western 12 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 20 Remsen 21 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** one Nelson Swamp 21 Aug, only report away from the Tug Hill or Adks. **Blackburnian Warbler:** max. 12 Remsen 1 Jun. **Pine Warbler:** two McKeever BBS 9 Jun; one Fulton 9 Jul; one Remsen 12 Aug, all away from traditional breeding sites. **Prairie Warbler:** two Parish thru Jun; one Utica 30 Jun; one Borodino 25 Jul, represent possible expansion into Region. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Verona 28 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** 5+ singing males Howland I, Toad Harbor and Whiskey Hollow; one Quiver Pond 22 Jun, unusual. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max five Remsen 21 Jun. **Ovenbird:** max 36 McKeever BBS 16 Jun; arr SPd 12 Aug. **N. Waterthrush:** max five SPd 12 Aug. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** max five New Hartford 21 Jun; pair Whiskey Hollow 26 Jun. **Mourning Warbler:** max six Whiskey Hollow 15 Jun. **Hooded Warbler:** max six Kirkland 28 Jul. **Wilson's Warbler:** last spring Nine Mile Point 1 Jun; arr Remsen 30 Aug. **Canada Warbler:** max five 21 Remsen Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager:** max 10 SVB 23 Aug. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 14 North Victory BBS 16 Jun. **Indigo Bunting:** max 15 North Victory BBS 16 Jun. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one unmated male Beaver Lake thru Jun; one McKeever BBS 16 Jun, unusual. **Vesper Sparrow:** max four Howland I cornfields 13 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 12 Syr Airport 14 Jun. **Swamp Sparrow:** max 38 CM 7 Aug. **White-throated Sparrow:** max 33 McKeever BBS 16 Jun. **Bobolink:** max 30 Alder Creek BBS

9 Jun. **Red-winged Blackbird**: max 3500 CM 14 Aug. **E. Meadowlark**: max 26 Syr Airport 21 Jun. **Com. Grackle**: max 2667 CM 14 Aug. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: max 450 CM 10 Aug. **Orchard Oriole**: nest UM 30 Jun, m in first year plumage, parents fed 3 fledglings which left nest 1 Jul, only report. **Red Crossbill**: three imm Fabius 10 July where ad present since winter; five Remsen 16 Jul; 12 Hoffmeister 1 Aug. **Pine Siskin**: one feeder Nine Mile Point 6 Jul; one feeder Pompey 18-20 Jul, only reports. **Evening Grosbeak**: two Lake Julia 7 Aug, only report.

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REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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June was hot, July cold and August warm - thus the summer. June temperatures were two and one half degrees warmer than normal with Wanakena at three degrees above normal in the Adirondack region. July was cool, one and one half degrees lower than normal throughout the Region. August was warm in the Adirondacks, two and one half degrees above normal at Wanakena, and one degree above in the Lake Plain and the St. Lawrence Valley. Rainfall was at normal levels in June, two to three inches above average in July, returning to normal in August. The St. Lawrence River was seven inches above normal by mid June and did not return to normal levels until mid August when the dams were opened at Massena. Breeding species had no problems with any of the weather factors, but the high water diminished the fall shorebird flight at El Dorado. Vegetation was again late due to the cool May, but thereafter fruit and cone production was outstanding. At the end of the summer, all viburnum and dogwood species were laden with berries, more than the catbird population could ever consume!

Double-crested Cormorant nesting pairs on Little Galloo Island increased from 7000 to 8400 despite reports of fewer bait fish. The cormorant is proving to be resourceful as it continues to establish itself in the Region. Little Galloo has been recognized as an Important Bird Area because of its numbers of breeding species. Other colonial waterbirds nesting on Little Galloo Island include Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Caspian

Tern. A pair of native swans, thought to be Tundra Swans last year, appeared at Perch Lake WMA and raised two young. DEC officials determined that the pair were **Trumpeter Swans** (NYSARC). Breeding Common Goldeneye on Picton Island in the St. Lawrence River near Clayton was a first breeding record in Region 6 and unusual in the St. Lawrence considering the boat traffic. A pair of Merlin with two young were seen by many in the Village of Potsdam in late August. Since no nest was seen, we will have to wait until next summer to see if they actually nest in Potsdam. Region 6 has had yearly surprises and this year **Black Rail** won the award. Discovered by Nick Leone at Perch River WMA on June 19 in a small area of cattail, this is a first for Region 6 (NYSARC). Black Tern pairs decreased at Lakeview WMA due to high water but increased at Perch River WMA where water levels are controlled. Elevated nesting platforms helped as well. Ravens, now common throughout the Adirondack and Tug Hill regions, appeared in several locations on the Lake Plain and the St. Lawrence Valley. Is this a further range extension? Some of the reforested areas in the Indian River Lakes district might be conducive to raven breeding. Raven expansion may not be over, stay tuned.

Grassland surveys were not as extensive this year due to the absence of Dean DiTomasso, but Nick Leone continued his night surveys of Henslow's Sparrow, demonstrating a large stable population in towns around Perch Lake WMA. In addition, Clay-colored Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow counts were impressive. Fort Drum was closed to birders most of the summer, but of the few reports made, a Region first male **Dickcissel** and 20 Upland Sandpipers at the Fort's airport were noteworthy.

Positives for the period included good numbers of Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting in the Indian River Lakes area. Other species showing improvement were: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark. Negatives for the period included poor counts of Barn Swallow, American Redstart and Song Sparrow. Rarities were: Great Egret, Red-tailed Hawk subspecies *kriderii*, Connecticut Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

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Abbreviations : AD - Adirondack Park; AWMA - Ashland WMA T Lyme & Cape Vincent JEFF; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF;

CB - Chaumont Barrens T Clayton/Lyme JEFF; Cr L - Cranberry L T Clifton STLA; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve T Ellisburg JEFF; FL - Fledged y; FY - Feeding y; FCWMA - French Creek WMA T Clayton; THen -T Henderson JEFF; JEFF - Jefferson Co; LEWI - Lewis Co; LC - Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; LG - Little Galloo I. T Hounsfield JEFF; TMas - T Massena STLA; TLou - T Louisville STLA; MM - Massawepie Mire T Colton/Piercefield STLA; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, 3 Jun (RL); Osw - Oswegatchie; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS 4 Jun (RL); PPT - Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF; Pt Pen - Point Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence R.; STLA - St. Lawrence Co; SLV - St. Lawrence Valley; SBSB - Southwick Beach State Park T Ellisburg JEFF; SS - Sulphur Springs T. Hounsfield JEFF; TH - Tug Hill - JEFF & LEWI Co; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh T CV JEFF.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 12 PRWMA 11 Jun. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 20-40/day SLR T Morristown STLA. **Am. Bittern:** eight singles from six areas. **Least Bittern:** singles FCWMA, Jewett Cr CV and PRWMA. **Great Egret:** one near Winthrop T Stockholm STLA 30 Aug (SC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two SBSB 11 Jun; three MSD eight Aug; two CV 13 Aug; two nests LG. **TRUMPETER SWAN:** pr with nest and two y PRWMA. Identified by DEC officials using taped calls near the nest. The Swans paid no attention to the Tundra Swan call, but the male came off the nest toward the boat when the Trumpeter call was made. The birds were also seen at close range for field marks which were sent to NYSARC. **Mute Swan:** max ten PRWMA 18 Jun. (RB). **Wood Duck:** breeding throughout; max 30 SS 29 Aug (RB). **Green-winged Teal:** one Stoney Pt Pd JEFF 3 Jun. **Am. Black Duck:** three T Mas 10 Aug; four WBM 20 Aug. **Blue-winged Teal:** three reports; max six PRWMA 11 Jun. **N. Shoveler:** three PRWMA 11 Jun; pr on a pond near WBM 14 Jun. **Gadwall:** pr Branche Rd CV 2 Jun; six PRWMA 11 Jun. **Com. Goldeneye:** f with six y off Picton I SLR T Clayton JEFF 5 Jul, first Region 6 breeding record(AH!) **Hooded Merganser:** pr on small ponds Clifton Fine area (PO). **Com. Merganser:** 16 Cr L 30 Aug (LC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey:** five reports of 16 ind; max nine PRWMA with y in two nests 11 Jun (MK). **Bald Eagle:** one ad PRWMA thru; one 2nd yr ED 2 Jul; one CV early Jun; one imm Parishville 24 Aug; one ad one imm ED 9 Aug. **N. Harrier:** reports from seven areas; six pr CV. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** seven reports of singles; one with a Barn Swallow in the talons CV 7

Jul. **Cooper's Hawk**: one took a young robin that was being fed by adults TThen 18 Aug. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one T Fine 1 Jun; one New Connecticut Rd T Antwerp JEFF 14 Jun. **Broad-winged Hawk**: pr Star L 20 Jun; max six Cr L 31 Aug. **Red-tailed Hawk**: one imm Krider's subspecies, white head and tail, Lakeview WMA 3 Aug (GS!), very rare. **Am. Kestrel**: one FY TLou 1-Jul; pr T Edwards STLA; three pr CV; four pr TThen. **Merlin**: pr with two y in Potsdam late August (yard of Nancy Eldblom). No nest was located and feeding of young was not seen but plucking of prey for the young was observed (SC!); one ED 20 Aug (GM). **Gray Partridge**: one Mason Rd 15 Jun; one ad nine y McKeever Rd 25 Jul; two ad 22 y Aug all CV. **Ruffed Grouse**: broods Cr L Star L TMas. **Wild Turkey**: large numbers throughout the Region, possibly due to low fox and raccoon populations from rabies. **Sora**: two FL Rt. 37 TMass 15 Jul. **BLACK RAIL**: heard calling regularly at PRWMA from 11:00 P. M. to 3:00 A. M. 16 to 24 Jun. The rail was heard by many and seen at the edge of the cattail on Jun 21. Tape of call sent with NYSARC report. **Com. Moorhen**: FY TLou CV; max 12 PRWMA 18 Jun. **Black-bellied Plover**: one ED 22 Aug; one Pt Pen 28 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover**: arr 15 ED, four MSD 19 Aug; six ED 30 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 24 TMas/TLou 22 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr ED 19 Aug; one French Cr CV 21 Aug; two PRWMA 25 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr 13 ED 9 Aug; five PRWMA 25 Aug; four ED 30 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: two French Cr CV 28 Jul through 25 Aug; four ED 22 Aug; one inlet Osw R. T Fine 31 Aug. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max six ED 22 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper** one ad 2 imm TLou 17 Jun; 40 ind from five areas; max 20 FD Jun. **Sanderling**: arr ED 19 Aug (3); max 83 ED 30 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr T Clayton JEFF 16 Jul (1); max 33 ED 29 Aug. **Least Sandpiper**: arr ED 19 Aug (12); five ED 30 Aug. **Am. Woodcock**: max 12 Mass 1 Jun. **Bonaparte's Gull**: six Sawyer's Bay TThen 11 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: 80,000 pr LG. **Herring Gull**: 300-400 pr LG. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 10 pr LG. **Caspian Tern**: 400 pr LG numbers stable. **Com. Tern**: 594 nests on 24 sites (12 navigation cells, 12 natural islands) 630 chicks banded, numbers stable. **Black Tern**: 100- 150 WBM early Jun; 17 nests LWMA, 100 nests PRWMA; pairs at Indian Cr Nature Center Canton and TMas early June.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: eleven reports thru; max three AWMA 16 Jun. **E. Screech Owl**: pr two y CV 12 Jun. **Barred Owl**: four reports from AD. **Com. Nighthawk**: two CV heading north 1 Jun, late; ad with three FL TMas; three daily in Watertown. In years past two dozen could be heard in Watertown-Dick Brouse. **Whip-poor-will**: one TLou 1 Jun; one

CB at high noon 1 Jun (LC). **Chimney Swift**: two ad 10 FL TMas; max 18 CV 30 July. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: few reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two pr CV Village to 12 Jun one pr through Aug; one to two Mixer Rd T Ellisburg 5 Jun to 28 Aug. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: ad THEN throughout no y; one Oxbow T Antwerp 4 Jun. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: six Cr L 30 Aug; seen feeding on six Mt. Ash trees in T Fine; trees expired - Peter O'Shea. **Downy Woodpecker**: max 36 TLou 2 Jun. **Hairy Woodpecker**: max 28 TLou 2 Jun. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: two Wanakena 9 Jun; one Cr L 30 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one Wanakena 9 Jun (RB). **E. Wood-Pee-wee**: reports increased from last year, ave numbers PBBS. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one MM 30 Jun (JF). **Alder Flycatcher**: 12 P+OBBS; max 22 TLou 1 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: singles TLou 1 Jun, PBBS; three PRWMA 18 Jun. **Least Flycatcher**: FY TLou 20 Jun; two PRWMA 18 Jun. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: pr nesting Kelsey Cr Watertown; eight P+OBBS; max 28 TLou/TMas 14 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: 15/day TLou; max 24 P+OBBS above ave. **Horned Lark**: three reports all CV. **Purple Martin**: good numbers from SLV; poor from Lake plain. **Cliff Swallow**: max 200+ Long Sault Dam 18 Jun (MB). **Barn Swallow**: numbers still down 49% on BBS routes **Gray Jay**: three MM 30 Jun. **Com. Raven**: reports from THEN, Kring Point STLA and Indian Lakes STLA away from AD. **Brown Creeper**: one CR L 30 Aug. **Winter Wren**: singles Wanakena 9 Jun, Cr L 30 Aug. **Sedge Wren**: nine singing from six sites: new site Grenadier I L Ontario CV; less coverage this year. **E. Bluebird**: six reports. **Veery**: max 35 T Lou. **Hermit Thrush**: four TLou 2 Jun. **Wood Thrush**: max 55 TLou/TMas 1-10 Jun. **N. Mockingbird**: six reports, one CV, three THEN, two TMas. **Brown Thrasher**: three CV, six TMas, three PBBS.

WARBLERS-VIREOS: **Solitary Vireo**: two TMas 1 Jun. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: five T Rossie 12 Jun (NL). **Warbling Vireo**: max 22 P+OBBS, 20% above 10 yr ave; excellent numbers throughout (LC). **Red-eyed Vireo**: 20/day TLou. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one THEN 6 Jun. **Golden-winged Warbler**: max 21 Indian R Lakes area Oxbow to Rossie 4 Jun (RL). **Tennessee Warbler**: two CV 29 Aug. **Nashville Warbler**: three CB 1 Jun; singles Adams 9 Aug, Watertown 31 Aug. **N. Parula**: eight Cr L dam 10 Aug (LC). **Yellow Warbler**: 48 OBBS, 10% above 17 yr av. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: five PBBS. **Magnolia Warbler**: five CV 28 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**:

four Cr L 30 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: ten Cr L 30 Aug. **Black-throated-Green Warbler**: six Cr L 30 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler**: four Cr L 30 Aug. **Pine Warbler**: ten TLou Jun. **Prairie Warbler**: five LC 18 Jun; one MM 30 Jun. **Palm Warbler**: seven singing MM 30 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler**: four Hard Flats Rd T Alexandria JEFF 7 Jun (GM). **Black-and-white Warbler**: max seven PBBS. **Am. Redstart**: 30/day TLou/TMas; numbers down. **Ovenbird**: 35 TLou/TMas; six OBBS. **Connecticut Warbler**: one CV 18 Aug (MW!). **Mourning Warbler**: one Star L 19 Jul. **Com. Yellowthroat**: 51 P+OBBS, 35% over ave. **Canada Warbler**: two Cr L 10 Aug. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one singing Morristown Center STLA 3 Jun (RL).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: nine T Hammond-Rossie 12 Jun; eight in AD. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: six Indian R lake area 14 Jun. **Indigo Bunting**: max 18 Hammond-Rossie 12 Jun. **DICKCISSEL**: male singing FTD Area 12C 12 - 19 Jun (JB, NYSARC), *Region 6 first*. **Chipping Sparrow**: 11 OBBS; 50/day TMas average. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: two T Orleans 10 Jun; two PPT 16 Jun; two FTD; one TThen 5 Jun; one LC 10 Jun; single Oak Pt Rd T Hammond (NL). **Field Sparrow**: max six PBBS. **Vesper Sparrow**: FY TLou 1 Jul, three T Adams JEFF 3 Jul. **Savannah Sparrow**: numbers average on grassland BBS. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: FY TMas 1 Jul; six from TThen and T Hounsfield 6 Jun; seven singing from freshly cut fields T Clayton 5 Jul.(NL). **Henslow's Sparrow**: night surveys totaled 72 individuals from several sites in JEFF. Concentrations at Bonney Rd and Perch Lake Rd-30, with an additional 12 from AWMA. (NL). **Song Sparrow**: numbers down 20% from ave on OBBS; scarce in CV; low numbers in Lake plain. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: sev MM 30 Jun (JF). **White-throated Sparrow**: max 35 TMas, up 10%. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one TMas 10 Jun; common on trail side Cr L 28 Aug (PO). **Bobolink**: 59 PBBS, 84 OBBS, highest numbers ever. **E. Meadowlark**: 24 PBBS; 22 OBBS, back to 17 yr ave. **Orchard Oriole**: pair with one y T Lyme JEFF 10 Jun (NL), third year in a row. **Purple Finch**: FY TMas 20 Jun; TThen 2 Jul; CV 9 Aug, numbers up in TThen. **House Finch**: hard to find in SLRV; low numbers in Lake Plain. **Red Crossbill**: two Salmon R rd T Montague LEWI 26 Aug; six FY Cr L 30 Aug. **Evening Grosbeak**: five T Mas 15 Jun; one Kring Pt SP 26 Jul; six Wanakena 9 Aug.

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In continued contrast with the Drought of '95, rains extended into June and July, finally giving way to a sunny August. June 11-12 were especially hot, muggy days, with Plattsburgh thermometers reaching 86°F and heavy evening thunderstorms dumping rain across the Region. By mid-month, June had seen 3.25" of rain, bringing the yearly total to over 20 inches, and Lake Champlain stood at a high 98.72', covering most of the shingle beaches at the Four Brothers Islands. More downpours 3-4 July washed out railroad tracks, and by mid-month the lake had only dropped to 97.32', with annual rainfall 7.5" above normal. Chasm Falls registered a 3.5 Richter scale earthquake on 23 July, and Plattsburgh received three inches of rain the same day. More showers actually raised the lake to 97.49' by 30 July, covering most of the usual shorebird beaches. August also began cloudy and rainy, but a week of sunny, hot weather began 4 Aug, with 7 Aug the hottest day of 1996 at 89°F. Most of the month was pleasant, with the lake dropping to about 96 feet by season's end. The meteorological event with greatest impact upon the summer nesting season, however, was the late spring snowstorm of 12 May that hit the rarer nesting raptors especially hard.

Banding operations were conducted on the Four Brothers Islands 8 June - 12 July. Yellow color bands were placed on the right tarsus of 500 Ring-billed Gull chicks in cooperation with the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection as part of the filtration avoidance plan for City reservoirs. Also banded were 71 Double-crested Cormorants, five Cattle Egrets, 81 Black-crowned Night-Heron nestlings, another 500 Ring-billed Gull chicks plus 16 adults without accompanying color bands, plus 162 Herring Gull and two Great Black-backed Gull chicks. Great Blue Heron nested for the fourth year, and the number of nests increased from three to 27. (Not coincidentally, perhaps, the two dozen pairs in the Webb Royce Swamp just 13 miles south deserted that heronry after the resident and belligerent Osprey pair usurped one of the old Great Blue Heron nests there!) A "resident" Canada Goose wearing neck collar "7LU" was accompanied by three goslings at the islands, where another pair reared two young this year.

The effect of the Mother's Day snowstorm was apparent during the first NYS DEC Osprey survey flight, when only about half of last year's sites were

active, although three new nests helped numbers somewhat. By the second flight, it appeared that only about half of those occupied had produced young.

Five Bald Eagle sites were active, including two new FRAN nests, but all failed, with up to 9" of fresh snow covering them on 12 May. An adult male eagle banded at Upper Saranac Lake during the winter was one of the nesting parents, proving that some Adirondack breeders also overwinter here.

Peregrine Falcons had a similarly difficult time, fledging just seven young, down from a dozen reared last year. Nine active eyries were monitored: Chesterfield (one fledged in '96), Elizabethtown (territorial pair), two Keene sites (one failed 12 May, the second fledged a single bird from four eggs), Moriah (one fledged), North Elba (single adult seen), Westport (two fledged), Willsboro (one fledged), and Wilmington (first attempt failed, one fledged from reneating). Mike Usai spotted an eastbound Peregrine Falcon passing the Four Brothers Islands on 8 June, apparently headed across the main lake to pigeon rich Burlington, VT, from the active Willsboro eyrie on NYS mainland cliffs. One was also chasing Mallards at the islands 8 August.

Bob Hagar "would hazard a guess that there may be dozens of nesting **Merlins** in the Adirondacks now or in the near future." Based upon this summer's numerous sightings by just a handful of birders, he's probably correct. Observations were clustered near Owls Head, Lake Placid, Paul Smiths, and Saranac Lake, with at least two young fledged in the last village. Hagar explains that on 27 August, "It was like trying to count chickadees around a feeder. They were going into white pines and coming out so fast, I really don't know how many young were raised, but I did have four in the air at one time."

In spite of high lake levels that covered many of the usual shorebird beaches, a respectable 18 species (only three fewer than the drought year of '95) were reported, and they included several local rarities and some unusually large flocks. Most sightings came from the productive Chazy Rivers area along the CLIN shoreline, others from the inland Malone Recreational Park in northern FRAN, and none from the lengthy ESSE shoreline, except from the somewhat higher shingle beaches of the Four Brothers Islands. Many of the reports were of late northbound migrants, including **14 Black-bellied Plover**, **8 Semipalmated Plover**, **21 Ruddy Turnstone**, all three small "peeps," and **49 Short-billed Dowitchers** during June. During the southbound migration, **four Stilt Sandpipers** were carefully identified: Bill Krueger had two adults and an immature at the Chazy Rivers between 5-22 August and Jan Trzeciak found another at the Malone Recreational Park on 24 August.

A relatively low total of 171 species was reported, down from 185 last summer. Some of the decline may be attributable to the wet weather which

discouraged birders, along with the loss of active observer Dean Spaulding to St. Lawrence Region 6. Noteworthy summer visitants included Great Egret, Snowy Egret, **Snow Goose**, **Brant**, **White-winged Scoter**, and **Connecticut Warbler**. Lang Stevenson had a late migrant Blackpoll Warbler at Peru, CLIN, during the second week of June.

More was learned about numbers and range of nesting "**Yellow**" **Palm Warblers**. Bud Lanyon banded three of seven singing males at Spring Pond Bog and Willis Brook Bog, FRAN, in July; he estimates a dozen pairs possible in that part of the Boreal Heritage Preserve. Bill Purcell found another "**Yellow**" **Palm Warbler** on Sabattis Bog, HAMI, on 19 June; this warbler has now been recorded on six Adirondack bogs in three counties.

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Abbreviations: Apt - Ausable Point; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; MRP - Malone recreational park; TLP - Tupper Lake municipal park.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** two basic, one alt FBI 8 Jun, late; trans Heart L 2 Aug. **Pied-billed Grebe:** four Cedar R 7 Jun-5 Aug; nest with 6 eggs there 4 Jul (RM). **Double-crested Cormorant:** 1,184 nests FBI, up from 804 last year; ad Little Colby Pd 16 Aug (TD), unusual inland. **Great Blue Heron:** 4th consecutive year nesting on FBI, count increased from three in 1995 to 27 this year. **Great Egret:** CR 18 Jul (CM); Schuyler Falls landfill 28 Aug (J&RH). **Snowy Egret:** *three* CR 19 Jun (BK,CM). **Cattle Egret:** five banded FBI Jun. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** intro. **SNOW GOOSE:** three molting second-yr TLP 30 Jun thru (CD,TD); one ad near large flock of gulls in CR field 16 Jul (BK,CM); two FBI 2 Aug (RM), exceptional for summer. **BRANT:** max **30** Ray Brook marsh 2 Jun (TD,RH); imm CR 18 Jul (CM), similarly striking. **Canada Goose:** 120 TLP 26 Aug (TD), "a good year." **N. Shoveler:** CR 29 Aug (BK,CM), unusual here. **Gadwall:** **two** nests with eggs FBI 8 Jun (JP), record

number. **White-winged Scoter:** Cumberland Head 25 Aug (BK), highly unusual.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey:** two feeding in freshly-hayed Wadhams field 12 Jul (DS). **Bald Eagle:** Little Tupper L 1 Jul (CD); two ad L. Titus 27 Jul (MB); two ad Mountain View 27 Jul (SD); imm Mountain View L 21 Aug (MT). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** imm TL feeder Aug, had trouble killing Red-winged Blackbird, but "plucked it anyhow." **Cooper's Hawk:** optimist chasing Barn Swallows Utowana L 11 Jun (TD). **MERLIN:** pr Lake Placid golf course fledged 3+ y (LM); Trudeau Institute Lower Saranac L 23 Jun-5 Aug (RH et al.), fledged at least two; two juv Little Colby Pd 16 Aug; imm RR swamp, Ray Brook, 28 Aug (TD); female on same perch Owls Head firehouse 20 Jun-3 Aug (TM, JT); taking birds daily at Scheuing feeder near there 24-31 Jul (D&FS); noisy pr White Pine Camp, Osgood Pd, 1st wk Jul (HP); female in flight Paul Smith's College 21 Jul (JT); noisily after bird Paul Smiths VIC 19 Aug (JT), probably only suggestive of the increase in this nesting falcon, without benefit of any hacking. **Peregrine Falcon:** intro.; locally disappointing, especially in light of Merlin success since 1991. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** pr with 5 y Wawbeek Corners 31 Aug (TD), unusual inland and only report. **Spruce Grouse:** Catamount Mt 19 Jul (J&RH), only report. **Wild Turkey:** hen TL feeder 15 Jul thru (CD). **Com. Moorhen:** Point au Fer 2 Aug (J&RH); CR 18-31 Aug (BK, CM). **Black-bellied Plover:** max 14 CR 1 Jun; one CR 18 Jun (BK, CM). **Semipalmated Plover:** max eight CR 1 Jun; one CR 19 Jun; arr MRP 16 Aug (JT); seven CR 27 Aug (BK, CM), good numbers. **Greater Yellowlegs:** CR 17 Jul-27 Aug; max nine CR 8 Aug (BK, CM); two MRP 16-23 Aug; Indian L FRAN late Aug (JT). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** CR 16 Jul-29 Aug; max nine CR 8 Aug; three MRP 23 Aug (JT); NCCC pd, Saranac Lake, 26 Aug (TD), dam out. **Solitary Sandpiper:** two SLHS pd 22 Jul; NCCC pd 23 Aug; MRP 23-30 Aug; SL airport 31 Aug. **Spotted Sandpiper:** The Gulf CLIN 26-30 Jun (J&RH), unusual location; heard near 3,500' waterfall on Algonquin-Wright Peak trail 21 Jul (J&PT), also unusual, although confirmed nesting at nearby Wallface Pds and Flowed Land during the Atlas survey of the High Peaks. **Upland Sandpiper:** Ft. Covington 9 Jun; four ad, two chicks Stetson Rd CLIN 12 Jun; Banker & Stetson Rds 14 Jun, only suggestive of population in unbirded expanses along the Quebec border. **Ruddy Turnstone:** max 21 CR 1 Jun (BK, CM), an exceptional number. **Sanderling:** one CR 14 Aug (BK, CM), always a good find here. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** northbound CR 1 & 19 Jun; southbound CR 24 Jul-27 Aug, with max 15 there 13 Aug; FBI 26 Jul; four MRP 16 Aug. **Western Sandpiper:** northbound CR 2

Jun; three southbound MRP 16 Aug; one MRP 23 Aug; max **four** MRP 24 Aug (JT), exceptional. **Least Sandpiper**: northbound CR 1 & 12 Jun; southbound CR 16 Jul-27 Aug; max 24 CR 16 Jul. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one CR 13 Aug (BK), an excellent find. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr FBI 2 Aug (RM); CR 29 Aug (BK). **Stilt Sandpiper**: ad CR 5-6 Aug; imm CR 12-15 Aug; ad CR 22 Aug (BK); MRP 24 Aug (JT-excellent details), an unprecedented showing. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: max **49** CR 1 Jun; one CR 27 Jun, still northbound [Ed: Many of the mid to late June northbound or southbound notations are just intuitive guesses. Some have argued that most of these are birds which simply will never go far enough north to nest in the particular year.]; one CR 8-15 Aug (BK), southbound, another remarkable showing. **Com. Snipe**: still winnowing Old Forge airstrip 30 Jun (DH); six Cedar R Jun-Jul, good inland numbers; max 15 CR 14 Aug (BK). **Am. Woodcock**: flushed by weasel Moss L trail 28 Jun (DH). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 25 Cumberland Head ferry dock 19 Jun, when they should be in boreal Canada (TD); two Auger Pd ESSE 25 Jul (GH), more expected date, but unusual on inland lake. **Ring-billed Gull**: banded FBI 7 Jun 1986, band # read with binoculars there 8 Jun 1996; yellow band #141 read at Willsboro Bay boat launch 12 Jul; only 25-30 TLP since closure of Tupper Lake landfill (CD). **Herring Gull**: banded FBI 15 Jun 1991 found dead there 13 Jun 1996. **Great Black-backed Gull**: unfledged young Garden I CLIN Jun (HK), first confirmed CLIN nesting and only second site in the Adirondack-Champlain Region (although nesting has undoubtedly occurred on all four of the Four Brothers since 1975). **Com. Tern**: CR 1 Jun-13 Aug; max 15 CR 1 Aug (BK,CM), probably nesting in VT. **Black Tern**: one ad with imm CR 22 Jul (CM), suggests local breeding.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: Plattsburgh 3 Jul (BK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: calling Mountain View dam 20 Jun (JT). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: CLIN roadkill 22 Jul (TO), unusual in that county. **Com. Nighthawk**: 2-4 over TL Jul-Aug (CD); Malone 24 Jul, only reports. **Three-toed Woodpecker**: male Helldiver Pd 29 Jun (D&RH,RK), only report. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: nest with young Moose Pd, only report submitted.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: Beaver Brook, BRS BBS, Elk L, Ferd's Bog, Moose River Rd, Owls Head. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: BRS BBS, Elk L, Helidiver Pd, Rock Dam, Shallow L, Wakely Mt, Wheeler Pd, Whiteface Mt, typical. **Willow Flycatcher**: Military Tpk & Townline Rd, CL IN, 14 Jun (BK,CM), a good find. **Tree Swallow**: max 500+ Cedar R Flow 2-5 Aug (RM). **Cliff Swallow**: large colony Valcour Ed Ctr

Gray Jay: pr BB; one Ferd's Bog; three ads Helldiver Pd; sev Rock Dam Rd, about usual. **Marsh Wren:** two L Durant 4 Jul (RM), first sighting there. **Bicknell's Thrush:** Hurricane Mt 15 Jun; Whiteface Mt 19 Jun; Lyon Mt 12 Aug, all known peaks.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Philadelphia Vireo:** near golf course Cedar R Rd 29 Jun (D&RH,RK), only report of this thinly distributed, but widespread Adirondack nester. **Cape May Warbler:** singing male Lake Placid golf course 2 Jun (TD,RH); The Gulf 30 Jun (J&RH), unusual along the border; two Indian L 2-5 Aug (RM). **Blackburnian Warbler:** "many" Everton Falls 7-9 Jun (KC). **Prairie Warbler:** trans White Pine Camp, Osgood Pd, 19 Aug (JT); trans APT 25 Aug (J&RH), both good finds. **"Yellow" Palm Warbler:** intro. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** two BRN BBS 21 Jun (BP); singing male Elk L 7 Jul (JP). **Blackpoll Warbler:** trans Peru 9 Jun (LS); six Wakely Mt 17 Jun (BP); two Whiteface Mt 19 Jun (BP); Wakely Mt, 29 Jun (DH); Panther Gorge & Marcy trail all expected; male 2,876' Mt. Jo 2 Aug (J&PT) somewhat low, but long-known from there; 6+ singing males 1,997' Elk L 5-7 Jul (J&SP, RW), quite low for so many, but not unexpected in light of Atlas records from the nearby Boreas River. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** trans Crown Point 21 Aug (J&RH-no details); trans Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 31 Aug, with feeding guild of Golden-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers (J&PT), observers noting "strong eye-ring, complete light gray hood under throat, too, later on low spruce branch had stance like Ovenbird."

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** former Plattsburgh AFB 14 Jun (MG), found during annual grassland bird survey, which was done well prior to the 17 Aug "Phish" concert. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** former PAFB 14 Jun (MG). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** The Gulf 10 Jun-26 Jul (J&RH), noteworthy, other locations expected. **White-throated Sparrow:** Pine Marten stealing eggs from Duck Hole nest late Jun (TB), score one for the mammals. **Dark-eyed Junco:** male wing-beating Eastern Chipmunk Keene 8 Jun (J&PT), score one for the birds. **Rusty Blackbird:** Moose R Rd late Jun (DH); pr BB 4 Aug (TD), only reports. **Purple Finch:** max 20+ Rand Hill 18 Aug, present at many feeders. **Pine Siskin:** seven BRN BBS 21 Jun; six Cedar R 3-7 Jul, as numbers remain low. **Evening Grosbeak:** max 30-40 Owls Head feeders; bringing young to many feeders.

Addendum: BARN OWL: apparent roadkill, Keese homestead, Peru CLIN 10 Feb 1996 (Lincoln Sunderland); being mounted for Point au Roche SP collection (*fide* Rick Bruce).

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

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Reports from the Albany County Airport indicate that the weather in June was warm and sunny, with an average temperature of 68.6°F and 67% sunshine. Precipitation of 3.60" was slightly below normal. July averaged a cool 69.7°, 2.1° below normal, with 70% sunshine. Precipitation totaled 7.14", over double the normal 3.18". A major precipitation event occurred on the 13th associated with Tropical Storm Bertha, with 4.17" of rainfall. It was the sixth wettest July on record. August had a nearly average temperature of 70.1°, with 80 percent sunshine. Rainfall was slightly above normal, totalling 3.56". There were no 90° readings during any of the three months.

Reports received from the Region are indicative of a generally good, although late, breeding season. The cool wet spring delayed nesting in some species by a week or more, and the mid-July rains caused damage as well. There were apparently late nesting attempts after these rains judging by the many sightings of juveniles being fed well into August. Bald Eagle was well represented with four nesting pairs. There were two occupied nests in GREE and one in COLU which did not produce young. The nest in ALBA fledged two young. In addition, there were many eagle sightings, mainly of adult birds, reported in the Region. Peregrine Falcon numbers continue to increase in WARR, with five pairs present. There were two territorial pairs and three nests producing one young each. Bicknell's Thrush was present at Hunter Mountain, with three individuals either heard or seen by a group led by Larry Federman on July 9. Considering development pressures in the northern Catskills, more attention should be paid to censusing areas where these birds are present. Due to extremely high water levels throughout the Region, there was little suitable habitat for shorebirds, which was reflected in the reports both of low numbers of species and individuals. Only 12 species were observed compared with the 1995 total of 22 species.

Limited monitoring of the grassland bird populations at the Saratoga National Historic Park was undertaken this year, but at least ten singing Henslow's Sparrows were present. Only one person volunteered to help with this project (me). Much needs to be done to adequately inventory both the avian and other natural resources at this wonderful site. I hope that next year more members of the birding community will participate in this effort.

The only unusual bird of the season was the continuing Prothonotary Warbler. 182 species were reported during the period. Only two Regional BBS reports were forwarded to me. I hope that more BBS compilers will send me copies of their reports in the future.

Contributors: Ken Able, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Lou Esch, Larry Federman, Laurie Freeman, Jane Graves, Ron Harrower, Cliff Lamere, William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Frank Murphy, Karl Parker, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, Jim Sotis, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BL - Ballston Lake, SARA; BS - Bear Swamp, ALBA; CDWMA - Capital District Wildlife Management Area, RENS; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; FSF - Featherstonaugh State Forest, SCHE; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward Area, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - E.N. Huyck Preserve, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; LG - Lake George; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SarL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SC - Schodack Center, RENS; SNHP - Saratoga National Historic Park, SARA; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SK - Skidmore College woods, SARA; SS - Stockport Station, COLU; StFI - Stillwater Flats (including Saratoga Sod Farm), SARA; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; TRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WRes - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: Com. Loon: bred 13th L WARR, fledged one chick (KA, PC); one Jabe Pd WARR 28 Jun (ER); one LG 28 Jun (*vide* LM); one SarL 14 Jul (WE, NM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** no reports. **Horned Grebe:** one SarL at least through 28 Jun (CL). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 52 GI 31 Aug (WE). **Am. Bittern:** only three Jun-Jul reports; arr FiveR 13 Aug (CT). **Least Bittern:** probable breeding VF; one CP 18 Jun, 4 Aug (JS). **Great Blue**

Heron: max 82 T Ballston rookery 16 Jun (BP); y still in nest Bemis Heights rookery 14 Jul (WE). **Great Egret:** one L7 30 Jun (RP), very early; two SS 29 Jul; one Stanton Pd ALBA 12 Aug; one Stockport 10 Aug; five NR 26 Aug. **Snowy Egret:** one Austerlitz 5, 12 Aug (ADBC); two L7 21-30 Aug (RP). **Green Heron:** max ten CP 10 Jul (JS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two PISP 20 Jun (WL); two Ramshorn Creek Sanctuary GREE 5 Aug (RG); one L7 24 Aug (RP). **Mute Swan:** one NR 26 Aug (RP), only report. **Brant:** seen in flight New Salem 16 Jun (D. Bain to BEN). **Wood Duck:** good breeding season at FiveR, VF; max 40 Sheldon Pd SCHE 26 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** one VF Rd SCHE 26 Aug; three SI 31 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one VF 2 Jun (D. Welch to BEN). **Blue-winged Teal:** arr CP 22 Aug (JS); one VF Rd SCHE 26 Aug; 14 SI 31 Aug. **Gadwall:** one Chatham 10 Jul (ADBC). **Hooded Merganser:** one Hague 8 Jun; one S. Rensselaer 14 Jun; one f emale SNHP 13, 20 Aug (JG). **Com. Merganser:** one female w. 12 chicks Hague 25 Jun; one brood seen JL but prob. not nesting (RY).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max seven T Argyle 31 Aug.

Osprey: one VF 1 Jun (FM); one Livingston 2 Jun (BC); one TRes 14 Jul (WE); one SarL 27 Jul (WE); eight August reports of singles. **Bald Eagle:** six ad, three imm bt. NB-Athens 24 Jun (RG); one ad MR Rexford 23 Jun (WL); two ad, two imm NB Jul (RG); two ad, one imm TRes 14 Jul; one imm SARA various locations Jul; two ad, one imm TRes Aug; one ad Stanton Pd 11 Aug (CT); two active nests GREE, one COLU, all failed; one nest ALBA produced two young. **N. Harrier:** active nest w. transfer of prey observed Berne 29 Jun (KA); ad male, ad female, first yr imm T. Berne/Knox throughout period (KA); one male three female FtE 15 Jun (BP). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** six reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk:** only two reports of singles. **N. Goshawk:** one ad Berne 3 Jun (KA); one FSF 16 Jun (RP). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Hillsdale 29 Jun (ADBC); three Spring L RENS 22 Jun, 14 Jul (PC), probable breeding; one Grapeville GREE 21 Jul through period (PC); heard JL through Jun (RY). **Broad-winged Hawk:** two JL 23 Aug (RY); seven reports of singles. **Golden Eagle:** one possible Schenectady 12 Jul (LE!, NYSARC). **Am. Kestrel:** five nestlings banded near Amsterdam (RY), female observed incubating during Mar; eight SNHP 27 Jul (WE); max four Smith Pd. RENS 30 Aug (PC), apparent family group. **Merlin:** one SI 31 Aug (WE), only report. **Peregrine Falcon:** five nests LG area, three y fledged; one PISP 28 Aug (P. Rappleyea to BEN). **Ring-necked Pheasant:** two T Knox 3, 4 Jun (KA); one FtE 14 Jun (BP). **Wild Turkey:** reported in moderate numbers throughout Region; max 100 Millers Corners Rd SCHE 16 Jun (RP). **Virginia Rail:** one ad w. two

downy y VF 29 Aug (JG), late. **Sora**: one VF 14 Jun; two Rotterdam Flats 16 Jun; one Ghent 4 Jul, only reports. **Com. Moorhen**: bred VF; bred CL, at least five families, 30-40 individuals seen during season (JS). **Semipalmated Plover**: two VF Rd SCHE 26 Aug, only report. **Killdeer**: max 66 StFl 14 Jul (WE). **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr one StFl 2 Aug (JG). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr four StFl 14 Jul (WE); max nine SI/PISP 31 Aug (WE). **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr one StFl 17 Aug (G. Recer to BEN). **Spotted Sandpiper**: arr two NRP 29 Jul (WE). **Upland Sandpiper**: 11 ad FtE 14 Jun (BP); eight SCA 17 Aug (RP); five reports of singles. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr two StFl 14 Jul (WE). **Least Sandpiper**: arr six StFl 14 Jul; max 10 SI/PISP 31 Aug (WE). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: three StFl 28 Jul (JG, AV), only report. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one SI 17 Aug (G. Recer to BEN), only report. **Com. Snipe**: no reports. **Am. Woodcock**: one NRP 29 Jul; one Livingston 1 Jul. **Com. Tern**: two SL 16 Jun (CL). **Black Tern**: two SL 16 Jun (CL).

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: max four Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP); 11 reports of singles. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: seven reports of singles. **E. Screech-Owl**: four reports of singles. **Great Horned Owl**: two Reist Sanctuary 16 Jun (RP); two Glenville 25 Aug (L. Esch); three reports of singles. **Barred Owl**: pr LG 6 Jun (RH); one-two JL through period (RY), only reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: two Stillwater 23 Jun (WE); two Schenectady 27 Jun (RP); 17 reports bt.19-31 Aug w. total of 577 individuals; max 100+ Slingerlands 24 Aug (AV); 235 Voorheesville 24 Aug (WE); 103 Albany/Guiderland 28 Aug (WE). **Whip-poor-will**: present Stanton Pd ALBA 25 May-19 Aug (CT); one T Hague 27-28 Jun (*vide* LM); one Cold Spring Rd SARA 15 Jun (JG, AVK). **Chimney Swift**: at least 100 PISP/SI through period. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max three Hague 19 Aug; 13 banded JL thru period (RY). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Galway 1-15 Jun (RH); one Clarksville 4 Jun (B. Lasher to BEN), both at feeders. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: only four reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max four T Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: two TRd 1 Jun (BP); one Crane Mt. WARR 16 Jun (JG, AV); one Lens L WARR 29 Jul (PC), still singing. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max seven SK 27 Jun, 19 Jul; ten NRP 3 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one Black Dome Mt. GREE 2 Jun (JG, AV); one TRd 3 Jun (RB, JG); one SNHP 6 Aug (JG); one SC 21 Aug (PC); one Olana 24 Aug (BC); six banded NB 30 Jul-24 Aug (RG). **Alder Flycatcher**: max ten TRd 1 Jun (BP). **Willow Flycatcher**: max three T Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP).

Least Flycatcher: max six Hoag's Corners RENS 24 Jun (PC); two SNHP 15 Aug (JG). **E. Phoebe:** fledging JL mid-Jul (RY), late. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max five SNHP 21 Jun. **E. Kingbird:** max 18 SNHP 15 Jul. **Horned Lark:** nested SCA. **Purple Martin:** 14-15 prs nested SarL; new colony near SarL. **Tree Swallow:** 342 fledged from 99 nests in 3 colonies monitored by RY. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last one Austerlitz 18 Aug (ADBC). **Bank Swallow:** nested Broadalbin, Guilderland, Spa SP, T. Livingston; max 150 NRP 7 Jul (WE); last ten SF 17 Aug (B. Recer to BEN). **Cliff Swallow:** last one Austerlitz 14 Aug (ADBC). **Barn Swallow:** bt. 500-600 flocking T Sara 20 Aug (JG). **Fish Crow:** three Corinth 15 Aug (B. Carr); five Niskayuna 28 Jul, probable nesting; only two other reports of singles. **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; max five TRd 28 Jun (LE). **Black-capped Chickadee:** excellent breeding year at JL, 27-year high. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** numbers down at JL; 18 banded Jul-Aug. **Carolina Wren:** present throughout period Delmar (RB); two Slingerlands 21 Jul (W. Sabin to BEN), only reports. **House Wren:** max 15 SNHP 21 Jun; nine PB 26 Jul. **Winter Wren:** bred JL-3 fledglings 4 Aug (RY); five reports of singles. **Marsh Wren:** max four VF 5 Aug (LE). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** one TRd 3 Jun (RB, JG), only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** one Hillsdale 18 Jul (ADBC), unusual in summer. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** two ad feeding two y SNHP 13 Aug (JG), very late. **E. Bluebird:** max 13 NRP 29 Jul (WE), inc. nine juv; juvs being fed SNHP 2 Aug (JG); good season at FiveR, as of 9 Aug 23 y fledged, eight still unfledged (CT). **Veery:** max six TRd 28 Jun (LE); nest NRP w. five Cowbird, one Veery eggs 7 Jul (WE); numerous nocturnal migrants heard SC 7 Aug (PC). **Bicknell's Thrush:** three Hunter Mt GREE 9 Jul (LF). **Swainson's Thrush:** one SC 7 Jun (PC); two singing Spring L RENS 22 Jun (PC), only two reports. **Wood Thrush:** max 11 Ghent BBS 22 Jun (BC). **Gray Catbird:** max 33 Ghent BBS 22 Jun (BC); 16 HP 24 Aug. **Brown Thrasher:** six reports of singles. **Cedar Waxwing:** widely reported throughout Region; max 15 T Hadley 1 Jun (WL); scarce JL (RY).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo:** max seven CDWMA 22 Jun (PC); five PB 26 Jul (WE). **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max three BL 16 Jun; nine reports of singles. **Warbling Vireo:** max four PISP 31 Aug. **Philadelphia Vireo:** two NB 25 Aug (RG to BEN). **Red-eyed Vireo:** max seven SK 19 Jul. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max eight SNHP 21 Jun. **Golden-winged Warbler:** one male SNHP 9 Jun (G./K. Hanson to BEN); one male Argyle BBS 2 Jun

(BP). **Tennessee Warbler**: no reports. **Nashville Warbler**: max six TRd 1 Jun; arr one SK 28 Aug. **N. Parula**: one TRd 1 Jun; one SK 28 Aug, only reports. **Magnolia Warbler** arr one NB 25 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr NB 25 Aug; three juvenal-plumaged juv begging food Palmer L SARA 24 Aug (RY), late. **Blackburnian Warbler**: one TRd 1 Jun; one Black Dome Mt. GREE 2 Jun; one Crane Mt. WARR 16 Jun (JG, AVK); one hy banded JL 17 Aug (RY). **Pine Warbler**: one Cold Spring Rd SARA 3 Jul; one SNHP 23 Jun, only reports. **Prairie Warbler**: max four TRd 1 Jun; three SNHP 21 Jun. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: no reports. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max 11 Black Dome Mt. GREE 2 Jun (JG, AV); two Twin Mt. GREE 27 Jun (P. Rappleyea to BEN). **Cerulean Warbler**: one BL 16 Jun (G. Hanson to BEN); one Castleton Island SP 20 Jun (RG to BEN). **Prothonotary Warbler**: present BL at least through 19 Jun. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one NB 22 Aug (RG to BEN). **Ovenbird**: max nine SNHP 21 Jun; eight SK 22 Jun; below normal numbers JL. **N. Waterthrush**: max three BL 17 Jun; five reports of singles. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: six reports of singles; arr one Guilderland 26 Aug (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: two TRd 1 Jun; one Spier Falls Rd SARA 6 Jun; one male feeding female Yellow-rumped same location 16 Jun (BP); one WRes 18 Aug; one NRP 24 Aug; one NB 28 Aug. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 18 SNHP 21 Jun; 20 HP 24 Aug. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr one HP 24 Aug. **Canada Warbler**: four TRd 1 Jun; two CDWMA 22 Jun; three-four territorial prs BS 6 Jul; arr NB 17 Aug; six reports of singles.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max four SNHP 15 Jul; four Ghent BBS; eight reports of singles. **Indigo Bunting**: max seven SNHP 21 Jun; five SK 19 Jul. **E. Towhee**: max 12 PB 26 Jul. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 32 Ghent BBS 22 Jun. **Vesper Sparrow**: two Hoag's Corners RENS 24 Jun (PC), only report. **Savannah Sparrow**: max four Ghent BBS; only one nesting pr SNHP; one poss nest NRP. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one m Argyle BBS 2 Jun (BP); one male Livingston 5 Jun (AV); one male Knox 22-29 Jun (KA). **Henslow's Sparrow**: at least ten singing males present at SNHP (JG). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one Lens L WARR 29 Jul (PC), in bog habitat on east side of lake. **Bobolink**: 30+ prs SNHP colony; max 78+ there 16 Aug (JG); several colonies noted RENS Jun-Jul; sizable migrant flock SC 28 Aug (PC). **E. Meadowlark**: present in good numbers SNHP. **Orchard Oriole**: one Tsatsawassa L Rd. RENS 24 Jun (PC). **Baltimore Oriole**: max ten PISP 31 Aug. **Purple Finch**: reported in small numbers throughout Region. **Red**

Crossbill: 30 heard in flight JL 7 Jul and one there 24 Aug (RY). **Evening Grosbeak:** one LG 6 Jun; two TRd 28 Jun; low numbers JL.
e-mail: jgraves@skidmore.edu.

REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

No report was received. The new Region 9 Editor is Michael Bochnik, 33 Linden Street, Yonkers, NY 10701.

REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

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ALVIN WOLLIN

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While not a cold summer, nevertheless there were no 90° days in June and July and only one in August. June's temperature was normal, July's was 3.4° below normal, and August's was 1.0° lower than normal. Precipitation was uneven. On 3 June 3.01 inches of rain fell out of the total of 6.71 inches for the month, which was 2.04 inches greater than the June norm. July's rainfall was 1.41 inches greater than normal, while August's was 2.14 inches below normal. The pattern of heavy recurring rainfall in the early summer produced the worst mosquito infestation at Jones Beach and the South Shore of Long Island in years. The state resorted to heavy spraying to alleviate the problem. High water levels were also in evidence on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. This resulted in an extended request on the NYRBA for listeners to exert pressure on the refuge personnel to lower the East Pond water levels. In defense of the refuge management, lowering the water was certainly made more difficult by excessive rain during this period. Still the management is supposed to be able to cope. The problem is not new to this year and deserves at least this editorial comment.

Hurricane Bertha spared the region but the remnants brought reports of Cory's Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, **Manx Shearwater** and **Sooty Tern**.

A Great Cormorant was reported at Montauk Point by Angus Wilson on 14 Jul. Over the last half dozen years, this species has been reported as late as the

first week of July and as early as the last week of August, all on sandy beaches. One doesn't need rocky promontories to find the bird any more. There has been a steady increase in both winter numbers and extensions to the dates it stays. Is this the next range extension nester?

Double-crested Cormorant nested on Mill Pond at Stony Brook for the second year. This has been the first "LI mainland" nesting for this species. Nesting up until this time has been in eight colonies on outlying islands in the sound. The species continues to increase.

After a major movement into the New York area more than a decade ago, Cattle Egret has either become a more uncommon species or is just not reported. There have been few reports the last several years.

On 8 August, 50 Mute Swans were counted on the West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge where heretofore there were none, and then just a few. There were well over 100 on the East Pond. (A complete count was prevented by high water). They continue to proliferate and are now taking over the entire Refuge.

On 6 June Lore J. Schore and S. Deifik saw two **Black-necked Stilts** fly by at the West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. For the fourth year in a row, on the first week of August, a least a dozen Whimbrel stopped to rest and feed in the marshes in the vicinity of the Osprey platform at Cow Meadow. Most other sightings in the Region are of flybys or a few individuals. Here they can be observed at leisure and in numbers; not every day or on every tide, and a scope is required.

Royal Tern, and to a lesser degree Caspian Tern, has become a more common postbreeding visitant in the Region. With such increases, there always comes hope of a range expansion in the future. However, we are losing colonies of other terns, not gaining any. The Common Tern colony at of Jones Beach West End #1 and the Common and Roseate tern colony at Cedar Beach are now abandoned. Black Skimmer is also gone from the Jones Beach strip. In both areas the natural succession of vegetation has grown up and covered most of the sand. Predation by crows and foxes is also a factor. Intervention by man or hurricane will be needed to restore the habitat.

On 22 June a female **Williamson's Sapsucker**, *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*, a western woodpecker, was caught in the nets at the Fire Island Bird Banding Station near the Robert Moses State Park Lighthouse. The bird was banded, photographed and released. It was not subsequently relocated. If and when submitted to NYSARC and accepted by them, it will be a first for New York State.

To summarize the season, we find that the waterbirds dominate both the reports to us and the changes that are occurring in the Region. Cormorants, swans, less common gulls, and large terns may be extending their ranges as reports increase in our area. Bald Eagle is being seen in the summer. However, the grassland species are in trouble in the western areas. Protection is helping the Piping Plover hold its own.

[NOTE: There have been some recent changes in the format in this and the other Regional Reports. The most noticeable here is the omission of initials after species records unless the record is "exceptionally noteworthy". We are trying to comply with the new look and properly apply the guidelines. Reg.Edd.]

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Abbreviations: CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CRSP-Connetquot River State Park; CM-Cow Meadow, Freeport; DP-Democrat Point; FI-Fire Island; FP-Forest Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; NLI-North Line Island; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP- Pelham Bay Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: as usual several summered in LI waters. **Cory's Shearwater:** 15 17-mi NE MP 25 Jul; 20+ SHIN 3 Aug; 63 MEB 3 Aug; 40+ MEB 8 Aug; 35 MEB 13 Aug; 554 at sea off MP 10 Aug. **Greater Shearwater:** five 17 mi NE MP 25 Jul; seven at sea off MP 10 Aug. **Sooty Shearwater:** two 17 mi NE MP 25 Jul. **Manx Shearwater:** MEB 12 Jul. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 50 17-mi NE MP 25 Jul; 13 at sea off MP 10 Aug. **Great Cormorant:** sub-ad MP 14 Jul (AnW,AL), a rare summer record. **Least Bittern:** JBWR 16 Jun. **Cattle Egret:** JBWR and CM 3 Aug, less common than previously. **Mute Swan:** increasing at JBWR and elsewhere. **Com. Eider:** female SHIN 1 Jun; two western LI Sound 15 Jun; 11-14 MP 13 Jul to 25

Aug. the large number of these summer stragglers is unusual. **Surf Scoter**: two male, one female MP 14 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: seven SI area of Muldoon Ave dump 7 Jul. **Bald Eagle**: Hampton Bays 6 Jun; CRSP 9-10 Jun; imm SI dump 30 Jul (SJ); MEB 10-11 Aug. Cutchogue 11 Aug. **Merlin**: MEB 25 Aug. early migrant. **Peregrine Falcon**: 11 nesting pairs in the five boros of NYC, almost all descendants from nests established in 1983 atop local bridges. **Wild Turkey**: four CRSP 8 Jun. **Am. Golden-Plover**: from 28 Jul, eastern fields 18 Aug to end. **BLACK-NECKED STILT**: two JBWR 6 Jun (LS, SD). **Am. Avocet**: NLI 6 Jul; MEB 26 Jul; two JBWR 2-3 Aug; one 27-31 Jul, 25-31 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: CB 27 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper**: Cutchogue sod farms 20 Jul thru; Calverton 4 Aug; nine Westhampton Airport 23 Aug. **Whimbrel**: two dozen CM 3 Aug; others mid Jul to mid Aug. **Hudsonian Godwit**: JBWR 3 Aug thru; others from 28 Jul. **Marbled Godwit**: JBWR 14-17, 25 Aug; two MEB 10-25 Aug; two Oak Beach 24 Aug. **Red Knot**: 15 NLI 7 Jul. **Western Sandpiper**: seven DP 23 Jun, NLI early Jul thru. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 32 MEB 10 Aug; others 27 Jul thru. **Baird's Sandpiper**: seven in field near Peconic 15 Jul, large number, very early date (LF); PBP 17 Aug (CJ), others along south shore LI mid Aug thru. **Curlew Sandpiper**: Cupsogue Co Park, Moriches 10 Jul (AB). **Stilt Sandpiper**: JBWR 3 Jul; others from 27 Jul thru. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: from 17 Aug; max six Cutchogue 29 Aug. **Ruff**: f CM 27-31 Jul (EL *et al*). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 3600 NLI 27 Jul (AL). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: three JBWR 28 Jul; four JBWR 11 Aug; others later. **Wilson's Phalarope**: : three NLI 6 Jul; NLI 28 Jul; MEB 10 Aug; JBWR 17 Aug; DP 24 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope**: SHIN 27 Jul (AL). **Red Phalarope**: CP rowboat lake 14 Aug (NYRBA, no details). **Parasitic Jaeger**: FI 4 Jun; two at sea off MP 10 Aug. **Little Gull**: 1st yr JBWE 4 Jul (AL), summer date highly unusual. **Black-headed Gull**: MEB 3-10 Aug. (per Jim Ash *fide* AnW), this one footed individual has been recorded for the last seven years. **Bonaparte's Gull**: six summered on the island at the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station; a few others. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 3rd yr bird DP 7 Jul (PB); SHIN 19 Aug; 3rd yr bird CB 24 Aug; the DP and CB records may be the same bird indicating a summering bird, in any event all dates are extraordinary. **Gull-billed Tern**: Oak Beach 5-8 Jun; three JBWR 17 Jun; others JBWR early-mid Jul; MEB 28 Jul; JBWR 25 Aug. **Caspian Tern**: Sagg Pond 1 Jun; MEB 28 Jul; CM 18 Aug. **Royal Tern**: reports from late Jul from SI to MP. **Sandwich Tern**: two DP 24 Jun; two DP 8 Jul (JF); one DP 6 Aug (PL).

Roseate Tern: the tern colony at CB was abandoned this season, the area is heavily overgrown with vegetation; breeding continues in the Mecox/Shinnecock area and, of course, Great Gull Island. **Black Tern:** south shore LI early-Aug on. **SOOTY TERN:** three SHIN 13 Jul (AL). **Black Skimmer:** no longer nesting at JBWE.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Chuck-will's-widow:** JBWE 1 June; Oak Beach Pine Groves 8 Jun; Riverhead 15 Jun. **Whip-poor-will:** 14 CRSP 8 Jun; Riverhead 15 Jun. **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER:** caught in the nets at the Fire Island Bird Banding Station near the Robert Moses State Park Lighthouse. The bird was banded, photographed and released 22 Jun. If and when submitted to NYSARC and accepted by that committee, it will be a first for NY, and probably the first east of the Mississippi River, for that matter.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** netted and released, Peconic 1 July (LF), very unusual date. **Acadian Flycatcher:** two CRSP 8 Jun.

VIREOS-WARBLES: **Philadelphia Vireo:** JBWR 24 Aug; others. **Golden-winged Warbler:** CP 18 Aug; JBWS 31 Aug. **N. Waterthrush:** JBWE 27 Jul (AnW, AG). **Connecticut Warbler:** CP 27 Aug (TF). **Mourning Warbler:** migrants CP 19 & 27 Aug; JBWR 31 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Lark Sparrow:** RMSP 26-31 Aug. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** appears to be confined to eastern LI. **Boat-tailed Grackle:** summer reports from JBWR, CM and Shinnecock. **Bullock's Oriole:** male MP parking lot 14 Jun (Dick Bruckner).

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