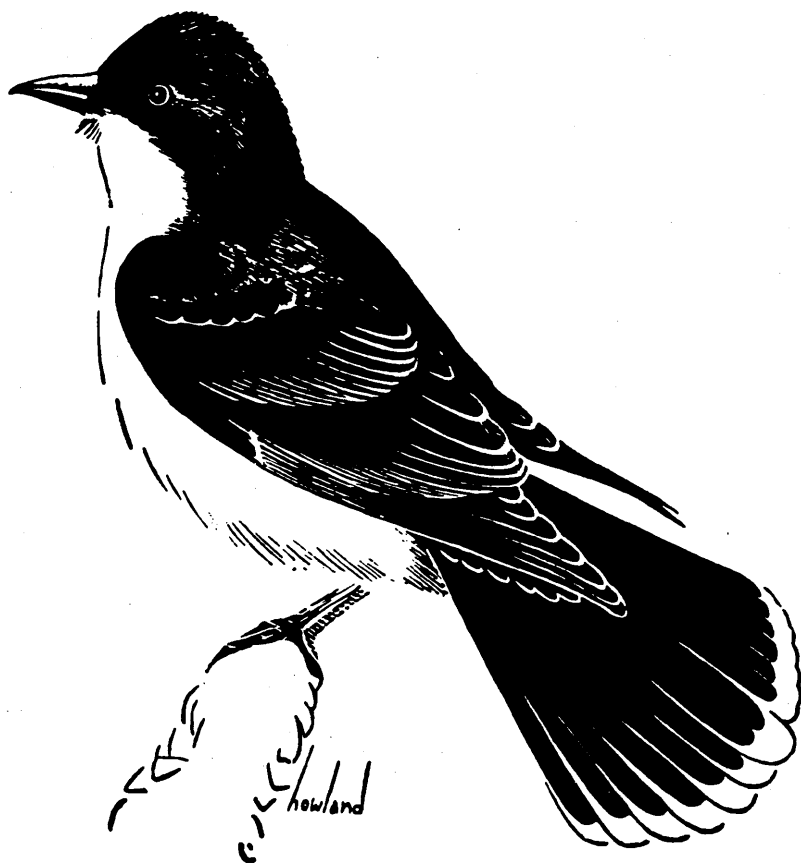


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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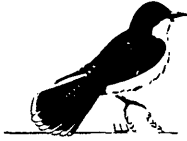
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# The KINGBIRD

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## EDITORIAL — PARTING SHOTS

**Donald A. Windsor**

PO Box 604, Norwich NY 13815

**ABSTRACT** — The departing editor reviews his accomplishments and failures. Use of information transmission and bibliographics is explained. Regrets over not being able to launch a point-counterpoint feature are lamented. The importance of stray birds to parasite distribution is realized. A simple measure of avian diversity is advocated.

### INTRODUCTION

This is my last issue as editor. My three year hitch is up. The main reason I am leaving is because of an irreconcilable mental conflict which boiled down to me or *The Kingbird*. The kind of ingenious articles I love to write (Windsor 1998 Apr, Dec) cannot be interrupted by quarterly deadlines. Creativity cannot be scheduled; it must be harvested when it occurs.

There are two distinct operations to publishing a journal, the editing itself and the production. Editing, the shepherding of intellectual content, is a tedious but fascinating joy. Production, the clerical construction of printed pages, is a damnably frustrating labor of agonizing drudgery. Production includes everything from file conversion to keyboarding to page layout, whatever is needed to produce camera ready masters for our contract printer. Ideally, these would be two separate jobs for two volunteers, an editor and a producer.

While I will certainly not miss the production, I leave the editing with some regrets. Many of my objectives are still unfinished. Upon taking over in 1996, I set two major goals: to transmit more information in a reader/researcher friendly manner utilizing high quality bibliographics, and to encourage greater understanding of important birding issues via a point-counterpoint debating forum wherein controversial subjects could be discussed in a civilized manner. Here is a review.

### INFORMATION TRANSMISSION

My intention was to make *The Kingbird* a formidable avian information piece, a reference book on the installment plan (Windsor 1997). I had absolutely no interest in making it a magazine. There are too many birding magazines already. Although I fell short of my goal, perhaps I can make some headway here by just articulating some aspects of that admirable notion.

An article transmits information from the author to the reader. So, why garble the message? Why hide it? The biggest fault I found with incoming manuscripts was a burying of information. I had to go over some of these texts with a fine dredge to uncover the punch lines. Upon discovery, I dragged them up to the front where they belong.

Most authors learned to write in school, where the teachers had a commitment to read whatever was submitted. In the real world, no one has to read anything you write. Therefore, writing must be done to compete for readership. An article must snag the potential readers' interest before they turn the page. The punch line must be hurled at them; it belongs in the title, or at least, in the abstract.

### **Titles and Authors**

Titles and authors must never be decoupled. These two components comprise a bibliographic handle by which articles are grabbed, just like a suitcase. Our entire library tradition exploits the time honored card catalog concept of author file and title/subject file, retained to this day by the electronic medium. And yes, the title should tell what an article is about. In the case of a bird journal, the name of the bird subject belongs in the title. As for anonymous contributions, anonymity is the camouflage of cowards.

### **Abstracts**

Installing abstracts was a great step forward. Most readers of most journals do not read every article. Informative titles are a nice guide, but more information is usually needed to help with the decision whether to read or not. Abstracts serve that purpose. Abstracts must be able to stand alone, an important consideration for electronic dissemination and for reference sources. The great value of BIOSIS and MEDLINE lies in their provision of abstracts. And, as an additional benefit, writing an abstract helps authors clarify their thoughts. It forces them to ask the profound question, "What is this article about?" The ultimate goal is to achieve what *JAMA* (the Journal of the American Medical Association) and the *New England Journal of Medicine* have, structured abstracts, wherein specified concepts appear in certain parts of the abstract. In *NEJM* the last line is always a one sentence conclusion. The biomedical literature is such a joy to search; yet, the ornithological literature remains so clumsy. I wish I could change that, but other projects are more important.

### **Style Guide**

Faced with an endless array of style choices, why not choose the one that is the most authoritative and is used by the majority of biological journals? This is what I did when selecting Huth and others 1994. It would be folly to go with another style.

### **Standard Journal Format**

Presentation of information in scientific articles has evolved throughout the years from an exchange of letters to our current standard format. The original letter format is why many journals still stick the author's name at the end. If a researcher inadvertently skips a couple pages, the wrong author can be fingered.

All bibliographic information should appear on the first page of every article (Huth and others 1994 page 580). Standard format enables readers/researchers to find information rapidly, without having to read the entire article.

Standard format is: TITLE - ABSTRACT - INTRODUCTION - METHODS - RESULTS - CONCLUSIONS - REFERENCES.

If a researcher is looking for a particular method, a quick glance at the METHODS section should be all it takes. Many bird papers have no real methods, so an OBSERVATIONS section is more appropriate. As an analogy, suppose you were a burglar stealing television sets. You would look first in the living room and then the bedroom; you certainly would not waste time searching closets, pantries, and bathrooms. The same reasoning applies to articles; information should be easily found where it belongs.

The CONCLUSION section is most interesting because most articles reach no conclusions, and so, a DISCUSSION section is substituted. This is very helpful to researchers, because articles with no CONCLUSIONS can be interim progress reports or they might reveal additional information.

Whether a format is standard or custom made, readers deserve more than page after page of monotonous type. I encouraged shorter paragraphs and tried to make sure some kind of a section break appeared on every page. Every article now ends with a = to let the readers know the article is finished.

## References

Insisting on references has been a sore point. Many birders believe that merely reporting their observation of some bird is all that should be necessary. It is, for the Regional reports. But, to make an article out of it, references are required. Why? Because information resides in the configuration of a citation network, where publications cite previous publications. Over time, these connections form a matrix wherein intellectual content is linked together. Ideas do not stand alone; they are interconnected. The citation network is the knowledge base of science. A discovery is any information that has not yet been published. How do you know if you have a discovery, if you do not have a clear view of what has been published and what has not? For more explanation, consult Price (1965) and Margolis (1967). If you do any research at all, these articles will be very helpful. The indispensable resource, *Science Citation Index*, is based on the principle of citation networks.

In the half century that *The Kingbird* has been published, its 47 volumes have accrued 1352 articles. Unfortunately, 565 (41.8%) have no references; they are dead ends. On the bright side, 787 (58.2%) do have references. Of these, 349 (44.3%) contain at least one reference to *The Kingbird*. It is this set which increases in value as the years go by. Articles which have adequate references are information resources.

I have read every article in *The Kingbird* and my vote for the best paper ever published is Wells and McGowan (1991). It has 25 citations to previous

*Kingbird* articles and, as such, is a masterpiece of information summation, a great role model for future authors.

### Electronic Publication

Here is another area where I did not make much progress. However, now that we have a web site (<http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>) perhaps there is hope. The internet is transforming birding in a major way. *The Kingbird* must participate in that revolution. The best article to date on the relationship of paper to electronic journals is Walker (1998). In a nutshell, *The Kingbird* should go online, starting with the contents, article abstracts, and Regional Highlights. *Science* and *Nature* are the world's top journals and serve as good models to emulate for best practices. Every week they cover this topic.

### CONTROVERSY

Not getting a point-counterpoint feature off the ground is my greatest failure. The best way to understand any issue is to approach it the way debaters prepare. They know the topic, but do not know which side they will have to argue. So, they learn both sides. The epistemological underpinnings are best founded in Hegel's famous dialectic, a thesis spars with an antithesis and a synthesis is hammered out. This synthesis can then become a thesis and can confront a new antithesis to form a new synthesis, and so on (Runes 1956).

A point-counterpoint feature would get two (or more) informed authors, each to write their own side of a controversy. They would then exchange papers and then rewrite, so that they would not be surprised upon publication. They would, in effect, collaborate to produce a nice succinct learning piece for the readers. Alas... I was not able to persuade any authors to participate.

### STRAY BIRDS ARE IMPORTANT!

OK, I did learn something during this ordeal. Yes, stray birds do have a biological impact. Three years ago I thought all the fuss over birds blown off course was silly. Wrong. When a bird winds up in a place its species has never been before, it does much more than provide new state records and add to birders' lists. That stray bird can bring its parasites into a new arena, where new opportunities for new hosts abound. When Anna's Hummingbird (Grosek 1998) bellied up to the nectar bar in Binghamton, what parasites did it bring to its Ruby-throated drinking buddies? When the Broad-billed Sandpiper (Benner 1998) probed the muds of Jamaica Bay, what parasites did it place there? Which species of sandpipers will carry its Asian contagion, if any? The American Robin picked up the tapeworm *Variolepus planstici* from European Starlings (Ballard and Olsen 1966). Parasites of birds enjoy more opportunities than those of other vertebrates, save perhaps of humans in the jet age.

## AVIAN DIVERSITY

I once thought we could replace the Regional reports with a giant checklist (Windsor 1995). However, after working on them, I now have a much deeper appreciation. Still, they could transmit more information at a relatively small expenditure — by faithfully noting the total number of species reported each season, and always in the same position, at the end of the species list.

Not every species turned in by field observers gets listed by their Regional editor, just the "major" ones. Blue Jays, American Crows, American Robins, European Starlings, House Finches, House Sparrows, and their ilk are hardly ever listed. Yet, they probably have a greater biological impact than the rarer ones. While it may not be feasible to list every species by name, disclosing the total number of species would provide an elegant measure of avian diversity. Some Regional editors already do this: Koeneke and Purcell (Region 5), Peterson (Region 7), and Graves (Region 8). How about the rest of you? Why be stingy with information? Knowledge must flow from those who know to those who do not know.

## THE END — FINALLY

Some readers may resent this long editorial. But hey, I slaved away here for no pay and at a considerable expense to myself. Consider these parting shots as due compensation. Or, more appropriately, take this as a bully fluke parasitizing a *Kingbird*. If this still gripes you, write a letter — to the next editor.

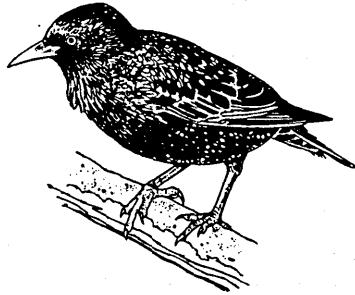
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## ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD IN BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Robert J. Grosek

8½ Newton Street, Binghamton NY 13901

**ABSTRACT** — A male Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) was observed in Binghamton, Broome County, New York on 18 November 1998. It remained at the same site until 11 December 1998, when it was captured and taken indoors. This is the first record of its appearance in New York State. A field description of the bird and circumstances surrounding its discovery and identification are presented.

### INTRODUCTION

In the northeastern United States, only a single species, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), represents the hummingbird family. This species is regularly sighted in the Binghamton area as a migrant and a breeder. It typically arrives in Binghamton around the first of May and is last seen in September before it heads south to Mexico. Ornithologists who summarize bird sightings note that the Ruby-throated Hummingbird has usually left upstate New York by the third week in September (Pettingill and Hoyt 1963) and has left southern New Jersey by the third week in October (Sibley 1997). Of course, isolated records have occurred beyond these departure dates. D'Anna (1998) cites sightings of the ruby-throat in New York State as late as November and December.

The Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was the only other hummingbird recorded in New York State (Rising 1998). Like the Rufous Hummingbird, all other hummingbirds in the United States are found west of the Mississippi River. These hummingbirds, for the most part, migrate to the south at the end of the breeding season out of the United States. For some species, such as the Allen's and the Costa's, the northernmost part of their wintering range is in the southwest United States.

The one species that does not migrate out of its breeding area is the Anna's Hummingbird. It breeds from northern Mexico to northern British Columbia, and eastwards to Arizona. The highest density of Anna's Hummingbirds exists in California, followed by Arizona. Its typical wintering range extends eastwards to Alabama (Russell 1996, AOU 1998).

Although Anna's Hummingbird is a permanent resident within its range, it is not static within. This hummingbird often moves to lower elevations in the winter and many individual birds migrate westward from Arizona to California to escape the summer desert heat (Kaufman 1996). These birds return to Arizona in the late summer. In addition, there is some noticeable range expansion occurring, generally south and north, and to some degree, to the east

of its current range. This expansion may be due to an increase in population as well as to the availability of more nectar feeders (Stokes & Stokes 1989). Also, other movement northward and eastward is not unprecedented. For example, Long (1997) reports Anna's Hummingbird sightings as far north as Alaska and as far east as Florida. At the end of November 1998, there were two other sightings of an Anna's Hummingbird on the East Coast. One was in Smyrna, Georgia, and the other was in Charlotte, North Carolina (Henderson 1998). However, there are no reported sightings of this species above the Mason-Dixon Line (Long 1997, AOU 1998). The presence of an Anna's Hummingbird in New York State exceeds all expectations.

### DISCOVERY OF THE HUMMINGBIRD

On 17 November 1998, at the home of Bernice Greenmun, Harriet Marsi saw a hummingbird that appeared different from a Ruby-throated. That evening, notice went out on the telephone birding network informing members of the Broome Naturalists' Club that a possible Rufous Hummingbird was seen at Greenmun's feeder. At first light of 18 November, Bill Howard and I arrived at the feeder. We first saw the bird at 6:37 AM. Although the sky was still overcast and dark, there was sufficient light to determine that the bird was not a Rufous Hummingbird. This bird exhibited a well defined gorget, making it a male. Had it been a Rufous Hummingbird, a brick-red color would have been visible on the back, belly, or tail. We saw only green. Acting on the assumption that there was only one other likely species of hummingbird in our area, we felt that we were looking at a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and we did not further attempt to identify this bird.

Later in the morning I discussed the bird with the Naturalist' Club member who originally disseminated news of this bird and learned that there were two hummingbirds regularly appearing at the feeders. I returned to the hummingbird site at approximately 9:30 AM and within moments was joined by Sadie Dorber and later, by Marie Petuh and Chris Barnes.

Over the next one and one-half hours we observed the hummingbird. The sky cleared and the bird often perched on exposed branches in direct sunlight. This bird appeared to some members of this group as being larger than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and because of the color on the crown, it was clear that we were not looking at a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Noting several field marks, including the way that the iridescent color extended over the crown of the bird and the pattern of color on the breast, I identified this bird to be Anna's Hummingbird.

Other hummingbirds have iridescent color on their crowns as well, but they do not have the breast pattern or color that this bird has. For example, while the Violet-crowned Hummingbird has an iridescent crown, it also has a white breast. The Magnificent Hummingbird also has an iridescent crown, but its breast is

extremely dark. Costa's Hummingbird also has iridescence on its crown, but this color extends much further down the neck and torso of the bird than on an Anna's. Furthermore, the Costa's iridescent color is blue-violet (Griggs 1997). Other field marks also separate the Costa's, Magnificent, and Violet-crowned hummingbirds from the Anna's Hummingbird.

During our observation, the bird typically sat on the top of a lilac bush, leaving only to fly to a feeder for a sip of nectar (Photo 1). Feedings were brief, always less than a minute at a time. Sometimes the bird would fly off out of sight for 5 minutes or longer before returning.

Over the next 12 days, I observed the bird many times, at many angles, and under many lighting conditions, from overhead bright sunlight to darker overcast rainy or snowy days. At times I was as close as 25 feet. I saw the hummingbird through 7X power Swarovski binoculars, used Kowa and Swarovski spotting scopes with 20 to 60X viewing lenses, and videotaped the bird with a Sony 300X digital camcorder. At the site I dictated notes into a micro-cassette recorder and sketched details of the bird on a note pad.

I have previously observed Anna's as well as other hummingbirds on birding trips outside of the northeast. However, I do not consider myself well versed in the identification of hummingbirds. As I observed the bird with other birders, we often verbalized to one another field marks and characteristics that we saw on the bird. We had field guides available that we looked at when the bird was not in sight.

I was conscious of the size of the bird. The base of the bird feeder was approximately 2 inches in length, and an attempt to size the bird by comparing it to that measure. Anna's Hummingbird varies in size from 3.5 to 4.0 inches (89-101 mm) (Long 1997). There is no more than a 0.5-inch difference between it and the other 15 or so hummingbirds that are likely to be seen in North America. As Kaufman (1990) suggests, size of a hummingbird is not a reliable field mark for inexperienced birders, especially if there are no other hummingbirds around for comparison.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

This bird exhibited rapid acceleration, quick flight, and the abilities to fly backward and to hover in place while sipping nectar. This bird appeared to be less than 4 inches from the base of the bill to the tip of its tail feathers. The bird was bright green with a sooty white breast, and an iridescent color on its throat and crown that often flashed when the bird turned its head.

## FIELD DESCRIPTION

**Body, Tail, and Wings:** The back was iridescent green. The tail feathers were also green. The folded wing against the body of the perched bird appeared a darker shade of green, closer to black, than the body color. On some

occasions, I saw a small patch of white feathers near the top of the folded wing. This white appeared to be a patch of downy feathers and was not always visible.

**Head and Throat:** An iridescent coloring was evident on the crown of the head, the throat or gorget, and about the eye. This coloring appeared to be in three parts when viewed from the side. One part covered the gorget, a second part covered the crown, and a third part formed an oval behind the eye. The iridescent coloring on the throat and crown were joined when viewing the bird head on, but the oval behind the eye was separated from the rest of the coloring regardless of the viewing angle. Such a separation is not noted in the field guides. Over each eye was a thin light eye stripe and immediately behind each eye was a white area. Most of the time the iridescent patch appeared black unless the light caught the feathers in such a way to flash color. When it did, I saw red, magenta, or rosy pink colors at different times but never blue or violet. The color was most evident when the bird hovered by the feeder and less so when he stretched his neck while perched.

Sometimes the feathers on the crown were ruffled. When viewed in profile, there was a small spot of white beneath the base of the bill. Viewed from straight on, there appeared to be a mustache. Upon closer inspection through a spotting scope, the white spot and the mustache can be explained by white feathers that stuck out on either side of the base of the bill.

**Chest, Belly, and Undertail:** The white breast appeared sooty because of green breast feathers that often looked dark gray when in less than optimum light. This breast color was darker at the wings, giving a vest-like appearance. A narrow strip of pure white feathers separated the throat gorget and the sooty breast feathers. This gave the appearance of a quarter inch white collar just below the gorget. The undertail covert area was also white.

**Bare Parts:** The blackish bill appeared to be a bit longer than the width of the head, perhaps 1 1/8 times as wide. The bill was generally straight, but on closer inspection there was a suggestion of a slight downward curve. The eye color was totally black. When the bird perched, its breast feathers covered the legs.

**Vocalizations:** On many occasions I heard the hummingbird make a sharp "electric" call note when it flew to the feeder early in the morning. The bird usually did not make this sound after full daylight. However, the bird would sometimes string several notes together when perched on the lilac bush.

**Field Comparison:** Bernice Greenmun initially reported to the Naturalists' Club that a second hummingbird was also present at her feeders. On 18 November we briefly saw a second hummingbird. The Anna's Hummingbird flew to a nearby blue spruce tree and was joined by a second hummingbird. That second bird briefly interacted with the Anna's and then flew seemingly deeper into the spruce. Five birders witnessed this brief encounter. This second bird

appeared before us for less than 2 seconds and was shaded by the darkness of the tree. No identification of this second hummingbird was possible. This second bird was never seen at any other time and there were no other hummingbirds in the area.

## DISCUSSION

**Behavior:** This bird's behavior is consistent with that of other Anna's Hummingbirds. This Anna's Hummingbird chose the Greenmun's garden for its territory. Flower gardens are typical Anna's Hummingbird habitats (Ehrlich and others 1988). For most of the day, the hummingbird sat in the topmost limbs of the lilac bush. Sitting atop the highest branches of a bush or tree, and leaving this perch only to feed, is also typical of the male hummingbird (Stokes & Stokes 1989). When it returned from feeding at the feeder, it often returned to the same limb on the lilac bush. Russell (1996) notes that Anna's Hummingbird is intolerant of other hummingbirds. From a strategic perch, the Anna's Hummingbird defends its feeding territory (Ehrlich and others, 1988). This may have been the case when the Anna's Hummingbird interacted with the unidentified hummingbird on the afternoon of 18 November, as noted above.

When the hummingbird came to the feeders early in the morning, it made a sharp "electric" popping call note, common to this species. By contrast, the call note of the Ruby-throat is described as a squeaky sound while that of the Rufous Hummingbird is a low chip note (Long 1997 and others). This bird sang from its perch, a behavior that is not observed in all hummingbirds, but is common among the Anna's Hummingbird (Robbins and others 1983)

**Banding:** In addition to the field marks detailed above, on 22 November the Anna's Hummingbird was briefly captured and banded by Bill Pantle, a licensed bird bander. Standard length measurements and weight were recorded by the bander and were submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee. While the bird was "in hand", it was photographed (Photo 2) and videotaped.

**Presence in Binghamton:** Some anecdotal information exists on how long the bird may have been present in the Binghamton area. Greenmun noted that the hummingbirds were coming to her feeder for three weeks before she announced the presence of this bird. Two weeks prior to that, she had taken down her feeders for the winter. It was only after her granddaughter noticed the hummingbird repeatedly flying where the feeder previously hung, did Greenmun return the feeder to the porch. If this information is accurate, Greenmun would have removed the feeder around 13 October, five weeks before the identification of the bird.

Over the first week of its discovery, over 200 birders came to Binghamton to observe the bird. The identification held up over time. Reports were sent to NYSARC. Internet postings and several newspaper articles appeared, including Marsi (1998).

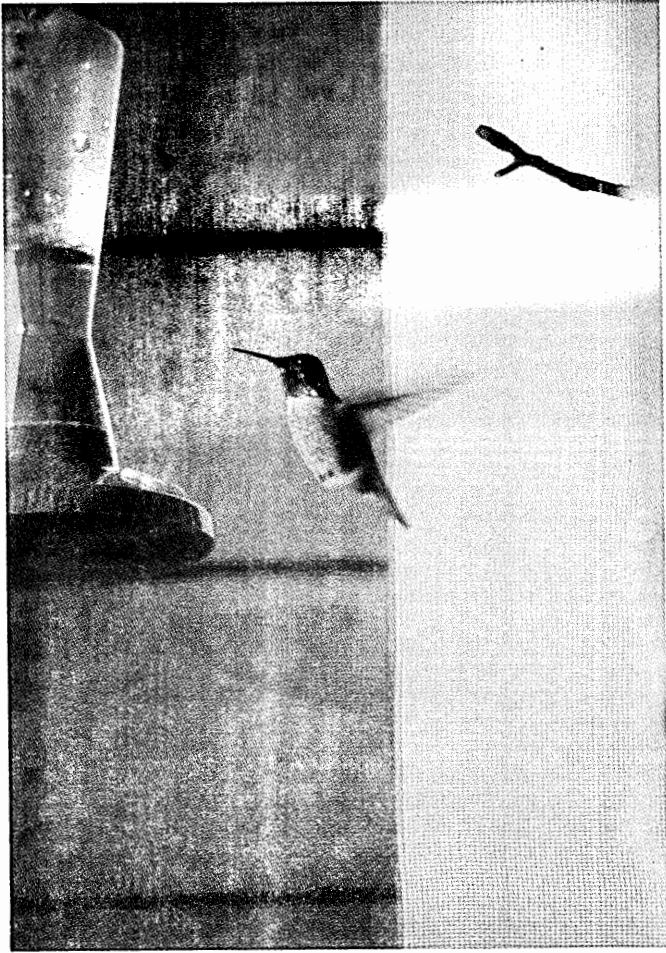


Photo 1. Anna's Hummingbird in flight. Photo by Sara Kinch.

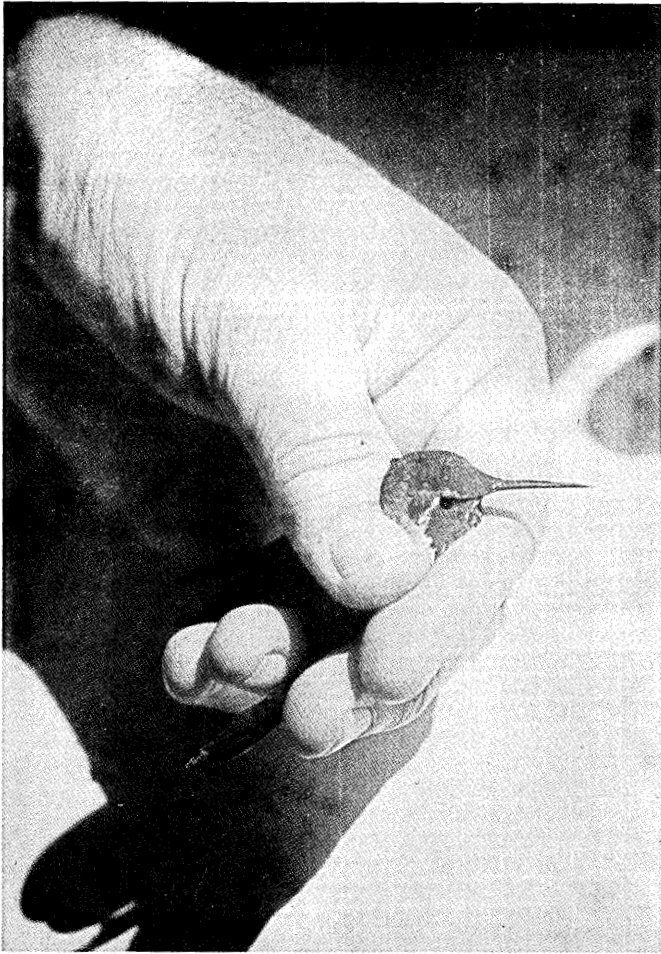


Photo 2. Anna's Hummingbird held by bander. Photo by Sara Kinch.



The Anna's Hummingbird was captured on 11 December 1998 by Arnette Heidecamp, a licensed rehabilitator, and taken to Saugerties (Reilly 1999).

**Controversy:** Last year, almost to the day, a birder in Wilmington Delaware left his nectar feeder up longer than he usually does and was rewarded with the appearance of an Allen's Hummingbird (Rohrbacher 1998). Every year there are reports of Rufous Hummingbirds passing through the northeast in the fall (Long 1997), and in recent years, a Black-chinned Hummingbird found its way to southern New Jersey (Sibley 1997).

As more birders leave their feeders up during the colder months, we can expect more sightings of these fascinating and colorful little birds. This altruistic behavior however, may lead to ethical conflicts. Do the feeders extend a welcome comfort to birds that are off their course, or do the feeders encourage the birds to linger in a harsh winter environment as long as their bodies can hold out? If humankind is putting the hummingbirds in jeopardy by maintaining winter feeders, do they have a responsibility to assist the birds?

A lively discussion developed on the internet over the merits of capturing the Binghamton hummingbird and transporting it back to the west. Some birders saw a little bird in need of a helping hand. Others thought that nature should run its course. Here the vitality of the species was never in question; rather, one bird was facing a cold winter. In the future, it is for certain that other birds will stray into New York State. The controversy surrounding the Anna's Hummingbird causes us to examine our role in nature and forces the question of just how far can we manipulate nature without endangering the very wildlife we seek to protect.

### SUMMARY

There is sufficient evidence to identify this bird as Anna's Hummingbird. It is the first recorded sighting of this species in New York State and is a milestone for birders in our area to study it in the wild. Recently some unusual birds have been reported in New York, some for the first time ever. These bird sightings are reminders that we must take note of the seemingly ordinary and not take for granted the identification of any bird. Any uncommon field mark that a bird exhibits should draw our attention like a magnet. Above all, we should put our fears aside to report an unusual sighting, even if our first impression of the bird's identification falls short of perfection. Had the birder who originally observed this bird hesitated on reporting it, we all would have been bereft of the pleasure the Anna's Hummingbird brought to us.

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# BLACK VULTURE IN NEW YORK STATE — CONFIRMED NESTING AND OBSERVATIONS OF EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Joseph T. Bridges

PO Box 792, New Paltz NY 12561-0792

**ABSTRACT** — The first recorded nest site of a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) in New York State was discovered on 27 April 1997 at a rock enclosure near the base of a 36 meter tall cliff (Bonticou Crag) on lands of the Mohonk Preserve, Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York. Ten site visits, including the date of discovery, were made over a period of 65 days from 27 April to 10 August 1997 to observe, photograph, and record the behavior and development of the nestlings. Data on egg dates, incubation period, nestling development and behavior are discussed and compared with similar data established for southern populations of Black Vulture.

## INTRODUCTION

This discovery of a nesting Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) is important because it is the first record of confirmed breeding of this species within New York State. Moreover, this article is the first photo-documented account of a nest site (the Bonticou site), and early development and behavior of Black Vulture in New York State.

Although considered rare just a few years ago, Black Vultures are now regularly reported in downstate New York. The New York Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) now requires a report only if the bird appears upstate. Its current status is rare to fairly common visitant (Andrle 1998).

Current North American range distribution maps of Black Vulture generally show southeastern Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey as its northeasterly range limit (e.g., Clark and Wheeler 1987). According to Bull (personal communication September 1998, citing Leck [1984]), the first documented breeding of Black Vulture in New Jersey — the nearest confirmed nesting site to the Bonticou site was at a cave in Hunterdon County, where 2 nestlings were observed in 1981.

In the northern Shawangunk Mountains of southeastern Ulster County, where the Bonticou site is located, sightings of Black Vulture by staff and associates of the Mohonk Preserve (Mohonk Preserve 1997), provide a nearly continuous 9 year record of this species, with as many as 7 birds recorded in a single day (e.g., 14 November 1989, 27 May 1993, and 8 October 1995). It appears evident that, despite its state-wide rarity, Black Vulture has extended its northern range limit and is now seen in every month of the year within the state (Andrle 1998). Consequently, it was considered inevitable that a Black Vulture nest site

would eventually be found in New York, particularly in the Shawangunk Mountains where substantial numbers of this species have been regularly observed for the past fourteen years.

## OBSERVATIONS

### Discovery and Characteristics of Nest Site

On 27 April 1997, a Black Vulture nest site with two eggs being tended by an adult with a second adult nearby, was discovered at a rock enclosure near the base of a 36 m high cliff (Bonticou Crag) on lands of the Mohonk Preserve, Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York.

The Bonticou site was discovered while photographing a "very approachable" adult Black Vulture perched on a large boulder within 3 m of the nest site. Soon thereafter, a second adult tending two eggs was observed from above through a south-facing opening in a cluster of large boulders (approximately 0.75 m in diameter and 1 m deep). A second opening was soon found to provide access to the enclosure via a nearly level, tunnel-like east-facing side entry (approximately 4 m long, 1 m in diameter, and capped by a truck-sized rock).

Photographed from a distance of 2 m, the nesting adult was unaggressive, and did not hiss or exhibit threatening movements. Instead, it continued incubating for several minutes, occasionally making faint gurgling-like sounds while cocking its head sideways to look up at its observer. Two eggs approximately 10 cm in length, and marked with small, dark brown squarish-to-rectangular blotches on a speckled light buff background, were observed from a distance of 1.5 m when the adult moved to the rear of the enclosure. The Bonticou site was visited on nine subsequent dates and a summary of observations made during all visits to the nest site are recorded in Table 1.

### Species Identification

The reluctance of various authorities to accept reported sightings of Black Vulture may be based on its general similarity to, and possible confusion with, the far more common Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), particularly when individuals of the latter species are observed soaring at a considerable distance, under backlit conditions. Fortunately, several diagnostic features of adults and chicks of Black Vulture (refer to the accompanying photographs), which readily distinguish this species from Turkey Vulture, were observed and photographed close at hand, namely: (1) the uniformly dark, nearly black plumage, grayish bare head, substantially shorter tail, and gray-white legs and feet of the adults, and (2) the buff-orange down of the chicks (n.b., the down of Turkey Vulture chicks is white). The tail of Black Vulture is much shorter and wider than that of Turkey Vulture and, in flight, its feet extend to the tip of the tail or beyond, often "dangling" beneath the bird as if it was about to land (the feet of Turkey

Vulture are positioned well back from the tip of the tail and are invariably held close to the body during flight). White primary patches near the wing tips of Black Vulture are also distinctive, particularly when seen from above. Although the underwing of Turkey Vulture is distinctly two-toned, white primary patches are not present. Further, when soaring, the wings of Black Vulture do not exhibit the prominent dihedral of Turkey Vulture, nor does the Black Vulture tip from side to side as dramatically as the Turkey Vulture during flight. Descriptions of distinguishing features of Black Vulture are provided in Bull and Farrand (1977), Terres (1980), and Clark and Wheeler (1987).

### **Environmental Setting of the Nest Site**

The nest site was located 137 m above sea level, overlooking an expanse of the Wallkill Valley to the east. There was no evidence of a prepared nest within the enclosure. The eggs were lain on a thin layer of chestnut oak leaves covering a veneer of soil and underlying rock beneath the nearly level floor of the enclosure. A level platform rock (3 x 4 m) just outside the enclosure at the top of an open, south-facing talus slope of large conglomerate boulders (Shawangunk grit), provided a convenient landing and takeoff site for the adults.

The plant community surrounding the enclosure and talus slope was dominated by an open canopy of chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*). The understory consisted mainly of scattered saplings of white pine (*Pinus strobus*), American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and sweet birch (*Betula lenta*). Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.) and wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) were also present in the understory. Boulders near the enclosure were partly covered with scattered grape vine (*Vitis* sp.) and patches of lichens, notably blistered rock tripe (*Lasallia papulosa*).

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Nest Site**

In its southern breeding range, Black Vulture reportedly nests on the ground under dense thickets; in the hollow base of stumps and trees, and in hollow logs; on the floor of shallow caves; on cliff ledges; and, in addition, in crannies of tall buildings (Terres 1980). Since the Bonticou site is the only Black Vulture nest site currently reported for the State, it is not yet possible to assess the range of potential nesting habitats that may eventually be utilized by Black Vulture statewide. It is noteworthy, however, that the Bonticou site is similar to virtually all active Turkey Vulture nest sites (i.e., those with chicks or unfledged juveniles) discovered in the northern Shawangunks by Mohonk Preserve research personal and associates, including the author. These sites are located in relatively undisturbed, difficult to access rock enclosures within talus slopes located at the base of low-to-high (approximately 10-30 m tall) southeast-to-southwest-facing cliffs and surrounded by a partly open, deciduous tree canopy

with a sparse-to-dense understory of shrubs (mountain laurel is usually present). The southerly exposure of these nest sites with open cliffs above and talus slopes below appear to provide optimal habitat for adult birds (e.g., cliff tops provide perching sites for thermoregulation, locating food, watching over nest sites, and accessing thermal updrafts) and their young (e.g., talus slopes with a labyrinth of cool, moist tunnels and enclosures provide extensive escape routes and hiding places from predators).

Shortly after discovery of the Bonticou site, Ed McGowan, a graduate student at SUNY Binghamton conducting field research on eastern timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), observed an apparent Black Vulture nest site in a similar habitat (two adults in the vicinity of an odorous, "whitewash" marked rock enclosure in a shrub thicket near the base of a short cliff (McGowan, personal communication June 1997) in Minnewaska State Park Preserve, located off NYS Route 44-55 in the Town of Gardiner, Ulster County, approximately 12 miles southeast of the Bonticou site. The presence of eggs or young was not confirmed at the Minnewaska site, however.

### **Egg Dates and Development**

Black Vulture eggs observed on 27 April at the Bonticou site, fall within the January-to-July egg dates reported for this species in Texas, Florida and North Carolina (Terres 1980) and coincide closely with 25 April as the 100-year average date of last spring frost recorded at the Mohonk Lake National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Station (Huth and Thompson 1997), located within 3 miles of the Bonticou site.

Air temperatures over the range of egg dates for southern populations of Black Vulture likely encompass those that occur from late April through early September in the middle Hudson Valley region of New York.

Two down-covered chicks, estimated to be 7-10 days old, were first seen on 7 June, 42 days after discovery of the nest site (refer to 1 June observations in Table 1). Although the actual dates of egg laying and hatching were unknown, the incubation period was estimated to be 32-35 days, similar to that reported by others for southern Black Vulture populations (29-32 days reported by Brown and Amadon [1968]; 39-41 days reported by Nice [1954], both cited in Terres [1980]). Nestlings were observed seven times over a period of 65 days from 7 June - 10 August. One unfledged juvenile disappeared between 20 June and 13 July. The remaining unfledged juvenile was estimated to be 68-71 days old when last seen on 10 August, and may have fledged by early September, as there was no evidence of recent Black Vulture activity at the site on 21 September.

Observations indicate that Black Vulture completed its breeding cycle (incubation to fledged juvenile) at the Bonticou site in approximately 140 days, which is approximately 30 days longer than the higher range of combined incubation (41 days), and development from chick to fledged juvenile (70 days),

reported for southern populations of Black Vulture by Nice (1954) and Stewart (1974), respectively; both cited in Terres (1980). In spite of the estimated 140 days required to complete a breeding cycle at the Bonticou site, air temperature was not considered to be a critical limiting factor to an anticipated expansion of Black Vulture breeding in New York. Long-term arrival date records of spring migrant avifauna from the Cayuga Lake basin of Central New York, the western Allegheny Plateau, and the northern Shawangunks (Mohonk Preserve) show significant trends toward earlier arrivals, which support growing evidence of a global warming trend, and may also account, at least in part, for the successful northward expansion of the Black Vulture breeding range.

When observed on 10 August, the unfledged juvenile demonstrated surprisingly fast, "Wild Turkey-like" over ground movement, but made no effort to fly, even for a short distance. At this stage of development, its ability to survive and to defend itself against predators appeared to be based on continued parental feeding, hissing and postural threats (wing flaring and flapping) and dodging rapidly in and out of, and hiding in, a labyrinth of small, connected rock enclosures. At one point on this date, the unfledged juvenile attempted to hide head-first in a small rock enclosure, leaving its rear half fully exposed. When hand-stroked and gently pried, the bird remained "frozen" in the hole, refusing to move. This behavior is consistent with reports by Murray ([1928]; cited in Bent [1961]) of birds jamming themselves into, and burying their heads in, cracks; and of young birds feigning death when disturbed (Lacey [1911] cited in Bent [1961]).

### **Confirmation of Nest Sites**

Vulture nests, even those of the widespread Turkey Vulture, are difficult to confirm because of terrain inaccessibility and the cryptic nature of the nest sites. According to Meade (1988, citing Ritter [1983]), the Turkey Vulture exhibits a strong attachment for established nest sites, returning to the same nest site each breeding season. Black Vulture exhibited a similar fidelity for the Bonticou site as two eggs and an adult bird were observed in the nest enclosure on 25 April 1998. Unfortunately, one of the eggs mysteriously disappeared between 31 May and 3 June, and on 16 June the remaining egg was found opened and empty within the nest site, with no sign of a nestling.

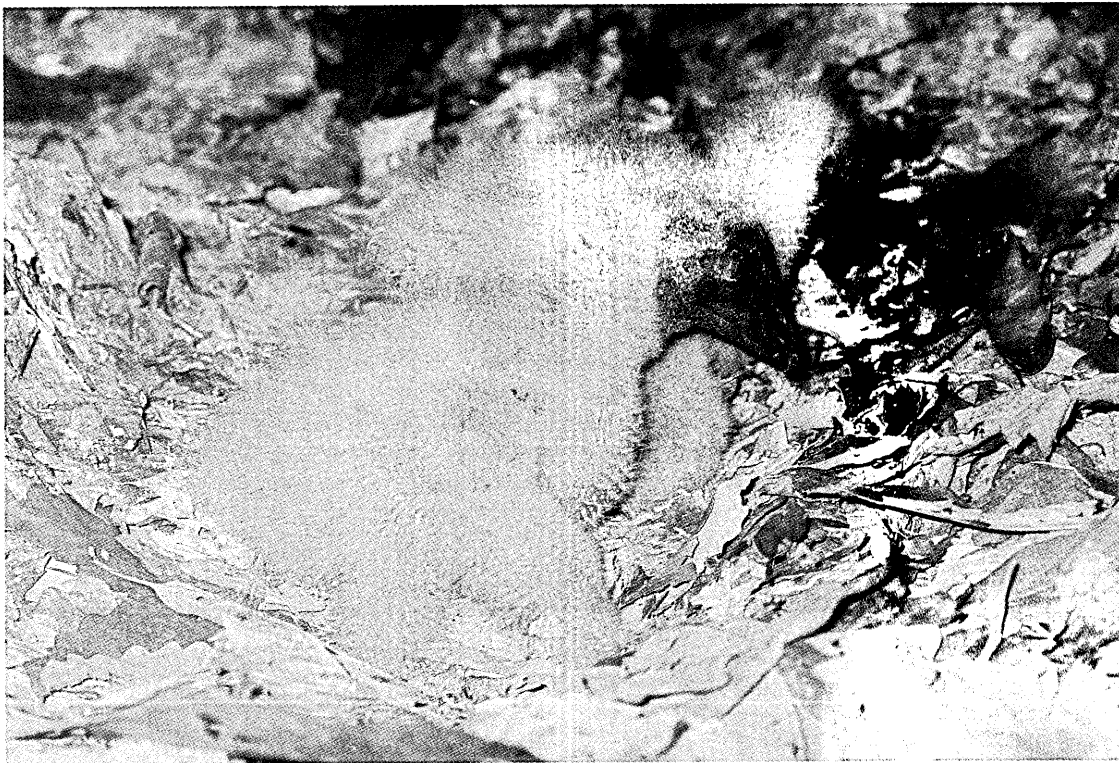
### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks and appreciation are extended to Paul Huth, Director of Research, and John Thompson, Natural Resources Specialist, at the Mohonk Preserve, for providing access to valuable data and literature resources, and for their encouragement and review of the manuscript.

**Table 1. Observations of the Bonticou Crag Black Vulture Nest Site**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observations</b>
27 Apr 97	Two adults, one incubating two eggs, each egg approximately 10 cm long; adults unaggressive; incubating adult stayed in place for several minutes before moving off eggs to rear of enclosure; both adults photographed from a distance of 2 - 4 m.
1 Jun 97	Single adult observed apparently incubating two eggs or covering recently hatched chicks (neither eggs nor chicks could be seen); adult photographed from a distance of 1.5 m.
7 Jun 97	Single adult with 2 chicks in buff-orange down, each chick about 18 cm total length (TL); adult and chicks quiet, un-aggressive, remaining in place while being observed and photographed from a distance of 1.5 m.
14 Jun 97	Two chicks (adult absent) approximately 20 cm TL; quiet, eyes open, alert but unalarmed, stayed in place; photographed at a distance of 1 m from inside enclosure.
20 Jun 97	Two chicks (adults absent) approximately 27 cm TL; active, alarmed (hissing), but remained in place while being photographed from a distance of 1 m.
13 Jul 97	One unfledged juvenile present, approximately 45 cm TL, hissing from rear of enclosure (no evidence of other juvenile); regurgitated food observed in front of unfledged juvenile (possible remains of other juvenile?); adult plumage (black wing primaries and mid-dorsal feathers) emerging through buff-orange down; areas of exposed and disturbed soil on enclosure floor; strong odor of ammonia; "whitewash" and adult wing feathers evident in and near enclosure; mid-portion of a snake skeleton found within 4 m of enclosure; juvenile photographed from inside enclosure at a distance of 1.5 m.
20 Jul 97	Adult observed in enclosure with single unfledged juvenile behind and partly beneath adult, neither bird hissing or acting aggressive; photographed inside enclosure from a distance of 1.5 m.
28 Jul 97	Charged by unfledged juvenile while crawling into enclosure; juvenile ran over top of observer's back and disappeared into a nearby rock hole; areas of "whitewash" evident under several ledges and at entrance to numerous subsidiary enclosures within 5 m of nest enclosure; no hissing or other sounds heard after juvenile disappeared.
10 Aug 97	Single unfledged juvenile with predominantly adult plumage (orange-buff down still conspicuous on breast and base of neck) observed outside and within 4 m of nest enclosure; juvenile ran quickly into a rock hole when approached; rock hole too small for juvenile to enter entirely, rear one-third of juvenile exposed and photographed; juvenile remained "frozen" and silent when briefly hand-stroked and gently pried.
21 Sep 97	No evidence of juvenile or adults at nest enclosure; several soaring Turkey Vultures approached within 12 m of enclosure and circled the area for several minutes; a possible roost site with copious "whitewash" within a prominent vertical fissure of the cliff was observed nearby in June 1997.





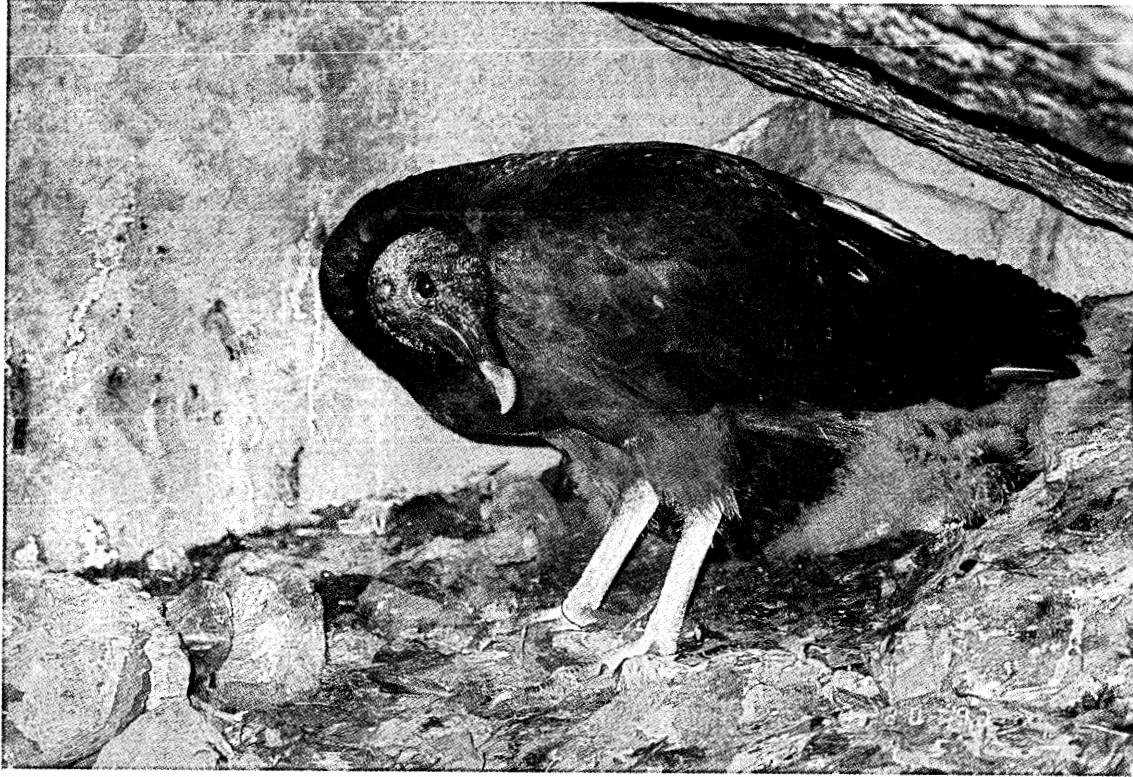
Photograph No. 1. Two Black Vulture chicks approximately 14 days old within rock enclosure. Photographed 14 June, 1997, by Joseph T. Bridges.



Photograph No. 2. Black vulture chicks approximately 20 days old photographed from within rock enclosure. Photographed 20 June, 1997, by Joseph T. Bridges.



Photograph No. 3. View Northeast toward rock enclosure. Arrows point to enclosure access locations. The base of a 30 m cliff is shown at upper right. Photographed 20 June, 1997, by Joseph T. Bridges.



Photograph No. 4. Black vulture adult within nest enclosure. A single unfledged juvenile, approximately 44 days old, is partly visible behind the adult. Photographed 20 July, 1997, by Joseph T. Bridges.

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**UPDATES, CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS ETC. TO  
BULL'S BIRDS OF NEW YORK STATE**

**Emanuel Levine**

585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550

In 1976 the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs released a Special Publication entitled *Supplement to Birds of New York State*. Both the 1994 book and the 1976 supplement were wholly the work of John Bull.

Since bird life anywhere is not static, just as the previous volume was out of date the day the manuscript was submitted to the printer, the current volume is already dated. The effective cutoff date for most of the species accounts was late 1996, so we already have a two year gap that needs to be addressed.

In addition to the need to update species accounts, there are sure to be a certain amount of errors of omission and commission that have crept into the work, careful as your editors have tried to be. Some have already come to light, and I am sure there will be more.

I therefore invite all readers to write to me on whatever they believe needs a correction, and emendation, or an update. Please accompany such a note with documentary material, such as *Kingbird* or other accredited publication material.

The data thus accumulated will be printed periodically in these pages, as well as being posted on the Federation web site, and eventually be presented as a Supplement to the current volume.

Please send all material to me, the Chairman of Publications, at the above address.

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## REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1995

The Committee made decisions on a total of 70 sightings of birds involving 93 reports. These included 65 reports from 1995, one from 1992, 25 (including 10 second round reports) from 1994, and two additional reports for records which had previously been accepted. Five reports remain to be resolved. It is important to be as specific as possible about locations of sightings in reports. The initial observer's telephone number can be helpful should questions arise about a report. 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 NY 14850

### SPECIES TO BE REPORTED TO NYSARC

Following is a list of species which should be reported to the NYSARC:

- 1. Any species new to New York State.** A checklist was published in *The Kingbird* 1998 March; 48(1): 2-15.
- 2. Any addition to the list of species proven to breed in New York State.**
- 3. Any of the following species found anywhere within New York State:**

Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Western Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Herald Petrel, Mottled Petrel, Black-capped Petrel, Audubon's Shearwater, White-faced Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Booby, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, White Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Ross's Goose, "Black" Brant, Barnacle Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Smew, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow Rail, Corn Crake, King Rail, Purple Gallinule, Azure Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Northern Lapwing, Wilson's Plover, Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, Eskimo Curlew, Whimbrel (white-rumped subspecies only), Eurasian Curlew, Long-billed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Little Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Great Skua, South Polar Skua, Long-tailed Jaeger, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Ross's Gull, Ivory Gull, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, White-winged Tern, Common Murre,

Long-billed Murrelet, Ancient Murrelet, Atlantic Puffin, White-winged Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Black-billed Magpie, Cave Swallow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Bicknell's Thrush (outside of known breeding areas), Fieldfare, Redwing, Sage Thrasher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Bachman's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Painted Bunting, Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brambling, Hoary Redpoll.

4. **The following species from upstate New York only:** any species of shearwater or storm-petrel, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant (except Hudson River), Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Tufted Duck, Common Eider, Black Rail, Clapper Rail, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Royal Tern, Roseate Tern, Black Skimmer, any species of alcid, Chuck-will's Widow, Western Kingbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, Lark Sparrow, Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Boat-tailed Grackle.

5. **The following species away from the Adirondacks:** Spruce Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay.

6. **The following species for spring reports only:** Western Sandpiper (upstate-New York only), Baird's Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull.

Any reports of birds seen out of season at least four weeks before early arrivals or four weeks after late departures, as summarized in *Birds of New York State* (1974), the *Supplement to Birds of New York State* (1976), or *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998).



## 1995 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- Pacific/Arctic Loon (*Gavia pacifica/arctica*). 1995-28-A: one on Lake Ontario off Hamlin Beach State Park, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 12 April (WSy).
- Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). 1995-44-A: one at Niagara River gorge, Niagara Falls, Town of Niagara, Niagara Co., 11 November (SK).
- Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*). 1995-32-A: 1995-33-A: one flying over Lake Ontario off Hamlin Beach State Park, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 30 October; 30 November (BE). 1995-41-A-B: one at Niagara River, Buffalo, Erie Co., 17 November (CM,BP).
- American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). 1995-19-A-C: two at Oneida Lake, Towns of Cicero and Constantia, Onondaga and Otsego cos., 10 to 27 July (CA,JH,MAK).
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1995-31-A: one on Lake Ontario off Braddock Bay Park, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 5 September (BE). 1995-36-A: one on Hudson River at Green Island, Albany Co., 5 November (WE).
- Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). 1995-11-A-B: one at the mouth of Salmon Creek at Myers Point, Cayuga Lake, Town of Lansing, Tompkins Co., 13 May (KD,JL).
- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). 1995-15-A: one about 4 miles southwest of Mecklenburg, Town of Hector, Schuyler Co., 14-15 June (JG,SG).
- Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). 1995-27-A: one off Curtis Road, Town of Parma, Monroe Co., 12 March (BM). 1995-45-A: one at Montauk County Park, Town of East Hampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 18 November (PW, LM). Since this species is often kept in captivity, the origin of these individuals is uncertain.
- Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). 1995-34-A: one on Genesee River, Rochester, Monroe Co., 24,26 December (RSp).
- Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). 1995-51-A: one on Seneca Lake at Watkins Glen, Town of Dix, Schuyler Co., 29 December (JJO).
- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1995-22-A: one 1.5 miles north of Garratsville, Town of New Lisbon, Otsego Co., 8 June (TS).
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1995-1-A: one at Woodlawn, Town of Hamburg, Erie Co., 1 January (RA). 1995-35-B: one in Childs Street area, Buffalo, Erie Co., 17 November (WD).

- Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). 1995-5-A-D: one at Mecox, Town of Southampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 28 January to 18 March (ES,CM BL,MG). Photographs on file. This is the fourth record for the state.
- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 1995-43-A: one at Niagara River, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., 25 November (WD). This is the fourth record for the state.
- Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1995-26-A: one at Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, Monroe Co., 17 January) (SS).
- Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). 1995-4-A: one at Myers Point Marina, Village of Myers, Town of Lansing, and Stewart Park, City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 12 January (CT-H). 1995-7-A: one at Point Lookout, Jones Inlet, Town of Hempstead, Long Island, Nassau Co., 12 March (RK). 1995-42-A-B: one at Niagara River, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., 19 November (WD,BP). These are the third, fourth and fifth records for the state.
- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). 1995-16-A: one at 170 Maple Boulevard, Long Beach, Town of Hempstead, Long Island, Nassau Co., 20-26 May (LE). Photographs on file.
- Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*). 1995-21-A: one off Dater Hill Road near Eagle Mills, Town of Brunswick, Rensselaer Co., 23 December (FM).
- Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*). 1995-46-A: one road kill on Lake Road at Kintigh Station, Town of Somerset, Niagara Co., 23 November (PS). Photographs on file.
- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). 1995-50-A: one at Albany Sewage Treatment Plant, Town of Colonie, Albany Co., 28 December (CF).
- Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). 1995-37-A: one on ballfields in Central Park, Manhattan, New York City, New York Co., 8 November (TF). 1995-39-A: one at Inlet Pond Park, Greenport, Town of Southold, Suffolk Co., 29 October (BPr,TP).
- Yellow-rumped ("Audubon's") Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*). 1995-10-A: one on Cornell University campus at Beebe Lake, Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 4 May (SK).
- Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). 1995-47-A: one at Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island, Town of Babylon, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 19 November (MR).
- Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). 1995-12-A: one near intersection of Day Hollow and Gaskill roads, Town of Owego, Tioga Co.,

7 May (JB). 1995-18-A-C: one on Jones Road, Town of Lisbon, St. Lawrence Co., 2 July (BP,DC,DD). These are the seventh and eighth records for the state.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). 1995-48-A: one at Jones Beach State Park, Town of Hempstead, Nassau Co., 25 November (CW,CWil). This is the third record for the state.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). 1995-13-A: one at Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 21 May (BS). 1995-17-A-B: one at Besaw Road and New York State Route 264, Town of Palermo, Oswego Co., 20-21,24 June (CS,RS,GH)

### 1995 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

European Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*). 1995-25-A: one, Atlantic Ocean, above the east wall of Hudson Canyon, 87 miles from New Jersey shore, Loran markings 26/135, 43/100,600, 28 August.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*). 1995-24-A: one, Atlantic Ocean, above the east wall of Hudson Canyon, 87 miles from New Jersey shore, Loran markings 26/135, 43/100,600, 28 August.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*). 1995-38-A: 6 at Perch River Wildlife Management Area, Jefferson Co., 22 August.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). 1995-8-A: one at Long Point State Park, Point Peninsula, Town of Lyme, Jefferson Co., 1 April.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1995-35-A: one in Childs Street area, Buffalo, Erie Co., 24 November.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). 1995-30-A: one along Brush Creek off Parma-Hamlin Townline Road, Towns of Hamlin and Parma, Monroe Co., 20 May.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1995-2-A: one about 0.5 mile southeast of intersection at Atlantic Ocean Road and Bridge Lane, Town of Southampton, Suffolk Co., 2 January.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*). 1995-23-A: one at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Town of Harrison, Westchester Co., 18 August.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). 1995-9-A: one at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Tyre, Seneca Co., 27 April.

- Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). 1995-3-A: one at Point Peninsula, Town of Lyme, Jefferson Co., 4 January. 1995-29-A: one on Lake Ontario off Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester, Monroe Co., 23 April.
- Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*). 1995-20-A: one at Lookout Hill, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, New York City, Kings Co., 6 May.
- Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). 1995-6-A: one at Mecox, Town of Southampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., 31 January to around end of February.
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus* sp.). 1995-14-A: one at Indian Meadows Park, Town of Glenville, Schenectady Co., 3 June.
- Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1995-52-A: one or two at Manitou, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 23 November.

### 1994 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1994-56-A: one or two on Lower Mohawk River from Colonie-Crescent Road to the dam between Cohoes and Waterford near Simmons Island, Towns of Colonie and Waterford, Albany and Saratoga cos., 17 September, 2,16 October, 19,30 November (WE).
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1994-51-C: one on Buffalo waterfront, Erie Co., 8 January 1995(WD). This is the same bird as 1994-51-A and B.
- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 1994-49-A-C: one at Niagara River, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., 3 December (RF,NF,WD,RS). This is the third record for the state.
- Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*). 1994-42-E: one flying off Hamlin Beach State Park, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 8 November (BE).

### 1994 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

- Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). 1994-47-A-I: one at Round Pond, Sharon Station Road, Town of Amenia, Dutchess Co., 12-13 November.
- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), 1994-31-A: one 5 miles east-northeast of Burdett, Town of Hector, Schuyler Co., 3 June.
- Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis calurus*). 1994-54-A: one flying at Yates-Carlton Townline Road, Towns of Yates and Carlton, Orleans Co., 9 April.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1994-44-A: one at Grange Hall Road, Town of Davenport, Delaware Co., 7 November.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). 1994-29-A: one in Round Pond marsh behind Island Cottage Woods, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 19 May.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) 1994-17-A: one flying, Yates-Carlton Townline Road, Towns of Yates and Carlton, Orleans Co., 9 April.  
This report was accepted as Crane sp.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), 1994-36-A: one flying west of East Gilgo Beach, Town of Babylon, Suffolk Co., 18 September.

dowitcher sp. 1994-60-A: one at Round Pond, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 27 December.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). 1994-25-A: one at Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 9 May.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*). 1994-26-A: one at shoreline of Sage Creek Marsh, Town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 14 May.

#### 1992 ACCEPTED REPORT

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). 1992-63-A: one immature, Ford Hill Road, west side of Tomhannock Reservoir, Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer Co., 31 October (WE). This individual was reported from 28 October to 4 November. This is the eighth or ninth record for the state.

#### ADDITIONS TO NEW YORK STATE LIST

This report contains no additions to the New York State list, which now totals 451 species. However, in the list of species which should be reported to the NYSARC, 1998 reports of Broad-billed Sandpiper, Anna's Hummingbird, and Lazuli Bunting are included because they have been accepted by the Committee and will be published in a future report. Trumpeter Swan, although included for reporting and data gathering purposes in this list, will not be included in the New York list until such time as the species, which has evidently been introduced, becomes established as a breeder in the state.

## **New York State Avian Records Committee**

Kenneth P. Able  
Robert F. Andrie (Chairman)  
Thomas W. Burke  
Robert O. Paxton  
Charles R. Smith

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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

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON 1998

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls NY 14304

### Weather Effects

It was another summer with few hot days, some Regions again failing to reach the 90 degree mark. For most of the state, the three month temperature average was near normal and, in several Regions, June was the first month of the year that was below normal. As usual, summer precipitation was erratic in its coverage and intensity. Regions 2 and 7 received more than their share of storms with Region 7 getting particularly drenched. As a result of storms, Regions 5 and 7 reported failed Common Loon nestings. In Region 1 thunderstorms were suggested as a possible reason for the local scarcity of the ground and bank nesting species, such as Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Typical of the spotty nature of summer rains, most of the Regions were moderately dry in July and August, improving the odds of nesting success where such was the case.

### Late Spring Migrants

A few shorebirds lingered into June, but not many passerines were noted. Region 2 was the exception to the latter with several species noted in the closely monitored Braddock Bay area. In Region 10 a long list of warblers was reported as late migrants, though it is uncertain that these birds were not breeding in the area. A fine tally of shorebirds and waterfowl for the date of 9 June was made in Region 6. Occurring on an island, the group included some species frequently missed in spring elsewhere in that Region. Among the latest of the migrant waterfowl, a count of 85 Brant in Region 6 and a "flock" in Region 9 were notable. Other sightings that caught my eye included a 6 June Ruby-crowned Kinglet and 19 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded on 11 June in Region 2. The latter sighting exceeds all maxima in the new *Bull's Birds of New York State* (Rising 1998). Other late sightings were a Dunlin on 14 June in Region 5; a Tennessee Warbler on 10 June in Region 8; and a Philadelphia Vireo on 9 June in Region 9. Lastly, according to *Bull's Birds of New York State* (Sherony & Brooks 1998), a Wilson's Warbler on 17 June in Region 8 would be a state record late date for sightings away from possible breeding sites.

### Breeding Birds

Waterbird studies were conducted in Regions 6, 7, and 10 with devastation caused by humans noted in two of the Regions. One well publicized incident was the slaughter of Double-crested Cormorants at their huge colony on Little Galloo Island, an Important Bird Area (IBA) in Region 6. Over 1000 adults and young were either killed by shotgun or starved without parents to feed them. It has been widely speculated that the perpetrators were disgruntled fishermen who

believed the cormorants were eating them out of their livelihood, literally. Though the cause and effect of simple "human intrusion" may be less blatantly detrimental, it can still be devastating, as illustrated at a heron rookery in Region 10.

Grassland birds were a major focus of study again this year. The Nations Road IBA in Region 2 was very productive for several species while the Perch River WMA in Region 6 appears to be the heart of Henslow's Sparrow country. A remarkable 122 singing males were recorded during a nighttime survey at the latter site. We should not allow ourselves to get too comfortable, however, as the species is nearly extirpated from the province of Ontario, a mere 15 miles from Perch River. In 1996 only two breeding sites were found in the province (Anon 1996).

### **Shorebirds**

The northbound shorebird migration is often recorded into June, as was the case this year. Though the total numbers of individuals and species do not rival those of later in the summer, there were some interesting observations. Sizeable flocks were noted for the following species: Ruddy Turnstone in Regions 2 and 6; Sanderling in Region 2; and Semipalmated Sandpiper in Regions 2, 3, 5, and 6. Dunlin are very difficult to find after May. Yet, this year they were recorded in five Regions with the last dates in those Regions ranging from 7-14 June!

When the summer doldrums hit, there is nothing finer than a shorebird "hotspot" for adding a little variety and allowing birders to sharpen their identification skills. To the inland birders, myself included, Region 10 is always a hotspot and many of our "good days" are rather routine by coastal standards. So, it was nice to see Regions 3 and 5 with some excellent shorebirding this summer and Regions 1 and 8 with fair lists as well. In Region 3 the Montezuma NWR was again nicely managed for shorebirds, with water levels raised or lowered as appropriate. In Region 5, Delta Lake is lowered annually, though presumably not particularly managed to attract waders. Thus, it may be less consistent than Montezuma, but this year at least it was very good, and the shorebirds attracted up to four Merlins. I noted no obvious patterns in the records of these southbound migrants.

### **Miscellaneous**

The tiny Great Egret colony in Region 1 did very well this year. High counts of this species in Regions 3, 5, and 8 would seem to imply a bright future in this state. As mentioned previously, however, the loss of a Region 10 rookery this year tempers one's enthusiasm.

Summering waterfowl add variety to the season. More sightings of some species may be a result of population increases. That would seem to be the case with Snow Goose, found in four Regions. A count of 95 shovelers in Region 1 on 22 August would seem to be a very high count for so early in the fall migration. Other uncommon waterfowl included Ring-necked Duck and Greater

Scaup in three Regions, Lesser Scaup and Oldsquaw in two, Common Goldeneye in Region 9, and White-winged Scoter and Bufflehead in Region 2.

### Rarities

With good shorebird habitat in several Regions, it is not surprising that family comprises a large proportion of the birds that follow. Region 1 highlights included Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper, a very rare spring migrant Western Kingbird, and midsummer Worm-eating and Kentucky warblers. Region 2 had a holdover Tricolored Heron from spring, a midsummer Merlin, Marbled Godwit, and a pair of American Avocets. A Curlew Sandpiper was only the third state record away from the coast, yet was the second for Region 3, which also had two American Avocets, a rare and unseasonal Little Gull, Rusty Blackbird, Whip-poor-will, and a Loggerhead Shrike, probably a southbound migrant by the date. Region 5's shorebird bonanza included Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes. Prothonotary and Kentucky warblers were also found in Region 5, though neither was believed to have nested.

In Region 6 a very rare possibly breeding Bay-breasted Warbler was a highlight while a Fish Crow in Region 7 was north of the known breeding range of that species in the state. Region 8 added a very rare Long-billed Dowitcher and a Kentucky Warbler, while Clay-colored Sparrow and Yellow-breasted Chat highlighted Region 9's list. In Region 10 a difficult-to-identify and unseasonal Thayer's Gull was documented and hopefully, this will be forwarded to NYSARC. How about a Common Raven on Staten Island – who needs the northern forest when you have garbage dumps! Region 10 also provided the second spring migrant Western Kingbird of the season.

Finally, the hands down winner of the BOTS award goes to the Broad-billed Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay NWR in Region 10, a first record not only for New York but for the lower 48 states as well. This bird was extremely cooperative once it found its niche, allowing hundreds to view it in its nine-day stay. For the full story, see William Benner's account of this record in the September 1998 issue of *The Kingbird*.

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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; BOTS — bird of the season; 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

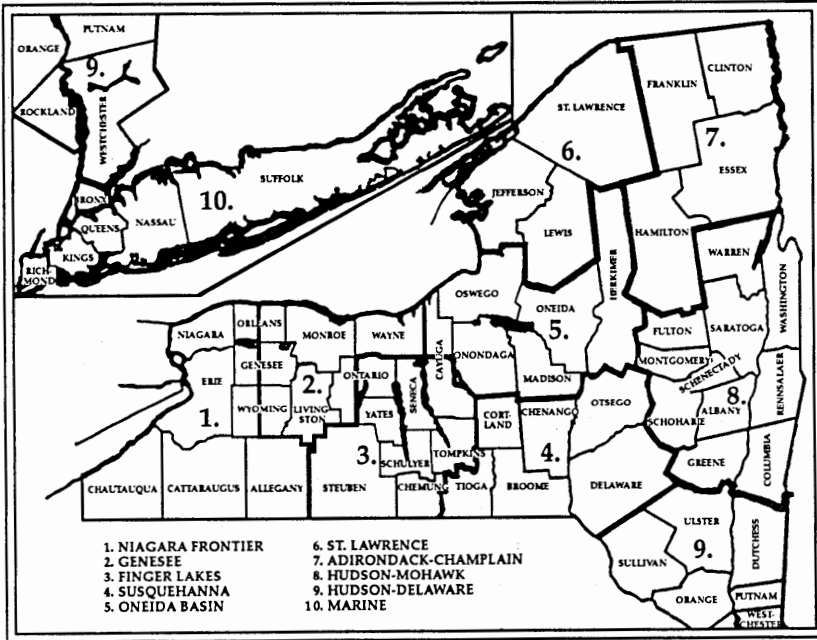
**Summer Season:** June, July, August

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

DICK MIGA

38 Elm St, Fredonia NY 14063-1937

The summer of 1998 was a relatively pleasant one for Region 1 as well as most of the rest of the state. With period temperatures averaging normal and rainfall 1.8 inches below normal in the Buffalo area and relatively normal in adjacent areas, most residents were very happy with conditions. However, the lack of rainfall may have been disturbing to area farmers at times. Sunshine was recorded during approximately 60% of the daylight hours, slightly less than usual. While no 90 degree days were recorded for the third consecutive summer, the length of this year's warmer than usual period was most notable.

Specifically, the individual months shaped up as follows: June began on a chilly note but rebounded to normal summertime temperatures and ended with sultry warm and humid weather. Temperature readings averaged 65.3 degrees, somewhat below normal, and rainfall totaled about two-thirds below normal at 2.87 inches. The last day of the month received 0.79 inches of rain. Sunshine was present about half the days, with haze noted over the last two weeks. On 2 June several rounds of severe thunderstorms and hail hit the Region, with a tornado recorded in Wyoming County. A rain storm at month's end brought flooding to many Southern Tier sections of the Region.

July was characterized by pleasant days and a few uncomfortably humid nights. The month did average 1.5 degrees cooler than normal, with the hottest day hitting 84 degrees, the lowest high temperature for the month in six years. Sunshine was present about 66% of the daylight hours. Steve McLaughlin, Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Buffalo, stated "that the most notable event during the summer was a slow moving storm on the 8<sup>th</sup> which brought torrential downpours and flooding to the counties of Erie, Wyoming, and Livingston". A state of emergency was declared in Wyoming County. A second damaging thunderstorm occurred in the area on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

August went into the records as another pleasant month, with long periods of dry and comfortable conditions. Temperatures averaged 71.2 degrees, about 2 degrees above normal, with the highest temperature being 89°F on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The month received about 56% of sunshine and less than half the normal rainfall at 1.74 inches. There was little dramatic weather with the exception of a few thunderstorms on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, with the latter downing some trees in Niagara County. [Weather Data excerpted from the National Weather Service and the Buffalo Evening News through the courtesy of Joseph Thill].

The severe weather conditions in the Wyoming County storms, brought some concern regarding nesting in that area. While specific comments were not immediately received, observers did record the absence from their regular habitats of some species such as Spotted Sandpiper and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Their normal nesting sites appeared to be completely destroyed. An interesting postscript to this situation is brought to our attention by Bob Andrie who noted difficulty in locating nesting Northern Rough-winged Swallows in the ravines and gullies of western New York.

The bird of the period for Region 1 was a **Piping Plover** sighted by Bob Andrie on 20 August at Woodlawn Beach near Hamburg NY. This bird, observed by many including this editor, was the sixth record for the Buffalo Ornithological Society reporting region, which also includes nearby territories in western Ontario, Canada. All but one of the records are from the autumn migration period. A second notable bird for the season was a **Marbled Godwit** sighted on 9 August on the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area by William Watson. This bird, according to Rare Bird Alert (RBA) reports, was the eleventh overall and the sixth in the last 30 years for the species in this Region. Records show five earlier reports from 1888 through 1956, with seven of the reports coming from the month of August.

Other bird highlights for Region 1 during the summer season included sightings of **Snowy Egret, Sandhill Crane, Western Sandpiper, Western Kingbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler** and **Clay-colored Sparrow**. The Snowy Egret was sighted on 13 June at Strawberry Island in the upper Niagara River by Louis Culumovic, a veteran birder from New Jersey. The bird was in the company of a large flock of gulls. This is the seventh record for this study area since 1994 and the fifth for the upper river in the last five years. A Sandhill Crane was observed by Jim Wojewodzki on 10 June in the Town of Alabama in Genesee County. This species is now being reported almost annually in this Region from the hawkwatch sites at Ripley and Hamburg during the spring. The numbers are still low, but the occurrence is significant. A Western Sandpiper made an appearance in the Town of Pomfret in Chautauqua County on 11-12 August. The bird was reported by Terry and Judy Mosher and observed by many including myself.

On 2 June, while plowing his field in the Town of Alabama in Genesee County, Buffalo Ornithological Society member Aron Kehlenback spotted a Western Kingbird foraging in the field among icterids and other passerines. This is the ninth occurrence of this species in this study area since 1956 and the first since September 1988. Tim Baird, reporting from the Southern Tier of Region 1, informed us of two excellent Regional sightings, a Kentucky Warbler and a Worm-eating Warbler. The Kentucky Warbler was observed by Baird and Steve Eaton in a logged forest in the Town of Cold Springs in Cattaraugus County on 7 June. The Worm-eating Warbler was heard, not seen, by both Baird and Eaton in a broadleaf forest in the Town of Carrolton, Cattaraugus County, on 26 June. The bird was finally seen and heard again on 1 July in the same area. There was no evidence of a female or nesting activity on either date. Finally, a Clay-colored Sparrow was reported by Elizabeth Brooks in the town of Andover in Allegany county on 2 and 13 June.

I would like to conclude this section with a report received from Vivian Mills Pitzrick, who served 10 years as Region 1 compiler for *The Kingbird* and who faithfully submits her observations by e-mail one day after the end of each season. This quarter she also submitted two noteworthy studies, a summary of her 1998 Bluebird Trail and the results of her 1998 Breeding Bird Survey. I will summarize very briefly the report on the Bluebird Trail. She reports that all nests are in the Town of Amity, Allegany County. Of particular interest are the cumulative totals since she started monitoring this trail (1971). Since that date, she has observed a total of 2313 E. Bluebirds fledged. The total boxes this year that have been used by birds other than bluebirds and the number of young fledged are as follows: Wood Duck – 1 box, unknown number fledged; Tree Swallow – 61 boxes, 160 fledged; N. Flicker – 1 box, 2 fledged and 4 boxes, 1 fledged; Black-capped Chickadee – 2 boxes, 3 fledged and 4 boxes, 0 fledged; and House Wren – 16 boxes, 30 fledged. Starlings and House Sparrows also visited boxes but no data was reported on fledglings (do we really want it?). This work is remarkable given the energy and time required. Thank you Vivian, for your continued contribution to our knowledge in this area and for serving as a role model in this work for future generations.

**Contributors:** Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, David Cooper, Louis Culomovic, Willie D’Anna, Michael Davis, Steve Eaton, Henry Forbes, Kurt Fox, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Aron Kehlenback, Dick Miga, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Judy Mosher, Cathy Mueller, Tom O’Donnell, Susan O’Donnell, Michael Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Richard Rosche, Dorothy Rosche, Olga Rosche, Bert Schweigert, Gail Seamans, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Joe Thill (also supplies the weather data), Michael Turisk, Robert Wagner, William Watson, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

**Abbreviations:** BISP - Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island; BWWTP - Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; BuSP - Buckhorn Island State Park, Grand Island; BRBA - Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; DH - Dunkirk Harbor, City of Dunkirk; GHSF - Golden Hills State Park, NIAG; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, GENE/ORLE; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, GENE; Tift NP - Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management.

**LOONS - DUCKS**

**Com. Loon:** 1 NF10 Jul (WW); 1 BISP 2 Aug (WW), summering nonbreeders.

**Horned Grebe:** 1 BWWTP 14 Jun (MM, mob), late.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 7 TWMA 3 Jun (WD,BP), late.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 184 BuSP 22 Jun; 93+23 nests observed at Reef

Lighthouse ERIE 15 Jul (WW); 980 BuSP 14 Aug (WW).

**Least Bittern:** 1 TWMA 10 Aug.

**Great Egret:** 23 y from nesting on Motor Island NR 16 Jun - 2 Jul (WW).

**SNOWY EGRET:** 1 Strawberry Island 13 Jun (LC!)

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 5 Motor Island NR 7 Jun; 21 Motor Island NR 10 Jul; 3 TWMA 1,9 Aug.  
**Tundra Swan:** 1 TWMA 12,16,17 Jun (AK), very late.  
**Gadwall;** 1 BWWTP 14 Jun.  
**Am. Wigeon:** 22 Motor Island NR 24 Jun (WW); 1ad, 2 y LaSalle Park Buffalo 15 Jul (WW).  
**Am. Black Duck:** 1 BWWTP 14 Jun; 1 BWWTP 22 Aug, scarce.  
**N. Shoveler:** 9 BWWTP 6 Jun (WW); 95 BWWTP 22 Aug (MM), good count.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 5 BWWTP 6 Jun; 13 BWWTP 22 Aug.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 2 BWWTP 6 Jun (WW!), late; 1 BWWTP 22 Aug (MM), early.  
**Greater Scaup:** 1 BWWTP 25 Jul (WD!).  
**Lesser Scaup:** 3,5 BWWTP 6,14 Jun (WW,MM); 2 BWWTP 6,22 Aug (WW,MM).  
**Hooded Merganser:** 1ad, 7y T Attica WYOM 1 Jun.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 11 BWWTP 6 Jun; 1 WB 31 Aug.  
**Ruddy Duck:** 9 BWWTP 6,14 Jun (WW,MM); 22 BWWTP 22 Aug (WW,MM).

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 INWR 20 Jun; 1ad, 1y Allegany Reservoir CATT 4 Jul (BH); 2 ad, 1 y INWR 14,24 Jul (WW); 2 ad, 1 y IWNR 9 Aug (WW).  
**Bald Eagle:** 2 imm, 1 imm TWMA 9,26 Aug.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 ad, 1y T Eagle WYOM 3 Jul (WW).  
**Broad-Winged Hawk:** 1 TWMA 9 Aug (WD et al)  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 Buffalo 18 Jun (MM); 2 Buffalo 5 Jul (WW!); 1 ad, 3 y Niagara Falls 26 Jul (RA!).  
**SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 T Alabama GENE 10 Jun (JW!).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last 1 N.Java WYOM 6 Jun; 15 TWMA 9 Aug; 18 Tiff NP 21 Aug.  
**PIPING PLOVER:** 1 WB 20-21 Aug (RA!).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 BWWTP 24 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 14 T Pomfret CHAU 11 Aug; 2 T Wales ERIE 25 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 T Bennington WYOM 9 Jul.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 2 Avondale WWTP 9 Aug; 1 T Clarence ERIE 19 Aug.  
**MARbled GODWIT:** 1 TWMA 9 Aug (WW!).  
**Sanderling:** 2 DH 16 Aug.  
**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** 1 T Pomfret 11-12 Aug (TM!, mob).  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 8 TWMA 8 Jul; 75 TWMA 1 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1BWWTP 14 Jun (MM); 1,2 Tiff NP 20,21 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** 1 DH 22 Aug (WD,DM).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1 TWMA 29 Jul.  
**Dunlin:** arr 2 Tiff NP 21 Aug (DR!).  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 TWMA 9 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 TWMA 29 Jul; 3,5 TWMA 9,22 Aug; 4 T Pomfret CHAU 11 Aug; 3-5 Tiff NP 22,23 Aug.  
**Com. Snipe:** 9 TWMA 9 Aug.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 BWWTP 25 Jul.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** 32 DH 23 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** 3 INWR 14 Jul; several reports of 1 to 5 birds from 9 to 28 Aug at various sites.  
**Black Tern:** 3 TWMA 14 Jun; 7 TWMA 14 Jul; 1 TWMA 1 Aug.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Com. Nighthawk:** 2 Buffalo 27 Jun; max 15 T Tonawanda ERIE 12-31 Aug.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 4 fledged Evangola SP ERIE 12 Jul (HF); 1 ad, ?yg Evangola SP ERIE 1-31 Aug (HF); 2 Pt. Gratiot Dunkirk 16 Aug (PY,BH).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 1 T Grove ALLE 1 Jun (RW); 2 T Sardinia ERIE 26 Jul (MD); 2 Alexander Preserve ERIE 15 Aug (WD,BP).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** 1 INWR 9 Aug; 2 T W Almond ALLE 12 Aug.  
**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** 1 T Alabama GENE 2,3 Jun (AK).  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 TWMA 10 Jun (JW); 1 TWMA 10 Jul (BC); 1 TWMA 1 Aug (MM)

**Com. Raven:** several reports of 1 thru 4 birds from Towns in Allegany county 5 Jun - 29 Jul (EB); 2 GHSF 12 Jul (MM); 1 T Franklinville CATT 12 Jul (MM); 2,1 T Andover ALLE 1,5 Aug (EB).

**Bank Swallow:** 1400 BWWTP 25 Jul; 2200 BWWTP 22 Aug (MM).

**Cliff Swallow:** 1 BWWTP 6 Jun; 2 BWWTP 25 Jul; 1 BWWTP 6 Aug (WW).

**Carolina Wren:** many reports thru-out Region Aug.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** breeding birds from previously documented breeding areas T Ward, and T Alfred ALLE 1- 27 Jun (EB); 4 T Alfred ALLE 31 Aug (EB).

**E. Bluebird:** see intro for summary of Vivian Pitzrick's data.

**Swainson's Thrush:** last 1 T Tonawanda ERIE 8 Jun.

**Hermit Thrush:** 1 Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 7 Jun.

**N. Mockingbird:** 1 Bethany GENE 25 Jun; 2 ad, 2 y WB 4 Jul.

#### WARBLERS

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 2 Tonawanda Indian Res. ERIE 10 Jun.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 2 Tonawanda Indian Res. ERIE 14 Jun (PY).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 Goat Island NR 30 Aug.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr 1 Goat Island NR 30 Aug.

**N. Parula:** 1 T Almond ALLE 24 Jun (EB).

**Yellow Warbler:** 7 Goat Island NR 31 Aug.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr 1 Niagara Falls 30 Aug.

**Magnolia Warbler:** last 1 Buffalo 14 Jun (PY), late for location.

**Cape May Warbler:** 2 Goat Island NR 31 Aug.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr 1 Goat Island NR 30 Aug.

**Pine Warbler:** 1 Phillips Creek SF ALLE 1 Jul; arr 1 Goat Island NR 31 Aug.

**Prairie Warbler:** recordings of 1 and 2 birds from the ALLE Towns of Alfred, Andover & Grove 5 Jun - 17 Jul (EB); 1 T Alfred ALLE 31 Aug (EB).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 T Alfred ALLE 29 Aug.

**Cerulean Warbler:** 1 Alexander Preserve ERIE (WD, BP).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 3 OOWMA 14 Jun; 1 ad, 1 y OOWMA 14 Jul.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** 1 T Carrollton CATT 26 Jun - 3 Jul (TB!).

**N. Waterthrush:** arr 1 T Lewiston NIAG 16 Aug.

**KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 T Cold Springs CATT 26 Jun (TB).

**Hooded Warbler:** arr 1 Buffalo 19 Aug.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 1 Tiff NP 28 Aug.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 1,1 T Andover ALLE 2,13 Jun (EB); 1-3 birds observed T Andover ALLE 1 Jul thru 11 Jul (EB).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** many reports throughout Region of 1 to 3 birds in June.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 2,3 Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 7,14 Jun (BW, PY, MM); 1 T Grove ALLE 19 Jun (EB); 1 T Hartland NIAG 12 Jul (S&TO).

**White-throated Sparrow:** 2 T Alfred ALLE 1,9 Jul (EB); 1 T W Almond ALLE 12 Aug (EB).

**Bobolink:** 60 TWMA 18 Jul; 80 TWMA 9 Aug; 16 BWWTP 22 Aug.

**Orchard Oriole:** 1 T Newfane NIAG 20 Jun; 1 T Somerset NIAG 20 Jun; 1 Niagara Falls 27-30 Jul (SO).

**Red Crossbill:** 1 T Almond ALLE 24 Jun (EB); 1 Phillips Creek SF ALLE (BC, PY).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 T W. Almond ALLE 24 Jun (EB); 4,1 T W Almond ALLE 12,20 Aug (EB).

**Pine Siskin:** 1 T Colden ERIE 7,8 Jun (JW), late; 1 T Colden ERIE 12 Jul (JW!), summering.

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

It was certainly an interesting summer. The strange spring led us to wonder what kind of summer might follow. It turned out much more normal than many expected. Conditions were generally about normal for June. Early June was cool, but by month's end temperatures had leveled off and the 65.7°F average was a mere 0.6° above normal. Rainfall was a whopping 4.11 inches above normal, with a total of 7.11 inches. Two days, the 26th and 30th, accounted for about half of that total. The violence associated with those rainfalls may have had an adverse effect on some species. DEC personnel were concerned with the Wild Turkey populations relative to the rainfall of that period. It came at a critical time and this may play out in the numbers of birds this fall.

American Kestrels seemed to have some very late broods this year in the Region. Birds were still sitting on eggs well past the typical hatching time. That was not true for all nests, but did occur in some cases. The Lake Ontario level was still quite high at this time and may have affected some marsh birds due to levels in marshes near the lake. Inland marshes were less affected by this condition.

July temperatures averaged 0.6° below the norm at 69.6°F. It was generally pleasant during the month. Precipitation was once again above normal. The 6.09 inches was 3.38 inches above normal. Again there were two days with substantial amounts of rain; 2.61 inches fell on the 4th and 1.35 inches were recorded on the 8th, both set daily records.

August was for the most part pleasant. The average temperature was 1.8° above normal at 69.8° and rainfall was 1.99 inches on the plus side at 5.39 inches. Intense thunderstorms struck on the 18th and 25th causing damage around the area. It was past the critical nesting time for most species, so it remains to be seen whether there will be any effect on birds or habitats from these storms.

There appeared to be few significant trends during the season. There were fewer Double-crested Cormorants at the beginning of the season, with numbers building towards the end. Waders were about average, with Black-crowned Night-Herons becoming more evident in the latter part of the season. They appear to become somewhat less nocturnal later in the season and are considerably more visible along the edges of Northrup Creek, Salmon Creek, and Buck Pond. A Tricolored Heron was spotted in Greece on 3 June. This is quite likely the same bird discovered in May in the same vicinity. Bitterns continue to be holding their own, but that's about it. Green Herons were mentioned by a few observers as being somewhat scarce.



Canada Geese had another banner season, with broods observed throughout the Region. Mute Swan nesting success was down slightly this year, but numbers continue to grow. Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continue to show low numbers. Murray Swamp was the only consistent place to see the latter species. As is quite often the case, a few lingering or summering waterfowl species were observed. These included Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser.

A pair of Peregrine Falcons nested on the Kodak Office Building in downtown Rochester. Three young successfully fledged. This was two years after the first successful nesting from downtown Rochester which followed the hacking project. None apparently nested last year, so this was a pleasant surprise. A Merlin in July was out of season. The August hawk flights at Braddock Bay were quite good this year. Some interesting totals were recorded on 8 August, and the banding operation netted over 1000 birds, mostly Red-tailed Hawks.

With the lake level fairly high, there wasn't much shorebird habitat. Early June saw a mixed flock of about 350 shorebirds on the Summerville Pier at the mouth of the Genesee River. This does happen from time to time, but this total was high. The periodically heavy rains produced some habitat and sightings of the usual July migrants. A Marbled Godwit at Charlotte on 10 August was a good find. Another real highlight was the photographing of two American Avocets at Braddock Bay on 8 August. Two fishermen just happened to have a digital camera with them and the presence of mind to capture them passing the mouth of Braddock Bay.

On a sad note, Black Terns continued their decline this year. Personal water crafts did not help the situation much with their continued disturbance at the nesting locations due to both their noise and the wave action produced by the craft.

Common Nighthawks continue to be of concern, with only a single individual reported in July. Numbers increased in August but their origin is unknown; were they migrants or dispersing local nesters? Whip-poor-will nesting was once again unreported.

The passerine picture was fairly normal. BBS Routes and excursions into the hilly regions south of Rochester produced normal results. Of particular interest were the breeding birds in the Nations Road area near Avon. Grassland species had a good year at that location. There were decent numbers of Vesper, Henslow's and Grasshopper sparrows reported. Jim Kimball continued to document the nesting of those species. A real surprise was nesting Sedge Wrens in the same vicinity, with up to six individuals noted. The same area also produced up to five Yellow-breasted Chats, another species which has been scarce as a breeder in the Region.

Two Prairie Warblers in Dalton and one in Ontario, Wayne county were noteworthy. A Nashville Warbler in the Nations Road area in June was quite interesting, as was a Black-and-white Warbler that spent a good portion of the month of July in a suburban backyard in the town of Greece.

Out of season finches were also noted in six White-winged Crossbills and up to four Pine Siskins observed in June.

**Contributors:** Dave Bonter, John Boyd, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Gary Chapin, Kathleen Dalton, Bob Dobson, Bob Dows, Brett Ewald, Robert Folker, Kurt & Jeannine Fox, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Helen Haller, Greg Hartenstein, Jack Hartwig, Diane Henderson, Polly Keating, Gerry Leubner, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Robert Marcotte, Robert & Chita McKinney, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Mark Romanofsky, Pat Seager, Pete Shelton, Dominic Sherony, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy Spahn, Kristin Spahn, Paul & Suzanne Spindler, William Symonds, Don & Donna Traver, Ann & Joe Watson, Paul Weld.

**Abbreviations:** A - Avon, BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park (Greece), CH - Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CL - Canadice Lake, CS - Conesus Swamp, G - Greece, GE - Geneseo, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road, P - Perinton, R - Rochester, W - Webster.

#### LOONS-DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** max 20 HB 2 Jun; 1 CL 21 Jun, late interesting location; 1 WL 30 Jul, summering; one CL 3, 10 Aug, basic plumage.

**Horned Grebe:** 1 HB 2 Jun, late; 1 CH 15 Aug, summering?.

**Great Egret:** 3 CS 22 Aug (JK), only report.

**TRICOLORED HERON:** G 3 Jun (KG), probably the same bird as in May.

**Green Heron:** max 20 CS 29 Aug.

**Gadwall:** 1 Brighton 3 Jun; 1 G 7 Jun, uncommon in summer, breeding?

**Am. Wigeon:** 1 WL 28 Aug, only report.

**N. Pintail:** 1 Hogan Pt 30 Aug, only report.

**Green-winged Teal:** 1 P 28 Jun; 1 A 3, 12 Jul, uncommon.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 1-2 CS 6 Jun; 1 Sodus Pt 13 Jun, uncommon.

**Greater Scaup:** 1 CH 5-6 Jun, injured.

**Lesser Scaup:** last 1 BB 2 Jun..

**White-winged Scoter:** 1 HB 2 Jun, late.

**Oldsquaw:** 1 CH 3 Aug (KD,KG), out of season.

**Bufflehead:** 1 BB 14 Jul, uncommon.

**Com. Merganser:** max 31 Cuylerville 17 Aug.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 10 HB 4 Jun, late:

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 1 BB 2 Jun, imm; 1-2 ad Hemlock Lake 6 Jun, traditional nesting area; max 4 BB 8 Aug.

**N. Goshawk:** 1 Elba 15 Jun; 1 BB 8 Aug, few reports.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 Rattlesnake Hill 21 Jun, only possible nesting report; 2 BB 9 Aug, migrants.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 275 BB 9 Aug, good total.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 1428 BB 9 Aug, good Aug total.

**Merlin:** 1 G 31 Jul (KG), rare in summer.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 ad & 3 yng R 23 Jun, 1-24 Jul, nesting again.

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** 2 BB 8 Aug (PS,MR).

**Black-bellied Plover:** last 2 CH ,HB 3 Jun; arr 1 BB 9 Aug.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 Farmington 22 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last 1 P 5 Jun; arr 2 H 25 Jul.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** last 1 R 1 Jun; arr 7 GE 19 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 13 H 8 Jul.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 3 H 7 Jul.

**Willet:** 1 CH 13-15 Aug (RS,KG,JL,GC), uncommon.

**MARBLED GODWIT:** 1 CH 10 Aug (KD,FD,RD).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 56 HB 3 Jun; last 4 CH 8 Jun; arr 4 CH 25 Jul.

**Red Knot:** max 8 CH 3 Jun; 1 CH 3-26 Jun, very late; 1 CH 2-15 Jul, most likely the same bird.

**Sanderling:** max 70 CH 3 Jun, 4 with bands; arr 1 Ch 8 Jul.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 146 CH 3 Jun; last 1 CH 13 Jun, late; arr 1 CH 8 Jul.

**Western Sandpiper:** arr 1 H 13 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** last 1 GE 3 Jun; arr 1 G 28 Jun.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 1 CH 7 Aug.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 2 H 12 Jul.

**Dunlin:** last 1 CH 12 Jun.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 1 H 8 Jul.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 GE 20 Jul.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr 1 HB 30 Aug (WS).

**Little Gull:** 1-2 CH much of Aug.

**Black Tern:** last 2 HB 16 Aug.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 G 5 Jul, only report for Jul.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr 1 BP 10 Aug; 1 G 13 Aug; 1 BP 17 Aug, usual locations.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 19 M 11 Jun, banded; last 1 HB 13 Jun; arr 1 M 6 Aug.

**Trail's Flycatcher:** max 19 M 11 Jun, banded.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1 WL 19 Aug.

**Barn Swallow:** max 3000 GE 20 Jul.

**Sedge Wren:** 6-8 NR 19-30 Jun, 1-31 Jul (JK,KF,MD), excellent total.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1 M 6 Jun (DB), very late.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last 1 G 13 Jun.

**Swainson's Thrush:** last 2 M 9 Jun, banded.

#### WARBLERS

**Yellow Warbler:** max 104 M 30 Jul (RMc), banded, very good total.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 1 Portage 22-26 Jun; 1 M 11 Aug (RMc), banded.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 BP 17 Aug.

**Nashville Warbler:** 1 NR 14 Jun, unusual location for that time of the year.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr 1 G 17 Aug.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1 BB ? Jul, very unusual in Jul.

**Prairie Warbler:** 2 Dalton 22 Jun, uncommon; 1 Ontario, Wayne Co 2 Jul, new location.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last 1 G 123 Jun; arr 1 G 23 Aug.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 2, 1 IC,CS 6 Jun; arr 1 G 27 Aug.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 1 G 2-31 Jul (RDoB), very unusual summer location.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1 Armitage Road, Wayne Co 19 Jun, known nesting locale.

**Wilson's Warbler:** last 1 G 13 Jun; arr 1 BP 19 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** 1 Mendon Ponds 16 Jun, interesting location; arr 1 BB 7 Aug.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** max 5 NR 1-30 Jun (JK,KF), excellent total for a species that has been scarce in recent years; 1 NR 2,10 Jul (JK).

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Henslow's Sparrow:** max 22 NR 1-30 Jun (JK), 23 NR 1-31 Jul (JK), excellent total.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** last 1 M 8 Jun, banded, late.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 1 M 8 Jun, banded, late.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 G 23 Aug.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 8 HB 2 Jun (WS), very uncharacteristic for the season.

**Pine Siskin:** 1 G 22 Jun; 2 M 2 Jul; 1 M 8 Aug, uncommon in summer.

## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

**BILL OSTRANDER**

872 Harris Hill Road, Elmira NY 14903

Summer 1998 was quite tolerable for people and, presumably, for birds as well. High temperatures in June and July averaged less than one degree cooler than normal and low temperatures averaged slightly above normal. August was a little above normal at both ends of the thermometer. In Ithaca, the temperature never broke 90 degrees and never dipped below 40 degrees the entire summer, minimizing the stress on the small heat-radiating neotropical passerines at night and on the larger heat-storing birds during the day.

Rainfall in June was more than an inch above normal, but it was an inch below normal in July and almost two inches below normal in August, when the norm is about three inches. This had an important effect on the birding if not particularly on the birds themselves. The Chemung River was high through the month of June and discouraged the stopping of shorebirds. Once the river's level dropped to expose shoals and to reduce the flow over the dam in Elmira to a trickle, returning shorebirds found both the shoals and the face of the dam to their liking, and Elmira birders enjoyed better shorebirding than usual.

The marsh associated with Lowe Pond in Big Flats also seemed to be much affected by the drier than usual July and August. As the water receded, rather extensive mud flats were exposed. This also attracted a number of shorebirds and seemed to be conducive to the nesting of Common Moorhens. By summer's end, a family of Virginia Rails was often feeding in the open and a lone chick from another family was seen running about in the mud flat unattended.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the Region, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge management and staff skillfully managed water levels to produce another fine season of shorebirding, first at Benning Pool and later in the season at May's Point Pool. The bonanza bird of their efforts was a Curlew Sandpiper discovered by Gerard Phillips, who returned on subsequent days to help others locate this Regional rarity. Steve Kelling reported that this was the Cayuga Lake Basin's second record.

Matt Young monitored Myer's Point with great regularity and found the Region's only American Avocets: a single bird in June and two birds in August. Matt's efforts also turned up a Little Gull. He managed to check on Neimi Road Ponds and Morehouse Bait Ponds as well to round out the Region's shorebird counts.

Steve Kelling coordinated the fourth annual Ithaca June Count. As one would expect with only four years of data, there were a number of record highs and lows. In general, the record lows did not represent precipitous declines. It is interesting to compare this year's statistics with those in past issues of *The Kingbird*. Some passerine populations have been amazingly constant from year

to year, while others have experienced wild fluctuations each year of the count. My first reaction to these fluctuations is that changes in coverage of certain habitats have occurred, but this is not borne out by the conifer dwelling species, where the count's three Red-breasted Nuthatches were the fewest found in the four years, Golden-crowned Kinglets were at their highest level, and Black-throated Green Warblers rebounded from the prior year's record low to double in number.

John and Sue Gregoire continued their banding efforts at the Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory in the Town of Hector. A Cerulean Warbler became the 117th species banded at KHAMO. They were also excited to band a Golden-winged Warbler on 28 July and recapture the same bird on 22 August.

Alan Krakauer and Jim Goodson visited under-birded Texas Hollow Bird Sanctuary to find a summering Rusty Blackbird. Ed Epstein and son, Brandon, located a Loggerhead Shrike, an upstate New York rarity, in the Town of Niles. Jody and Mike Crane treated my wife and me to dinner and to the song of a Whip-poor-will at their home overlooking the Cohocton River just west of Addison. They hear the Whip-poor-will every year, but this is the first summer report of this species to *The Kingbird* for the Region since 1990.

**Contributors:** Ryan Bakelaar, Margaret Barker, Sara Barker, Gladys Birdsall, Scott Boomer, John Bower, Paul Brown, Chris Butler, Linda Buttel, Campus Club Bird Study Group, Cayuga Bird Club, Gary Chapin, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Joan & Richard Clements, Linda Clougherty, Steve Cooper, Michael Czarnecki, Donna Jean Darling, Elaine & Karl David, Stephen Davies, Martha DeHart, Grace, Joe & Sandy DiCinti, Nancy Dickinson, Asa Diebolt, Margaret Dyer, Brandon & Ed Epstein, Bill Evans, Martha Fischer, Maureen Fisher, Tim Gallagher, Jon Glase, David & Sunni Gooding, Jim Goodson, John & Sue Gregoire (KHAMO), Kevin Griffith, Bob Grosek, David Guaspari, Bob Guthrie, Stefan Hames, Cullen Hanks, Meena Haribal, Barbara Horn, George & Jo Houghton, Jim Houghton, Larry Hymes, Carolyn Jacobs, Laura Kammermeier, Steve Kelling, Anne Kendall, Elizabeth King, George & Pat Kloppel, Jon Kloppel, Alan Krakauer, Tom Lathrop, Jim Leet, Carl Leopold, Jim Lowe, Harold Marmor, David McDermitt, Jay, Kevin & Perri McGowan, Matt Medler, Mary Moon, Bobby Morris, Connie & Lewis Morse, MNWR Staff, Tom Nix, David Olmstead, Joan Ormandroyd, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Becky Palmer, Mary Passage, Linda & Rocky Peters, Gerard Phillips, Bard & Gina Prentiss, Bill Purcell, Laurie Ray, Marie Read, Ron Rohrbaugh, Ken Rosenberg, Jennifer Royce, Michael Runge, Dave Russell, Glenda & Matt Sarver, Marty Schlabach, Carol Schmitt, David Smith, Laura Stenzler, Matt Stillerman, John Stilson, David Suggs, Ben Taft, Chris & Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Mary Jane Thomas, Cyndy & Richard Tkachuck, Robin Tuttle, Yasuko Uemura, Page & Watt Webb, William Welles, Allison & Jeff Wells, Amanda Westervelt, Carl Wood, Matt Young

**Abbreviations:** BeHi - Beam Hill TOMP, Ca - Caroline, ChR - Chemung River, CIR - Clyde River, DryL - Dryden Lake TOMP, EIDa - Elmira Dam CHEM, FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest, GAWS - Gleason Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary STEU, GMe - Gleason Meadows CHEM, HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP, HTBBS - High Tor BBS, IJC - Ithaca June Count, KHAMO - Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, LoPd - Lowe Pond CHEM, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MBPd - Morehouse Bait Ponds SENE, MtPl - Mt. Pleasant TOMP; MyPt - Myer's Point TOMP, NRPd - Niemi Road Ponds TOMP, SaCr - Salmon Creek TOMP, SaWo - SaWo TOMP, ShHo - Shindagin Hollow TOMP, StP - Stewart Park TOMP, TaF - Tanglewood Forest CHEM; TCAH - The Center at Horseheads, THBS - Texas Hollow Bird Sanctuary SCHU, Ith - Ithaca, So - Southport, WeDa - West Danby TOMP, WeHi CHEM.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** max 3 IJC 14 Jun, record high summer count; 3 MyPt 4 Jun; 2 CaL Jul.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 1 IJC 14 Jun, first on count; 1 MNWR 28 Jun, low.

**Horned Grebe:** 1 MyPt 2-7 Jun (mob), late; arr ChR 31 Aug (RC).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 45 StP 17 Aug, high for site; 24 MNWR 1 Aug, low for site; 19 Beebe L 30 Aug, high for site.

**Am. Bittern:** max several MNWR 20 Jun, good numbers second consecutive year; 1 The Center at Horseheads 21 Jul (RC), first summer record in CHEM in several years.

**Least Bittern:** 1 MNWR 20 Jun (GK), only report.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 41 IJC 14 Jun; 17 MNWR 1 Aug.

**Great Egret:** last 1 ChR 1 Jun, late; arr 1 EIDa 17 Jul; max 12 MNWR 16 Aug; 8 ChR 9 Aug.

**Green Heron:** max 12 IJC 14 Jun; many ChR 15 Aug; 7 ad, 2 juv LoPd 4 Jul.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 13 ad, 1 imm MNWR 27 Aug; 4 ad, 3 imm MNWR 1 Aug; 6 EIDa 30 Aug; good counts.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 12 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 5 FLNF 11 Jul.

**Snow Goose:** max 2 StP 17 Aug; 1 MNWR, MyPt, StP 20 Jun; 1 StP 11 Aug.

**Canada Goose:** max 248 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 89 LoPd 4 Jul.

**Brant:** max 80 T Hector 8 Jun (ND), only report.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 MNWR 20 Jun, origin still undetermined [RHEd: Highly likely from Wayne County population.].

**Wood Duck:** max 95 LoPd 18 Aug; 22 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 15 ad, 32 y LoPd 4 Jul.

**Gadwall:** 1 MNWR 15 Aug (CB G&MSA), rare.

**Am. Wigeon:** 1 StP 4 Jun (J&KM), rare.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 20 MNWR 15 Aug; 1 MNWR 25 Jul; 1 MNWR 13 Aug; only reports.

**Mallard:** max 339 IJC 14 Jun; 66 EIDa 9 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** last 2 KHAMO 14-15 Jun; arr 1 MNWR 1 Aug; max 4 MNWR 2 Aug.

**N. Shoveler:** 1 DrL 20 Aug (BM EK YU), rare.

**Green-winged Teal:** 1 EIDa 12 & 26 Jun, very rare in CHEM; arr MNWR 1 Aug; max 7 MNWR 14 Aug.

**Hooded Merganser:** 1 Seneca L 28 Jun (DR MP), only report.

**Com. Merganser:** numerous ChR 15 Aug; 1 ad, 1 y SaCr TOMP; 1 IJC 14 Jun.

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 6 MNWR 25 Jul; 5 ChR 22 Aug; 1 IJC 14 Jun, first for count.

**Bald Eagle:** max 2 MNWR R 6 & 28 Jun; 1 Harris Hill CHEM 21 Jun; 1 KHAMO 13 Jul; 1 T Dryden 30 Jul; T So 31 Jul; 1 Wheeler Hill STEU 4 Aug.

**N. Harrier:** 1 ad, 1 FL KHAMO 11 Aug thru; 1 MNWR 28 Jun thru; 1 Seneca Falls Airport CAYU 7-27 Jun; 1 DrL 20 Aug.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** FL West Danby 15 Jul; 1 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** FL WeDa 15 Jul; 2 IJC 14 Jun.  
**N. Goshawk:** max 2 GAWS 3 Jul; 1 Etna 25 Jun; 1 T Corning 17 Jul; 1 KHAMO 28 Aug; 1 injured Freeville 29 Aug.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 2 T Van Etten 3 Jun; FL TOMP 2 Jun; 1 WeDa 3 Jun; 1 Etna 13 Jul.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 2 WeDa 10 Jun (GK); 2 IJC 14 Jun; 2 T Ca 28 Aug.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 17 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 8 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 7 FLNF 7 Jul.  
**Merlin:** arr 1 StP 30 Jul (SDa), very early; 1 DrL 31 Aug (KR); 1 MNWR 31 Aug (KD).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 MNWR 6 Jun; 1 KHAMO 19 Jun; arr 1 MNWR 21-22 Aug; 1 EIDa 31 Aug.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 2 Romulus 6 Jun, very low.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 6 TOMP 31 Aug; 4 IJC 14 Jun; FL KHAMO 4 Aug, record low count.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 28 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 6 KHAMO 11 Aug.  
**N. Bobwhite:** 1 THBS 12 Jul, only report, probable escape or release.  
**Virginia Rail:** max 2 ad, 3 y LoPd 8 Aug; 2 TCAH 11 Jul; 1 MNWR 20 Jun; 1 DrL 27 Jun; only reports.  
**Sora:** max 6 MNWR 21 Aug; 1 TCAH 11 Jul; 1 LoPd 18 Aug.  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 7 ad, 15 y LoPd 8 Aug.  
**Am. Coot:** max 8 MNWR 20 Jun; 2 ad, 2 y MNWR 25 Jul; 2 MyPt 25 Jul; 1 IJC 14 Jun; 1 LoPd 4 Jul; most reports in 5 years.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** last 1 MyPt 3 Jun; arr 3 MyPt 5 Aug; max 6 MNWR 15 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 MNWR 13 Aug; max 3 MNWR 30 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 25 MNWR 3 Jun; last 2 MNWR 6 Jun; arr 1 EIDa 1 Aug; many MNWR 16 Aug.  
**Killdeer:** max 100 MNWR 15 Aug; 76 IJC 14 Jun.  
**AM. AVOCET:** 1 MyPt 30 Jun (MY); 2 MyPt 24 Aug (MY, mob).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 MNWR 27 Jun; 6 MBPd 2 Aug; 5 EIDa 17 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 MNWR 20 Jun; max 10 MBPd 9 Aug; 6 NRPd 3 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 MNWR 15 Jul; max 9 LoPd 9 Aug; several MNWR 10 Aug.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 10 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 7 EIDa 17 Aug; 6 LoPd 8 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** max 2 Seneca Falls Airport 7 & 27 Jun; 1 MNWR 25 Jul; only reports.  
**WHIMBREL:** 1 MNWR 15 Aug (GK); 1 MNWR 19 Aug (GP).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 16 MyPt 3 Jun; last 6 MyPt 6 Jun; arr 1 EIDa 25 Jul; 2 StP 17 Aug.  
**Sanderling:** max 16 MyPt 3 Jun (AKr MMe), only spring report; arr 1 MyPt 4 Aug; 1 EIDa 6-10 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 25 MNWR 3 Jun; last 2 MyPt 9 Jun; arr 1 MNWR 15 Jul; 12 MBPd 2 Aug.  
**Western Sandpiper:** 1 MNWR 28 Jul, 21 Aug, 24 Aug, only reports.  
**Least Sandpiper:** last 3 IJC 14 Jun, first for count; arr 5 MNWR 28 Jun; max 40 MNWR 29 Jul (GK);.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** last 1 MNWR 6 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 16 Aug; max 15 MNWR 18 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 1 MNWR 19 Aug; max 3 MNWR 24 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 1 MyPt 29 Jun; max 10 MNWR 16 Aug.  
**Dunlin:** max 2 MNWR 6 Jun; last 1 MNWR 7 Jun.  
**CURLEW SANDPIPER:** 1 MNWR 12 Aug (Gph KD! MDe! mob); second Cayuga Basin record.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 1 MNWR 15 Aug; max 15 MNWR 24 Aug; 1 MyPt 25 Aug.  
**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** 2 MNWR 31 Aug (D&SGo), only report.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 48 MNWR 24 Aug, high; 2 MBPd 9 Aug.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr 2 MNWR 13 Aug; max 4 MNWR 24 Aug.  
**dowitcher sp:** arr 1 MNWR 15 Jul.  
**Com. Snipe:** max 24 MNWR 15 Aug (CB G&MSA), high.

**Am. Woodcock:** max 6 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 1 MNWR 28 Jun; 1 KHAMO after 30 Jul.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr 1 MNWR 16 Aug.  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** 1 MNWR 30 Aug (GC).

**LITTLE GULL:** 1 MyPt 17 Aug (MY!).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 2 Cayuga LSP 25 Jul; 2 EIDa 18 Aug; only reports.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 355 Elmira 27 Aug; 215 IJC 14 Jun.

**Herring Gull:** max 11 IJC 14 Jun; 6 EIDa 19 Jun.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1 MyPt 6 Jun (J&KM MH!).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 5 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.

**Caspian Tern:** last 1 IJC 14 Jun, first for count, late; arr 2 MyPt 30 Jun, early; max 40 StP 17 Aug (MY CTH GK).

**Com. Tern:** max 2 MNWR 20 Jun; 2 EIDa 26 Jun; 1 MyPt 1, 3, 29 Jun; 1 EIDa 13 Jul; 1 MNWR 15 Jul.

**Black Tern:** max 5 MNWR 28 Jun; 1 NRPd 17 Jun; 2 MBPd 2 Aug; 1 DrL 29 Aug.

#### DOVES-WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** max 386 IJC 14 Jun, double count two years ago; 66 LoPd 8 Aug.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** max 8 IJC 14 Jun; 4 TOMP 27 Jul.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** max 2 T So 16 Jun; 1 IJC 14 Jun, low.

**E. Screech-Owl:** max 3 IJC 14 Jun; 3 T Dryden 14 Jun.

**Great Horned Owl:** max 2 IJC 14 Jun.

**Barred Owl:** max 3 IJC 14 Jun; 1 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 14 Jun; 1 HTBBS 21 Jun; 1 T Ca 27 Aug.

**Com. Nighthawk:** max 10 T Chemung 16 Aug (DR), very low; several Dryden 28-29 Aug; 8 LoPd 29 Aug; 7 Elmira 29 Aug; 1-2 Elmira to Jun 29.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** 1 Addison 25 Jun (J&MC), first summer report since 1990.

**Chimney Swift:** max 65 EIDa 10 Aug.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 17 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 10 Romulus 6 Jun.

**Belted Kingfisher:** max 21 IJC 14 Jun.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 37 IJC 14 Jun.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 3 Ringwood Nature Preserve TOMP 7 Jun; 2 ad, FL SaWo 20 Jun.

**Downy Woodpecker:** max 72 IJC 14 Jun.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 27 IJC 14 Jun.

**N. Flicker:** max 64 IJC 14 Jun.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 26 IJC 14 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 156 IJC 14 Jun.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 KHAMO 22-29 Aug (J&SGOr); 1 T So 31 Aug (RC).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** max 2 nesting pairs KHAMO 12-19 Jul (J&SGO); 1 BeHi 9 Jun; 1 Danby SF 10 Jun; 2 SaCr TOMP 9 Jul.

**Alder Flycatcher:** max 93 IJC 14 Jun record high count.

**Willow Flycatcher:** max 84 IJC 14 Jun.

**Least Flycatcher:** max 3 FLNF 7 Jun.

**E. Phoebe:** max 6 HTBBS 21 Jun.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 88 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 4 SaWo 20 Jun; pair nesting in Purple Martin house Dryden 4 Jun.

**E. Kingbird:** max 56 IJC 14 Jun; 24 Tompkins County Airport 9 Aug; 2 ad, 3 FL T So 26 Jun..

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** 1 T Niles 11 Aug (B&EE).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 34 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 2 FY GAWS 16 Jul.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 16 IJC 14 Jun; 3 CIR 6 Jun; 2 T So 31 Aug.

**Warbling Vireo:** max 52 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 7 LoPd 18 Aug; 2 ad, 3 FL SaCr 5 Aug.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 467 IJC 14 Jun, record low count.

**Blue Jay:** max 241 IJC 14 Jun.

**Am. Crow:** max 997 IJC 14 Jun; 200 T Elmira 11 Jul.

**Fish Crow:** max 4 StP 4 Aug (Ben Taft); 3 y StP 21 Jul; 2 IJC 14 Jun; 1 Elmira 16 Jul.

**Com. Raven:** max 15 TaF 17 Aug; pair FY T Hector 3 Jun; 3 IJC 14 Jun.

**Horned Lark:** max 3 Romulus 6 Jun; 1 KHAMO after 9 Aug.

**Purple Martin:** max 20 MNWR 25 Jul; 10 StP 17 Jun; 2 MyPt to 5 Aug; 2 Sheldrake 7 Jun; 2 T Fayette 27 Jun; 3 FLNF 11 Jul.

**Tree Swallow:** max 449 IJC 14 Jun; 50 StP 18 Aug.



**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 81 IJC 14 Jun.

**Bank Swallow:** max 305 IJC 14 Jun; 200 DrL 1 Jun.

**Barn Swallow:** max 550 IJC 14 Jun; 76 Elmira-Corning Regional Airport 24 Jul.

**Cliff Swallow:** max 35 Elmira 28 Jul; 25 IJC 14 Jun; 10 nests T Dryden 24 Jul.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 438 IJC 14 Jun.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 112 IJC 14 Jun; 5 ad, 1 FL SaWo 20 Jun.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 9 TaF 7 Aug; 3 IJC 14 Jun, record low count.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 36 IJC 14 Jun, record low count.

**Brown Creeper:** max 33 IJC 14 Jun; 3 TaF 31 Aug.

**Carolina Wren:** max 7 IJC 14 Jun record high count; several locations CHEM.

**House Wren:** max 267 IJC 14 Jun; 5 WeHi 21 Jun.

**Winter Wren:** max 8 IJC 14 Jun; 2 Danby State Forest 10 Jun; 1 juv SaCr 19 Jun; 1 KHAMO 16-17 Aug; 1 T So 31 Aug, only reports.

**Sedge Wren:** 1 Italy Hill YATE 17-21 Jul (BGU).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 23 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 9 TaF 7 Aug.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 25 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 2 T So 30 Jul.

**E. Bluebird:** max 29 IJC 14 Jun, ties record low count; 10 HTBBS 21 Jun.

**Veery:** max 298 IJC 14 Jun; dozens of night migrants BeHi 13 Aug; many T Ca 27 Aug.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 32 IJC 14 Jun; 4 GAWS 16 Jul; nesting GAWS 6 Jun.

**Wood Thrush:** max 278 IJC 14 Jun; 14 HTBBS 21 Jun; 11 Bowman Hill CHEM 5 Jul.

**Am. Robin:** max 1591 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.

**Gray Catbird:** max 559 IJC 14 Jun.

**N. Mockingbird:** max 11 IJC 14 Jun; 2 T Horseheads 19 Jun; juv LoPd 8 Aug.

**Brown Thrasher:** max 12 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 2 GIMe 10 Jul; 2 T Hector 28 Aug

**European Starling:** max 1994 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 448 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 54 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 2 T Dryden 1 Jun.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 1 South Hill Recreation Way TOMP 14 Jun (CTH LH).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** 1 banded KHAMO 16 Jul and recaptured 22 Aug (J&SGO).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 BeHi 2 Aug; max 2 banded KHAMO 30 Aug; only reports.

**Nashville Warbler:** 1 CLSF 27 Jun; arr 1 WeDa 13 Aug; 1 KHAMO 13 Aug.

**N. Parula:** 1 SaWo 13 Jul (MF).

**Yellow Warbler:** max 676 IJC 14 Jun.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 111 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 28 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 3 HTBBS 21 Jun; 3 CLSF 27 Jun; arr BeHi 2 Aug.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr and max 2 DrL 29 Aug (KR); 1 Pine City 31 Aug; 1 TaF 31 Aug; only reports.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 33 IJC 14 Jul.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 36 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 16 HTBBS 21 Jun; 1 ad, 1 juv TaF 28 Jul.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 72 IJC 14 Jun, double last year's record low; 6 HTBBS 21 Jun.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 16 IJC 14 Jun; 2 T So 31 Aug.

**Pine Warbler:** max 5 IJC 14 Jun, ties record high count; 2 TaF 31 Aug; 1 GAWS 31 Aug; only reports.

**Prairie Warbler:** max 4 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 2 T Dryden 1-7 Jun; 2 GIMe 10 Jul; 2 banded KHAMO 16 Jul.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 2 TaF 31 Aug, only report.

**Cerulean Warbler:** max 15 CIR 6 Jun; 1 banded KHAMO 26-31 Jul.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 81 IJC 14 Jun, almost quadruple previous high count; 2 T So 31 Aug.

**Am. Redstart:** max 183 IJC 14 Jun record high count; 18 HTBBS 21 Jun.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** max 2 Armitage Road Tyre 28 Jul (CCBSG).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** max 2 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 13 Jun (GK), only report.  
**Ovenbird:** max 286 IJC 14 Jun.  
**N. Waterthrush:** max 11 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 1 KHAMO 12-13 Aug; 1 SaWo 14 Jun; only reports.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** max 18 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 1 ShHo 2-7 Jun.  
**Mourning Warbler:** max 17 IJC 14 Jun; 3 Arnot Forest TOMP 1 Jun (Jon Glase); 3 CIR 6 Jun.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 690 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Hooded Warbler:** max 11 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 1 SaWo 27 Aug; max 2 WeDa 31 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** max 23 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 4 ShHo 7 Jun; 2 juv WeDa 13 Aug.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 64 IJC 14 Jun; 4 GAWS 16 Jul; FL KHAMO 20 Jul.  
**E. Towhee:** max 102 IJC 14 Jun, record low count.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 458 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Field Sparrow:** max 141 IJC 14 Jun, double last year's record low.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** max 2 T Horseheads 19 Jun; 2 MtPl 21 Jul; 1 IJC 14 Jun, record low count.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 203 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 10 IJC 14 Jun, record low count; 4 ad, 1 juv GIMe 10 Jul.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** max 3 Ledyard 29 Jul; 1 Ledyard 7 Jun, only reports.  
**Song Sparrow:** max 1232 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 61 IJC 14 Jun.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 2 IJC 14 Jun, only report.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 154 IJC 14 Jun.  
**N. Cardinal:** max 340 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 71 IJC 14 Jun, record low count.  
**Indigo Bunting:** max 159 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.  
**Bobolink:** max 254 IJC 14 Jun, record low count.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 2000 Big Flats Bird Sanctuary CHEM 8 Aug; 1793 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.  
**E. Meadowlark:** max 79 IJC 14 Jun; 10 TCAH 11 Jul.  
**RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** 1 THBS 12 Jul (AK JGo).  
**Com. Grackle:** max 617 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 283 IJC 14 Jun.  
**Orchard Oriole:** max 2 Sheldrake 1 Jul; 2 Aurora 1 Jul.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** max 171 IJC 14 Jun; 6 banded KHAMO 15 Jul.  
**Purple Finch:** max 34 IJC 14 Jun, record high count; 3 KHAMO 25 Aug.  
**House Finch:** max 212 IJC 14 Jun; 14 Dandy Mini-Mart 24 Jul, low.  
**Red Crossbill:** max 9 IJC 14 Jun; 6 Ithaca 3 Jun.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 2 Post Office Dryden 14 Jun; several individuals reported.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** max 755 IJC 14 Jun, record high count.

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### REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received because there was no Regional editor at the time. We hope to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Since then, new co-editors have volunteered. They are:

**Peg Burnett**, 2 Ayres Street, Binghamton NY 13905 and

**Eric Sullivan**, 42 Patricia Street, Binghamton NY 13905-3847.

Region 4 contributors should send their reports to Peg Burnett.

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## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**MARY ALICE KOENEKE**

362 Nine Mile Point Road, Oswego NY 13126

**BILL PURCELL**

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

The summer was slightly warmer and wetter than average although there were only 2 days when the temperature reached 90° and much of the rain fell during short periods of time, which made for overall pleasant weather. In June, the average temperature was 66.5°F, 1.2° above normal with 4.62 inches of rain, 0.83 inches above normal, although the Adirondacks had much more rain than the Syracuse total. July had an average temperature of 70.1°F, 0.3° below normal, making the month the first of the year that the average monthly temperature was below normal. July rainfall was 3.63 inches, 0.18 below normal. August average temperature was 71.1°F, or 2.7° above normal. Rainfall for August was 3.77 inches, 1.26 inches above normal, although well over half the total fell on the 24th through 26th and there was no rain from 24 July to 10 August.

The three inches of rain in the Adirondacks on 13-14 June flooded most of the Common Loon nests on Stillwater Reservoir; only one nest out of 14 was successful. Loons again nested on a platform on Grey Lake and a second nest was successful. The first nest with 2 eggs was left for a day and a Canada Goose sat on nest and adjusted the eggs for about 2 hours. Cornell and the DEC took steps to prevent Double-crested Cormorants from nesting on more than one island on Oneida Lake which may help keep the population below antagonistic levels. Great Blue and Green herons appeared to be successful, but there were few reports of American and Least bitterns. Great Egret staged a larger than usual invasion, with many reports from the Seneca River east to Delta Lake. As many as 19 could be found at the latter site.

A cold front on 2 June brought 10-20 mph northwest winds which blew through 6 June, virtually ending the spring hawk flight at Derby Hill, which usually continues into the early part of the month. Marge Rusk surveyed the Rome Sand Plains of Oneida County for Red-shouldered Hawks and found evidence of 3-5 pair nesting. There were few reports of nesting accipiters this season.

Wild Turkeys were again very successful, with many chicks noted. Ruffed Grouse seemed to have a good breeding year, too. Rails were not well reported, and Common Moorhen numbers were way down at Utica Marsh this season. The annual lowering of Delta Lake began at the end of July, and the mudflats attracted 19 species of shorebirds in August, the highlight being a record early Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the 16th. As always, large numbers of waterfowl came to Delta Lake to take advantage of the feeding opportunities caused by the

low water. The shorebirds attracted up to 4 Merlins. Shorebirding declined at Sylvan Beach in the early 90's, but the last two years have been better and 20 species were reported this season including Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes.

It was another very good year for cuckoos, with many reports of both species. There is speculation that the rise in numbers is related to the rise in tent caterpillars, but there have been other years with high tent caterpillar numbers and many fewer cuckoo reports, especially Yellow-billed. Low numbers of Common Nighthawks were again reported during the breeding season, but the late August count in Syracuse still recorded good numbers of migrants. Red-headed Woodpecker is now rarely reported from the southeastern Oneida Lake area where it was often found in Atlas years. It was, however, found by different observers on canoe trips along Chittenango Creek and the Seneca River.

Reports of flycatchers seemed normal although there was little note of migration in August. Acadian Flycatcher is almost certainly breeding elsewhere in the Region other than the oft visited Whiskey Hollow. The early June cold front meant that swallows struggled to get food, but there were no reports of large-scale abandonment of nests as in some years. In an apparent adaptation to humans, a pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows nested successfully in a hole in a storage trailer in North Syracuse, an otherwise flat area with few potential nest sites.

Numbers of some common species, such as Yellow Warbler and Gray Catbird, were thought to down in the Rome area, and Grasshopper and Vesper sparrow numbers were low regionwide. Every year, birders find Blue-winged Warbler at spots that until the previous year had been Golden-winged locations. The four "Lawrence's" Warbler sightings show that the replacement is well along. Prairie Warbler did not return to a Parish site where 1-2 males were heard for most of the decade, and they were not reported from southwest Onondaga County where they were noted the last two years. An apparently unmated Prothonotary Warbler, which showed up in a New Hartford swamp in May, was still being seen into late June, and a migrating Kentucky Warbler was seen for one day in Whiskey Hollow.

Henslow's Sparrows located in a large fallow field during a night search were far enough off the road that it is doubtful that they would ever have been heard in the daytime with other birdsong and human generated noise. Observers felt that there was plenty of possible habitat for Henslow's and more would be found by daytime scouting and nighttime searching.

Reports indicate a very good year for fruit, berries and nuts, while the cone crop was good for spruce but below average for white pine. A total of 202 species plus 2 hybrids was reported for the season, which is just about average. The rarities included Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Prothonotary Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler, while other highlights were Redhead, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Ruby-crowned Kinglet,

Henslow's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird. Misses for the season were Horned Lark, Sedge Wren and Prairie Warbler.

**Contributors:** Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, David J Cesari, Lee Chamberlaine, Dorothy W Crumb, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Bettye Hughes, Mary Alice Koeneke, Gary Lee, Robert Long, Robert McKinney, Fred von Mechow, David Nash, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Gerald Smith, Maureen Staloff.

**Abbreviations:** CM - Clay Marsh, DL - Delta Lake, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, RSP - Rome Sand Plains SPd - Sandy Pond, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, UM - Utica Marsh, WPd - Woodman Pond

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** breeding 6 Adk lakes but 13 of 14 nests lost Stillwater Res due to heavy June rains; 1 alt Lower Res Orwell 5 Jul.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** absent from traditional breeding area at UM; max 3 Happy Valley WMA 5 Jul & 3 W Monroe 30 Aug.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** nesting prevented at 2 OneiL islands limiting them to 14 nests on Long I; no L Ontario maxima noted.

**Am. Bittern:** max 2 Deer Creek WMA 17 Jun; singles W Monroe thru; 1 Mexico 5 Jul, only other report.

**Least Bittern:** singles W Monroe 4 Jul, 24 Aug; singles UM thru 22 Aug.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 47 nests Mallory.

**Great Egret:** arr SVB 31 Jul; widespread reports of 1-3 Seneca R and OneiL areas; max 19 DL 27 Aug.

**Green Heron:** max 24 CM 13 Aug.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 imm UM 1 Aug; 1 imm SVB 10 Aug.

**Canada Goose:** 70 flying over Third L Adks 14 Jun, unusual location.

**Mute Swan:** 1 SVB 4 Jun to 10 Jul; pair WPd thru.

**Wood Duck:** max 1490 W Monroe 30 Aug.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 4 W Monroe 27 Aug.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 20 DL 14 Aug.

**Mallard:** max 750 DL 14 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr DL 3 Aug; max 80 DL 14 Aug.

**N. Shoveler:** 1 DL 16 Aug, only report.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr DL 31 Jul; max 30 DL 14 Aug.

**Redhead:** 1 male DL 14 Aug, uncommon in summer.

**Bufflehead:** last WPd 3 Jun.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 5 DL 9 Aug.

**Com. Merganser:** 2 Redfield 7 Jun; 4 Mad R 22 Jun, at breeding sites; max 65 DL 19 Aug.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1-3 per day Lake Ontario in Aug.

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** new nests reported CM and T New Haven.

**Bald Eagle:** 1-2 ad, 1 imm frequent DL 31 Jul thru; 2 imm SVB 3-7 Aug.

**N. Harrier:** nesting Holland Patent, Richland and W Monroe; max 3 Fairfield 28 Aug.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 3 imm New Hartford 20 Jul; 3 imm at nest area Kirkland 21 Jul.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 11 reported at 9 locations, no reports of nesting.

**N. Goshawk:** 2 imm Spafford 19 Jul, "flying and calling".

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 3 RSP 19 Jun, but sightings there Jun-Jul indicate 3-5 pairs; Aug singles DL, Hastings and W Monroe.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 5 Derby Hill 2 Jun; widespread singles reported.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 12 DL 24 Aug.

**Merlin:** arr DL 1 Aug; up to 4 DL thru Aug; 1 SVB 17 Aug; 2 SPd 30 Aug.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 DL 9 Aug; 1 imm SPd 23 Aug.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 5 reported from 4 sites.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 7 family groups reported plus widespread singles.

**Wild Turkey:** hens with young reported from many areas.

**Virginia Rail:** max 13 UM 29 Jun.

**Sora:** max 2 UM 7 Jun.

**Com. Moorhen:** family groups W Monroe, UM & SPd; 4 Volney 5 Aug, new site.

**Am. Coot:** 1 OnonL 13 Jul, only report.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr DL 5 Aug; max 6 DL 19 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 SPd 1 Jun; arr 5 SVB 31 Jul; max 50 DL 20 Aug.

**Killdeer:** max 50 DL 8-14 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 DL 31 Jul; max 25 DL 17 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr SVB 23 Jul; max 125 DL 20 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 2 UM 13 Jul; max 6 DL 17 Aug.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 9 DL 20 Aug.

**Upland Sandpiper:** max 22 Holland Patent 23 Jul, dep Syr Airport 25 Aug.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 11 SPd 1 Jun; last SVB 4 Jun; arr 1 SVB 28 Jul; max 4 SPd 30 Aug.

**Red Knot:** singles SPd after 23 Aug; SVB 30 Aug.

**Sanderling:** last 3 SPd 1 Jun; arr SVB 21 Jul; 7 DL 7 Aug, unusual location; max 60 SPd 25 Jul.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** dep 85 WPd 3 Jun; arr SVB 17 Jul; max 300 DL 24 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Schroepel 18 Jul; max 75 DL 8 Aug.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr SVB 23 Jul; max 6 DL 19 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 1 Biddlecum 30 Jul; max 2 DL 16 Aug.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr one SVB 28 Jul; max 25 DL 22 Aug.

**Dunlin:** 4 SPd 1 Jun; last SVB 14 Jun, record late; arr 2 SVB 22 Aug.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** max 9 Biddlecum 7 Aug; 4 DL 22 Aug; 1 SVB 20 Aug, good numbers.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** 1 DL 16 Aug (DJC, mob), record early.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr Biddlecum 26 Jul; max 19 DL 30 Aug.

**Com. Snipe:** max 6 SVB 10 Jul

**Am. Woodcock:** singles reported from DL, Hastings, Mexico, New Hartford, and W Monroe.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 ad Biddlecum 25 Jul; imm SVB 28 Jul; imm Biddlecum 4-9 Aug.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** singles SVB 14, 31 Aug.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 2 SVB 14 Jun, small numbers often summer; arr 11 SVB 12 Jul; max 160 SVB 16 Aug.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1 ad SVB 4 Jun, first summer record (MP).

**Caspian Tern:** max 145 SPd 1 Jun; 1-5 OnonL, DL and SVB, post-breeding.

**Com. Tern:** max 276 SVB 22 Aug.

**Forster's Tern:** 1 SPd 30 Aug.

**Black Tern:** 8 Deer Creek WMA 17 Jun; max 12 SP 30 Aug.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** individuals at over 20 locations thru.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 12 reported from 9 locations including 2 L Julia in Adk foothills.

**E. Screech-Owl:** one imm K 26 Jun; 1 Scriba 3 Jul; calling Clinton area during Aug.

**Great Horned Owl:** 2 imm New Hartford 29 Jun.

**Barred Owl:** 3 imm New Hartford 6 Jun; 1 RSP 19 Jun, 13 Jul; 1 L Julia 27 Jun; 1 Otter L16 Jun.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** pair Stink L Adks 9 Jun.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 2 Syr 25 Jun; 3 Oswego 3 Jul, only breeding season reports; 630 Syr migration count 12-31 Aug; max 93 Syr 25, 26 Aug.

**Whip-poor-will:** max 3 Constantia Jun-Jul; 1 Delta Lake 1 Jun, only other location.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** pair fl 2 y Chittenango Cr; 1 Deer Creek WMA 2 Aug, 1 Jack's Reef 23 Aug; 1 Lafayette feeder Jul-Aug.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 1 Twitchell Creek HERK Jul-Aug.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** migrants New Hartford 18, 30 Aug.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 12 Kirkland 27 Aug.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** singles Adks during breeding season; arr Kirkland 25 Aug.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 2 pair Whiskey Hollow, last there 27 Aug.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 1 Chittenango Creek ONON-MADI line 19 Jun, unusual location.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr SVB 27 Aug.

**Fish Crow:** ad, 2 juv Onon Lake Park 13 Jul.

**Com. Raven:** max 4 L Julia 2 Aug; 1 RSP 1 Jun.

**Purple Martin:** max 33 SW Oneida L 12 Jul; few reports away from Oneida; 12 last SPd 23 Aug.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** nesting in a hole in a storage trailer N Syr, fledged 5 Jul; max 3 per day elsewhere.

**Bank Swallow:** max 30+ Delta Lake 1 Jun-6 Jul.

**Barn Swallow:** max 740 CM 13 Aug.

**Cliff Swallow:** max 21 W Monroe 21 Jul.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 15 L Julia 26 Aug, no late summer movement noted.

**Carolina Wren:** 1 Fayetteville 21 Jun; 2 Syr 28 Jun; 1 T Vienna 12 Jul; 2 SPd 25 Jul; 2 W Monroe thru.

**Marsh Wren:** average numbers in larger marshes but scarce at some smaller sites.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 17 Penn Mtn 13 Aug.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1 Sangerfield 9 Jun - 3 Jul, unusual; 1 Moss L 11 Jun and 2 there 2 Jul.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 7 L Julia 12 Jul.

**N. Mockingbird:** 1 Clay 14 Jun; 2 Syr Airport 6 Jun; 1 Thornden Park Syr 21 Jun, only reports.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** reports of 1-3 per day.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** about 10 singles reported.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** singles Great Bear 26 Jul; K 11 Aug.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 1 Cato 16 Jun; 2 Sterling late Jul; 1 W Monroe 4 Aug.

**Tennessee Warbler:** 1 Penn Mtn 27 Jul, near 1987 breeding site; arr Sangerfield 25 Aug.

**Nashville Warbler:** 1 Baldwinsville 3 Aug, uncommon breeder there.

**N. Parula:** 1 RSP 7 Jul; 1 imm Penn Mtn 13 Aug; 1 L Julia 17 Aug; 1 heard Whiskey Hollow Jun-Jul; arr Kirkland 25 Aug.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr WH 21 Aug.

**Prairie Warbler:** not at Parish site occupied since 1991 or southwest ONON.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** ad fem Penn Mtn 27 Jul, several '80's reports in this area; arr New Hartford 25 Aug.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** spring dep DL 8 Jun; arr Verona 27 Aug.

**Cerulean Warbler:** max 15 Chittenango Creek 16 Jun.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** New Hartford swamp 7 Jun.

**Kentucky Warbler:** 1 Whiskey Hollow 24 Jun.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Fayetteville 30 Aug.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Vesper Sparrow:** singles Jacksonville 16 Jun; Three Rivers 1 Jul.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 20 Erie Canal 21 Jun.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** singles Pompey 4 Jun; Green Lakes SP 7, 18 Jun; Carley's Mills 22 Jun; Remsen 12 Jul.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 3 heard Mexico 15 Jul at night, at least 4 pairs eventually found with several fledglings.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** several reports from Twitchell Creek area.

**Bobolink:** max 150 Biddlecum 9 Aug.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 1 Gibbs L 28 Jul, only report.

**Com. Grackle:** max 1250 CM 13 Aug.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 141 Cicero 27 Aug.

**Orchard Oriole:** pair nesting Lysander 5 Jul, fledged young 22 Jul.

**Purple Finch:** max 11 T Vienna 20 Jul.

**Red Crossbill:** singles Sangerfield 3 Jul; Third Lake Swamp 30 Jul.

**Evening Grosbeak:** singles ONEI 5 Jul, 14 Aug.

Mary Alice Koeneke, mkoeneke@aol.com 315-342-3402

Bill Purcell, wpurcell@dreamscape.com 315-668-2871

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## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

ROBERT E. LONG

2807 Citation Dr, Pompey NY 13138

After five months of above average temperatures, the North Country returned to average levels for the summer. Precipitation varied from moderately dry in the Lake Plain to drenching downpours in St. Lawrence County. Wanakena had six inches above the average for the first eight weeks of the period. Watertown had dry conditions until August when precipitation was two inches above average. The first hint of fall occurred on 19 August at Montague in Lewis County with the temperature falling to 33 degrees. By June, trees and shrubs were in full foliage, which hid much of the tree top damage wrought by the January ice storm. In the St. Lawrence Valley, American Elms 15 to 20 feet high were severely damaged and large numbers died. A contributing cause of this large loss could have also been Dutch Elm disease. The warmth of May encouraged early nesting and resulted in early departure for many species of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and swallows.

Double-crested Cormorant nesting pairs on Little Galloo Island IBA decreased from 7500 to 5900 pair. To make things worse, almost 1000 were killed by shotgun fire in July. This was the first episode of large scale killing of a protected species since the early 1900's. In addition to being a federal offense, it is distressing to imagine what will happen to the other nesters on the Island if there are more episodes of destruction. The need for wardens on Little Galloo is now clear. On a better note, the Caspian Tern colony is now at 1400 nests, a 50% increase in the last five years. Little Galloo is now attracting spring migrants otherwise often missed in the Region.

On 9 June Bob Miller found an impressive group including: **Snow Goose**, Brant, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. The **Trumpeter Swan** pair nested for the fourth year in a row at Perch River WMA, producing six young. Grassland surveys by several observers turned up excellent numbers of Northern Harrier and the following sparrows: Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's. The Northern Harrier count was the highest ever reported, with 36 of the 40 reports from Jefferson County. Vesper and Grasshopper sparrow counts were highest on Fort Drum. Mickey Scilingo, working on Fort Drum, located nests for Upland Sandpiper and Short-eared Owl. Nick Leone continued his intensive survey of Perch River WMA and the surrounding grasslands for Henslow's Sparrow, with an all time high count of 122 males. Gerry Smith conducted all day counts in several towns of Jefferson and Lewis counties, producing high counts of Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and brush species



such as Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat along with edge species such as American Redstart and Chestnut-sided Warbler. High counts of Yellowthroated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Indigo Bunting were found in the Indian Lakes district in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. Massawepie Mire was not covered, but at nearby Hitchins Bog in St. Lawrence, Leone, Lee Chamberlaine, and Bettye Hughes found six **Palm Warblers**.

Positives for the period included good numbers of American Kestrel in Jefferson County, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark. Negatives were low numbers of Broad-winged Hawk, Least Flycatcher, and Veery. Rarities were Oldsquaw and Bay-breasted Warbler.

**Contributors:** Marilyn Badger, S. Bates, Richard Brouse, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Bettye Hughes, Mary Alice Koeneke, Jackie LaMora, Nick Leone, Debbie Litwhiler, Robert Long, Irene Mazzocchi, Gene & Pearl McGory, Peter O'Shea, Mickey Scilingo, Gerry Smith.

**Abbreviations:** AD - Adirondack Park; AWMA - Ashland WMA T Lyme & Cape Vincent JEFF; BMM - Beaver Meadow Marsh, Watertown; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; CRM - Case Rd Marsh, T Lyme JEFF; Cr L - Cranberry Lk, T Clifton STLA; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve; TEI-T Ellisburg JEFF; THen - T Henderson JEFF; FD - Fort Drum; Fr L - Francis Lk, T Watson AD LEWI; Hit B - Hitchins Bog, T Piercefield+Colton STLA; HP - Holmes Point, TMor STLA; IBA- Important Bird Area, National Audubon Soc.; JTSurv - JEFF Town Surveys by Gerry Smith; KC - Kelsey Cr, Watertown; LC - Limeric Cedars, T Brownville JEFF; LG - Little Galloo I, T Hounsfield JEFF; LitJ WMA - Littlejohn WMA, T Worth JEFF; TMas - T Massena STLA; TMor - T Morristown STLA; TLou - T Louisville STLA; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, T Osw, Mor, Hammond STLA 19 Jun (RL); Osw - Oswegatchie; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS T Philadelphia, Antwerp JEFF, T Rossie, Hammond STLA 16 Jun (RL); Pt Pen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence R; SLV - SLR Valley; SB - Sawyer's Bay, T Hen; SF- State Forest; TH - Tug Hill JEFF & LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper & Lower Lakes WMA, Twm Canton, STLA; WBBS - Wanakena BBS T Fine, Clifton, Clare STLA 17 Jun (RL); WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Clayton JEFF; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA, TLou STLA.

#### LOONS-WATERFOWL

**Com. Loon:** pairs with one y each at ULLWMA and WHWMA 2 Jul.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 5 reports, max several family groups PRWMA 19 Jul.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 5900 n LG, 1000 killed by shooting Jul.

**Am. Bittern:** 8 reports from six areas.

**Great Egret:** 3 ad marsh Rt 420 Winthrop TStockholm STLA 8 Aug (SC); 1 PRWMA 24 Aug; 3 CRM 30 Aug.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 5 ad BMM 24 Jun; 1 ad Morristown Bay TMor 8 Jun, a first for T Mor (RL).

**Turkey Vulture:** numbers decreased in SLV from Alex Bay to Waddington less than one per day

(RL); 12 Then TEI 8 Jun (GS), numbers stable in AD (PO).

**Snow Goose:** arr 1 imm LG 8 Jun.

**Canada Goose:** quickly becoming a major nuisance in T Mor, several groups of 30-40 disrupting swimming at Jacques Cartier State Park.

**Mute Swan:** one PRWMA 20 Jun.

**Trumpeter Swan:** pair with 6 y PRWMA.

**Tundra Swan:** 2 PRWMA 27 Aug (RB), very early.

**Brant:** arr 1 ad LG 8 Jun.

**Gadwall:** 1 PRWMA 20 Jun; 10 PRWMA 27 Aug.

**Am. Black Duck:** pair & 8 eggs Coles Cr T Waddington STLA; 20 TLou 17 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 5 reports, pairs TMas, FD, PRWMA, T Lyme JEFF; max 11 ED 22 Aug.

**N. Shoveler:** 1 PRWMA 20 Jun; 3 PRWMA 27 Aug.

**Green-winged Teal:** pair TLou 8 Jun.

**Oldsquaw:** 1 ad male SB 4, 7 Aug, probably an injured bird (GM).

**Hooded Merganser:** 8 near Rossie STLA 1 Jul; two broods TFine STLA.

**Com. Merganser:** broods on Black and Rainbow reservoirs STLA AD; 2 female with 8 y Mosher Falls T Watson LEWI 9 Jun.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** several reports from nesting areas, no nest counts.

**Bald Eagle:** 1 ad Cary Falls Res T Parishville STLA thru (SC).

**N. Harrier:** 40 reports, 36 from JEFF, 4 STLA; in JEFF, 6 reports from PRWMA, 4 pr FD, 10 Perch River Grasslands IBA, 6 pair LC, 4 AWMA, 4 Indian R Lakes IBA, 2 T Clayton JEFF. Highest numbers ever reported due to improved coverage (NL, GS, MS, LC).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 7 reports, ad snaring female Purple Martin in mid air three feet above the observers head as the Martins departed from their house HP 23 Jul (RL).

**Cooper's Hawk:** 1 ad T EI 1 Jun; 1 T Alexandria JEFF 23 Jul; 2 FD 9 Jul, 25 Aug; 2 TLou 30 Jun, 6 Aug.

**N. Goshawk:** nest in mature Red Pine plantation 1.5 mi NW of Barnes Corners T Pinckney LEWI (GS); 1 ad PRWMA 27 Aug (RB).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 2 pair Cr L STLA; one pair Grass R T Colton STLA; 2 Fr L 9 Jun.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** singles FD 2 Jul, Star L T Fine STLA, only reports.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 7 reports from STLA, 1 Sevey Corners T Colton, 1 Cr L, unusual for the Adirondacks.

**Am. Kestrel:** 6 T Clayton JEFF 12 Jun; 8 PRWMA 23 Aug; 2 TMor 15 Jun; 1 TMas 6 Jun; 1 Hit B 5 Jun.

**Gray Partridge:** 2 reports CV 11, 13 Jun (JL).

**Ruffed Grouse:** numbers high, broods abundant in AD.

**Wild Turkey:** common everywhere after a mild winter and despite the ice storm.

**Com. Moorhen:** 13 Wintrop swamp T Stockholm STLA 7 Jun (SC).

**Am. Coot:** 1 Brownie Rd TLou 1 Jun (MB).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 ED 22 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** 50 ED 22 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 FD 2 Jun; 25 Ad CRM 26 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 7 SB 6 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BMM 14 Jul; 2 Town Barn Rd T Hen 3 Aug; single ED 31 Aug.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 7 reports STLA+JEFF; max 8 ED 22 Aug.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 15 reports JEFF, 1 TMas; max 6 FD 18 Jun; 3 nests FD (MS).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 65 Ad LG 9 Jun.

**Red Knot:** arr 1 ad LG 9 Jun.

**Sanderling:** 9 SB 10 Aug; 7 ED 22 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 30 ad LG 9 Jun; 13 SB 10 Aug; max 50 ED 22 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** 3 SB 10 Aug.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr 2 LG 9 Jun; 1 Pt Pen 11 Aug (NL, IM).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 3 LG 9 Jun; 1 Pt Pen 11 Aug; 1 BMM 22 Aug.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 4 Pt Pen 11 Aug; 1 ED 22 Aug.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 ad alt plumage Pt Pen 7 Jul.

**Caspian Tern:** 1400 nests LG (GS).  
**Com. Tern:** 568 Pt Pen shoal pre-migratory staging 11 Aug (IM).  
**Black Tern:** 59 pair PRWMA, up 10% from last yr, 50% on artificial platforms (IM); 80 ad WBM 8 Jun; 225 Pt Pen shoal pre-migratory staging 11 Aug (IM).

#### DOVES-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 18 reports thru.  
**Barred Owl:** 1 FD 17 Jul.  
**Short-eared Owl:** 2 nesting pair fledged 9 y from 13 eggs FD (MS); singles Wilder Rd TClayton 3 Jun, AWMA 8 Jun (NL).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 2 FD 7 Jul; singles from PRWMA, KC, TMas; dep 10 Potsdam village 27 Aug.  
**Whip-poor-will:** reports from TLou, Stony Point THen JEFF; max 3 LC 3 Jul.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 ad, 1 y FD 22 Jun; 1 ad PRWMA 5 Jul; 2 ad, 2 imm Woodville 23 Jul.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** pair feeding each other on a Black Cherry tree AD, unusual to be feeding on other than a conifer (PO).

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 4 Hit B 5 Jun; 2 Wanakena AD 7 Jun; 2 Fr L 9 Jun (LC BH NL).  
**E. Wood-Pee-wee:** max 19 Wellsley I T Clayton/Orleans JT Surv 11 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 3 Hit B 5 Jun; 2 Wanakena 7 Jun; 3 LitJ WMA 14 Jun.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** reports from 5 towns JEFF, max 11 FD 9 Jun.  
**Least Flycatcher:** very few reports thru despite good coverage of their habitat; max 3 WBBS 18 Jun.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 62 TCv JTSurv 8 Jun, otherwise numbers low on many reports.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1 PBBS 16 Jun; 1 TEI 1 Jun; max 9 T Theresa JTSurv 18 Jun.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 38 T Adams JEFF 1 Jun; 31 TEI JTSurv 1 Jun; 36 TLou/TMas 10 Jun.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** 82 T Thersea JTSurv 18 Jun.

**Com. Raven:** 6 FD 21 Jun; 5 Stony Pt THen 14 Jun, only reports away from TH and AD.  
**Horned Lark:** 3 FD 18 Jun; 2 FD 9 Jul.  
**Purple Martin:** good numbers from SLV, max 86 several colonies Pt Pen JTSurv 7 Jul.  
**Tree Swallow:** 273 Pt Pen 7 Jul flocking evident (GS); last 122 HP 30 Aug.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** singles TMas 1 Jun, TLou 2 Jun.  
**Brown Creeper:** pr Patterson Rd TLou 2 Jun.  
**Carolina Wren:** singles TCv 1 Jun, KC 8-13 Aug.  
**Sedge Wren:** 1 AWMA 8 Jun; 1 Co Rt 49 T Rutland JEFF 1 Jul; 3 Spile Bridge Rd T Osw STLA 27 Jun (NL+SB).  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 6 Hit B 5 Jun; 4 Wanakena AD 7 Jun.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 2 Hit B 5 Jun.  
**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** 1 THen 10 & 11 Jul; 2 FD 14 Jul.  
**Veery:** max 15 TLou/TMas 15 Jun, low numbers elsewhere.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** 2 T Highmarket 23 Jun (GS).  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 20 T Theresa JTSurv 18 Jun, 14 T Highmarket LEWI 20 Jun.  
**Wood Thrush:** max 18 WBBS 18 Jun, up 20%.  
**N. Mockingbird:** 1 TLou 7 Jun; 1 T Alexandria JTSurv 17 Jun; 1 HP 17 Aug; 1 Fox Cr Rd TCv 5 Aug; 1 FD 4 Aug.  
**Brown Thrasher:** max 15 TCv JTSurv 8 Jun.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 3 TEI JTSurv 1 Jun.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** 7 PBBS 16 Jun; 8 T Theresa JTSurv; 8 TEI 1 Jun; 2 FD 2 Jun; 1 FD 1 Jul.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 3 TEI 1 Jun.  
**Nashville Warbler:** 3 Hit B 5 Jun; 3 Wanakena 7 Jun; 2 LitJ WMA 14 Jun.  
**N. Parula:** 4 Hit B 5 Jun; 1 Fr L 9 Jun.  
**Yellow Warbler:** 270 TCv 8 Jun; 134 TEI 1 Jun, both on JTSurv; 53 OBBS 19 Jun; 35 PBBS 16 Jun; 37 FD 24 Jun, large numbers in good brush habitat.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 25 TLou/Mas 1 Jun; 23 T Pinkney LEWI 9 Jun; 7 TEI 1 Jun, low numbers in AD reports.

**Magnolia Warbler:** reports from Fr L & THSF LEWI, LitJ WMA, ED; 9 WBBS 18 Jun; max 10 Hit B 1 Jun.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 8 WBBS 18 Jun; 1 FD 25 Aug.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 12 WBBS 18 Jun; 10 Cr L 13 Aug.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 8 WBBS 18 Jun.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 4 WBBS 18 Jun.

**Pine Warbler:** 6 T Theresa JTSurv 18 Jun; 5 Fr L 9 Jun.

**Prairie Warbler:** 6 LC 11 Jul; 4 FD 19 Jun.

**Palm Warbler:** 6 singing, 1 carrying food Hit B 5 Jun (LC BH NL).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 Mosher Falls T Watson LEWI 9 Jun (LC BH).

**Cerulean Warbler:** 3-4 T Theresa JEFF 1 Jul; 4 T Macomb STLA 22 Jun, all in Indian Lakes/Black Lk IBA.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 36 TLou/TMas; eight WBBS 18 Jun; singles from many Towns in JEFF survey.

**Am. Redstart:** 67 TEI 1 Jun; 68 T Theresa 18 Jun, both JTSurv; 42/day TLou/TMas; low numbers in AD.

**Ovenbird:** 37/day TLou/TMas; 30 TEI 1 Jun; 20 WBBS 18 Jun, average numbers.

**Mourning Warbler:** 3TH SF26 Jun, 3 Jul; 1 LitJ WMA 14 Jun.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** 90 T Theresa 18 Jun; 90 TCV 8 Jun, both JTSurv; 62 PBBS 16 Jun & OBBS 19 Jun; 37 FD 24 Jun, good numbers in brushy areas.

**Canada Warbler:** 2 Hit B 5 Jun; 3 WBBS 18 Jun; 2 Wanakena AD 7 Jun.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 3 WBBS 18 Jun; pr FY TMas 30 Jun; few reports.

**E. Towhee:** good numbers from many Towns in JEFF; max 40 T Hounsfield JEFF 16 Jun.

rlongmd@AOL.com

(315)-677-9840 - home, (315)-4464580 - work, (315)-446-3426 - Fax

**Chipping Sparrow:** 60/day TLou, TMas; max 68 Stony Pt area THen 18 May.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** sighted on several occasions FD; max 7 FD 2 Jun; 1 Pt Pen 6 Jun.

**Field Sparrow:** 10 PBBS 16 Jun; 17 FD 19 Jun; max 25 TCV 8 Jun, JTSurv.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1-2 in 6 Towns JEFF; 7 sites FD; max 26 FD 22 June.

**Savannah Sparrow:** 24 PBBS 16 Jun & OBBS 19 Jun, average; max 195 TCV JTSurv; 150/day TLou/TMas; 75 FD 24 Jun, good numbers throughout.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 30 from 14 sites in 10 Towns JEFF; max in JEFF 11 T Pamela 2 Jul; 6 sites FD, max 14 FD 18 Jun.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** night surveys totaled 122 individuals from several sites in grasslands around PRWMA (NL); 3 sites, total 7 ind FD.

**Song Sparrow:** low numbers SLV but 3 very high Town counts JEFF, 175 TEI 18 May; 308 TCV 8 Jun; 143 THounsfield 16 Jun.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 2 Hit B 5 Jun.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 40 T Highmarket LEWI 23 Jun; 14 WBBS; 28/day TMas.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 8 WBBS 18 Jun.

**Indigo Bunting:** 21 T Antwerp 20 Jun; 21 T Theresa 18 Jun; 14 PBBS 16 Jun, good numbers in the Indian Lakes IBA.

**Bobolink:** max 338 TCV JTSurv 8 Jun, bumper crops of y due to early nesting before the first hay cut.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 60 TCV JTSurv; above average on BBS routes.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 3 Hit B 5 Jun.

**Purple Finch:** 27 in road eating dirt Michigan Mills T West Turin LEWI 9 Jul.

**House Finch:** 44 TLou/TMas 9 Jun, only report.

**Pine Siskin:** 2 feeder THen 15 Jun, only report (LC).

**Evening Grosbeak:** present thru in TMas/TLou, max 26 Jul 1 (MB).

## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

Discovery Farm, RR 1 Box 230, Elizabethtown NY 12932-9721

The summer was exceptionally wet. Although June began sunny and hazy, there was rain for 17 of the first 24 days, with the start of 9 days of rain on 12 June. Many Adirondack loon nests were lost to flooding. Between 13-27 June, Auger Pond, ESSE, received **12.35 inches**, with 7.96 inches of that falling on nearby Keeseville in just the last three days. The fourth major flood in little more than a year began on 25 June, with Lake Champlain at 97.02 ft. The next day 16 cars of a CPR freight derailed at one of 19 major track washouts near Port Douglas, spilling 3,000 gallons of deisel oil and a tanker of Canadian whiskey into Little Trout Brook and the lake. By 27 June, the Ausable, Little Ausable, Great Chazy, and Saranac rivers were flooded, the Adirondack Northway closed, as well as Routes 3 and 9N, and power was off over parts of the Region. At the height of the deluge, 5 inches fell in 24 hours. By month's end, Champlain had risen to 98.28 ft, or over a foot in just 4-5 days!

July was little better. Peru had more rain on 1 July than normally received in all of the month. Another 1-3 inches that day brought more flooding. A 3.0 Richter earthquake rattled Dannemora at 10 pm on 8 July. Mid month was hot and humid, with almost daily thunderstorms, and Champlain was at 98.80 ft, Ellenburg got 2 inches in an hour on the 16th, and it rained 15 days during the month. With **9.31 inches** of July rainfall (3.65 is normal), this was the wettest July on record! Champlain had only dropped to 97.73 ft at month's end.

And August was wet, with 15 more rainy days. The rainiest August day on record saw 3.5 inches fall on Keene Valley 11 August. A mere .01 inches more on 17 Aug made this the wettest summer ever, breaking the 1892 record of 22.74 inches. With a monthly total of 6.80 inches, it was the fifth wettest August. By season's end, with the lake at 96.87 ft, yearly precipitation stood at 40.97 inches, with four months left to challenge the Champlain Valley record of 50.16 inches, set in 1983. But, as Gary Lee pointed out, "Berries, cherries, nuts and cones are the best in years; crossbills should stick around this winter."

Following 3 inches of rain in Hamilton Co. on 13-14 June, Lee placed a loon platform on Mitchell Pond on 23 June. A Common Loon laid eggs on the platform on 25 June, and there was a chick on the water on 24 July, the first on this pond in at least 32 years. An adult and chick on Beaver Lake and adult on Lower Mitchell Pond were banded and had blood samples taken 8 August.

A total of 45 Double-crested Cormorants, 20 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1,100 Ring-billed Gulls (100 color-banded adults and 1,000 chicks), 57 Herring Gulls, and 3 Great Black-backed Gulls were banded at The Four Brothers Islands June 13 and 20. Some 1,394 Double-crested Cormorant nests were counted, 17% above the previous high of 1,184 in 1996. Great Blue Herons

rebounded from a dozen nests last year to 23. Cattle Egrets remain on Island "B", with some six nests. Black-crowned Night-Herons on Islands "A", "B", and "D" have at least 164 active nests. Newly hatched Red-breasted Merganser chicks were found on Island "D" on 13 June. High Peaks Audubon is cooperating with the NYS DEC Nongame & Habitat Unit on the Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Census, which includes Lake Champlain (a great lake, even if Congress finally determined it's not a Great Lake).

Two Franklin County Bald Eagle nests were successful, each producing 2 eaglets. This represents a decline from 7 nests (6 successful), producing 8 eaglets in 1997; one of those nest trees was going down in 1998. Of 11 known Peregrine Falcon eyries, all in Essex County, 8 were active and produced young this year: Chesterfield (1 chick fledged), Crown Point (pair in May, but attempt apparently aborted), Elizabethtown (rock climber reported territorial bird, but no nesting), two Keene sites (2 and 3 chicks, respectively), Moriah (1 fledged), North Elba (2-3 fledged), Schroon (no details, apparently inactive), Westport (1 fledged), Willsboro (2 fledged), and Wilmington (2 fledged), for a total of 14-15 chicks produced. This compares with 11 chicks from 9 eyries active in 1997. Merlins were undoubtedly far more widespread than the reports of nesting pairs in Franklin and Hamilton counties might suggest.

After five consecutive years of nesting along the Clinton County shoreline near the Chazy Rivers, there were no signs of Wilson's Phalarope this year.

On the positive side, Tufted Titmouse nested near Elizabethtown, and Carolina Wren nested at the Plattsburgh city beach. The saga of "Yellow" Palm Warblers continued, with 2 at Sabattis Bog in late June and 2 seen carrying food for young at Bloomingdale Bog in early July. A female Red Crossbill was feeding young on larch at Rankin Pond near Minerva in late July, and there were several other sightings of both crossbills.

Just 157 species were reported, down from 179 in last summer's drought (and 185 in the drought of '95 and 171 in the similarly wet summer of '96). Some of the decline is attributable to high lake levels, the low count of 8 shorebird species including Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper, and American Woodcock. Some may also be an artifact the rain's impact upon observer activity, a number of normally active birders not reporting by the seasonal deadline. An inland **Caspian Tern**, photographed on Auger Pond 20 July by Gordon Howard, was unexpected, as was a **Fish Crow** at the Lower Saranac Lake boat launch by John & Pat Thaxton on 9 August. Matt Perry's tally of **118** Red-eyed Vireos in the Piseco-Powley Road area on 15 July is also noteworthy.

In addition to the five Adirondack-Champlain Regional sites previously designated Important Bird Areas by the National Audubon Society, another six IBAs have been approved: Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness, Chazy Landing/King's Bay, Moose River Plains, Plattsburgh Airfield, Ticonderoga Marsh, and Webb Royce Swamp.

**Contributors:** Helen & Robert Booth, Lee Chamberlaine, Joan Clark, Charcie Delehanty, Tom Dudones, Dan Fasking, Greg Furness, Joseph Gentles, Richard Gershon, Richard Godin, Evelyn Greene, Judy & Roger Heintz, Bettye Hughes, Roger Johnson, Joy Keithline, Paul Kelly, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Gary Lee, Bill Lenhart, Theodore Mack, Mark Manske, Matt Medlar, Charles Mitchell, Edith Mitchell, Nancy Olsen, Matt Perry, John & Susan Peterson, Judy Phillips, Bill Purcell, George Roberts, Peter Saenger, Marilyn Smith, John & Patricia Thaxton, Sue Turner, Robert Wei, Gary Worthington.

**Abbreviations:** BB - Bloomingdale Bog; BTP- Brown's Tract Ponds; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; FB - Ferd's Bog; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; PCB - Plattsburgh city beach; SB - Sabattis Bog; TL - Tupper Lake.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** Long Pd, ESSE 18 Jul (MM), unusually close to L Champlain.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1,394 nests FBI; 7 Raquette L 17 Jun; 1 Cedar Lakes 6 Aug (GL), far inland.

**Great Blue Heron:** 23 nests FBI; 40 nests Hoffman Rd beaver pd, Schroon, ESSE 27 Jul (EG), still a few young around.

**Great Egret:** Keene 5 Jul (ST); West Bangor 19 Jul (TD); Boquet R, Elizabethtown 22 Aug (JG); still colonizing Quebec, with nests on Heron I in the Lachine Rapids this summer, as well as the large colony on Ile Dickerson near Dundee since 1984.

**Cattle Egret:** 6 nests FBI; alt plumage Redford, CLIN 18 Jun (DF).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 164 nests FBI.

**Snow Goose:** PCB 17 Jun (BK), late CLIN by a day.

**Canada Goose:** nested FBI; 150 Raquette Pd (EM); 125 TL mun pk 8 Jul (CD), "A very good year."

**Ring-necked Duck:** 4 ducklings Muskrat Pd.

**Hooded Merganser:** hen AP 2 Jun (NO), late for there.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** newly hatched chicks FBI I "D" 13 Jun (JP).

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** nested AP & WRS; nest on rock 7 ft above water of Big Pd, ESSE 27 Jul (EG), 1-2 yrs old, little whitewash; 2 early migrants Azure Mt 3 Aug (MM); no figures available on Adirondack nesting.

**Bald Eagle:** "many reports" TL (CD); ad diving on Raquette R goslings (RG); ad & imm Whitney property 14 Aug; ad s branch Moose R 22 Aug (GL); 2 FRAN nests produced 4 eaglets.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** West Bangor 19 Jul (TD); ad & yg Mud-Sampson Lks 9 Aug (JK); West & Brooktrout Lks 12-13 Aug (J&PT).

**Merlin:** 2 cavorting CR 7 Jun (CM); stooping on 3 Turkey Vultures & Osprey Owls Head 7 Jun; stooping on 3 Am Kestrels Owls Head 16 Jun (MM); nest with 4 yg The Antlers, Raquette L 14 Jul; 2 yg Whitney property 15 Aug (GL).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 14-15 chicks produced 8 ESSE eyries (DEC).

**Wild Turkey:** 3 of 6 eggs hatched Cedar R 5 Jun; chicks Limekiln L 28 Jul (GL); max 30 Westport 25 Aug (JG); others Lake Pleasant, Piseco, TL.

**Virginia Rail:** Piseco L 25 Jun (MP), only report.

**Sora:** Ausable Pt 21 Jun (BK,CM), only report.

**Am. Coot:** CR 23 Jun (CM), late CLIN by 26 days.

**Killdeer:** max 47 West Bangor flooded field 19 Jul (TD).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Willsboro 24 Jul (NO,MS).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Banker & Stetson Rds, CLIN 19 Jun, only report, but n FRAN is scarcely birded.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** CH 6 Jun (GR), late CLDN by a day.

**Dunlin:** PCB 4 Jun (H&RB); CR 10 Jun (BK,CM), late CLIN by 4 days.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 250 Westport 13 Aug (JK,JP).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 1,000 chicks, 100 ads (yellow bands) banded FBI; 2 Brooktrout L & West L, HAMI, 12-13 Aug (J&PT), unusual inland.

**CASPIAN TERN:** Auger Pd, ESSE, 20 Jul (photographed, GH), unusual, but especially away from L Champlain.

**Com. Tern:** CR 10 Jun; 3 CR 19 Jun.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Keeseville & Willsboro Jun; feeding young Wadhams 25 Jul (DS).

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Cheney Pd 16 Jun (BP); 4 BB 20-23 Jun (PS); 2 BB 2 Jul (MP); with yg FB 18 Jul (GL); drumming FB 1 Aug (BL); Helldiver Pd 18 Jul (GL).

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The Gulf 22 Jun (J&RH), northernmost.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** BB, BTP, Carry Pd, FB, Jay.

**Willow Flycatcher:** 2 singing males AP 21 Jun (BK,CM); 2 West Bangor 19 Jul (TD), across road from Alder Flycatcher.

**Warbling Vireo:** Indian Lake 19 Jun (BP), unusual in Adks.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 118 Piseco-Powley Rd 15 Jul (MP).

**Gray Jay:** Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale; FB; Helldiver & Lost Pds.

**FISH CROW:** 1 Lower Saranac L boat launch 9 Aug (J&PT).

**Com. Raven:** occupied nest Valcour 1 7 Jun (HK), low, but not unexpected in light of probable nesting at Crown Point in May.

**Tree Swallow:** population down TL (CD).

**Boreal Chickadee:** BB, BTP, FB, Helldiver Pd, Hopkins Mt, Mt Haystack, SB, all expected locations, but many reports.

**Tufted Titmouse:** pr Elizabethtown to 1 Aug; PCB 6 Jul; Mineville feeder Aug.

**Carolina Wren:** nested PCB, present 8 May-27 Jun; 4 there 1 Jun (GW).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** BB, Orebed Bk, Roostercomb, typical.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** PCB 6 Jul (BK).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** BTP 3 Jun (RJ), early & unexpectedly low; Lyon & Whiteface Mts more expected.

**N. Mockingbird:** BTP 3 Jun (RJ); Lake Pleasant 6 Jul (PK), unusual in HAMI.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Willsboro golf course 24 Jul (MM), rarely reported.

**Yellow Warbler:** male Essex 13 Aug (JK,JP), fairly late.

**Cape May Warbler:** The Gulf (J&RH), northernmost; ad male & imm BB 2 Jul, within usual range.

**"Yellow" Palm Warbler:** 2 SB 17 Jun (BP); carrying food for yg BB 2 Jul (RG), new confirmed breeding bog.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Lost Pds & Summer Stream stillwater, HAMI (GL).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** BTP, Blue Mt, Hopkins Mt, Whiteface Mt.

**Canada Warbler:** female Mossy Cascade Bk (2,750 ft) on side of Hopkins Mt 6 Jul (J&PT), relatively high.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Eastern Towhee:** St Regis Falls BBS (TM); pr Rattlesnake Mt 19 Jul (J&RH), not often reported.

**Vesper Sparrow:** erstwhile Plattsburgh AFB 25 Jun, only report.

**Savannah Sparrow:** McCane's Resort 20 Jun; 2 Indian Lake town garage field 21 Jun (BP), unusual in HAMI.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** PAFB 25 Jun (BK,CM), only report, but from most consistent regional site & IBA.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** BB, FB, Piseco, SB, many reports.

**Bobolink:** 1 Wells 18 Jun (BP), a good HAMI find.

**Rusty Blackbird:** Indian L, MRR 27 Jul (GL); 3 Piseco 30 Jul (MP), only reports.

**House Finch:** BTP 3 Jun (RJ); pr Lake Pleasant 23 Jun (PK), good finds in HAMI.

**Red Crossbill:** BB; FB; MRR; female feeding young on Am. Larch Rankin Pd, Minerva, 26 Jul (EG), holds promise for winter.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Bloomingdale, BB, SPB, ditto.

**Pine Siskin:** Elizabethtown feeder in breeding condition to 2 Jun (JP); Lake Pleasant 7-25 Jun (PK); 2 FB 1 Aug (BL), only reports.



## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

133 York Ave, Saratoga Springs NY 12866-2533

As reported from the Albany International Airport, weather in June was cloudy and wet, with precipitation of 6.59", 2.97" above normal. Temperatures were a slightly-below-average 66.2°F, with 43.5% sunshine. By contrast, the rest of the summer was dry, with July's precipitation totalling 2.74", 0.44" below normal. Temperatures averaged 70.8°F, 1° below normal, with 69% sunshine. August's rainfall was 2.21", 1.26" below normal. There was a slightly above normal average temperature of 71°F, with 69% sunshine.

Reports received from the Region are indicative of a productive breeding season, at least during the early part of the summer, though with some early fledging dates noted. On a 5 June trip to Castleton Island State Park, I noted both Veery and American Redstart fledglings being fed, at least two weeks earlier than dates in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Bald Eagle was well represented again, with five nesting pairs. Two of these nests were successful and four young were fledged, three from a single pair. Peregrine Falcons experienced an excellent year in the Region, as they did throughout the state, with five active nests in the Lake George area fledging eight young. Upland Sandpipers are assumed to have bred again at Ft. Edward, although early haying in that area may have destroyed nests. Only adults were observed in mid June. There was a good amount of shorebird habitat, with 16 species reported, most in good numbers. I received few reports of Eastern Bluebird and none of Bicknell's Thrush. Henslow's Sparrow did not breed at the Saratoga National Historical Park for the first time in many years. They did occur at three sites in Ft. Edward, with several individuals present.

I want to thank folks who live outside the Region but who report to me when they are birding inside the Region. Bill Purcell spent two days in Montgomery County during early June and sent me a list of his extensive sightings in an underbirded area. Thanks also to Dave Russell for his reports from the Garnet Lake area.

Unusual birds sighted included Sanderling, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red-necked Phalarope, Forster's Tern, and Kentucky Warbler. 183 species were reported during the period, down somewhat from last year.

**Contributors:** Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Kate Beale; Beth Bidwell; Brad Bidwell (Bbi); Bob Boehm (Bbo); Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); William Lee; Barbara Loucks, Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Tom Palmer; Ray Perry; Bill Purcell, Barb Putnam; David Russell; Doug Steele; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; Kris Winters, Robert Yunick.

**Abbreviations:** BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; CDWMA - Capitol District WMA, RENS; CHSF - Charleston Hill State Forest, MONT; CISP - Castleton Island SP, RENS; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonhaugh State Forest, SCHE; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GL - Garnet Lake, T Thurman, WARR; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Lock 7, Mohawk R, SCHE; LG - Lake George, WARR; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; SCA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); StP - Stanton Pond, ALBA; TP - John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WR - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

#### LOONS-DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** 1 TRd 7 Jun; 1 FR 23-26 Jun, injured; 2 G 6 Jun; 5 ad GL 1 Aug (*vide* DR); only reports.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 2 Cossayuna L WASH 17 Aug (JS), only report.

**Am. Bittern:** bred BCM, TRd, VF.

**Least Bittern:** 1 VF 5, 8, 17 Jun (FM to BEN); 1 NR 7 Jun (RP).

**Great Blue Heron:** no reports from local rookeries; low numbers in dispersion.

**Great Egret:** max 21 VF 26 Aug; 20 WR 31 Aug.

**Green Heron:** max 11 BCM 26 Jul.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 CL 6 Jul (RP); 3 ad, 2 imm HR Corning Preserve boat launch 20 Jul (A. Mapes to BEN), only reports.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 40 Colonie Landfill area 16 Aug.

**Snow Goose:** 1 Coeymans 22-24 Jun (RG).

**Mute Swan:** 1 Watervliet 20 Jun; 1 remained StP thru, only reports n of COLU.

**Wood Duck:** good breeding season at CP, FR, VF; max 20 CP 21 Aug.

**Gadwall:** 4 New St. Cohoes 2 Aug.

**Am. Wigeon:** 4 L7 26 Aug.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 42 MR Cohoes 16 Aug.

**Mallard:** max 100+ FtM 25 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 7 MR Colonie 16 Aug (WE, NM).

**Green-winged Teal:** 7 lower MR 9 Aug; max 20 VF 16 Aug.

**Hooded Merganser:** 1 CL 1 Jun.

**Ruddy Duck:** 3 CL 11 Jul.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 JL 20 Jun (RY); 1 Jabe Pd WARR 9 Jul (LM); 4 August reports of singles.

**Bald Eagle:** 3 imm NB 5 Jun (RG); 1 3<sup>rd</sup> yr G L 6, 20 Jun (DR); 3 ad, 3 imm CISP 5 Jun (RG); 4 NB 24 Jul (RG); 4 ad NB 10 Aug (RG); 3 imm CISP 10 Aug (RG); 1 imm Gilboa Res SCHO 15 Aug (Bbi); 2 ad, 4 imm Coxsackie 1 31 Aug (BEN); nesting: 5 occupied nests in Region, 2 nests successful - 4 young fledged, 3 from 1 pr.

**N. Harrier:** reported from 6 locations in FtE 13-27 Jun; 2 MONT 8 Jun; 1 Duanesburg Rds. SCHE 31 Jul; 1 imm VF 23 Aug; 1 imm NR 26 Aug; no nesting observed.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** only 6 reports of singles.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 13 reports of singles.

**N. Goshawk:** 1 Hague 14 Jun (LM), only report.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 2 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 1 Rt. 50 Gansevoort/Wilton 24 Jun; 1 ad Saratoga Springs 9 Aug; probably nested JL.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 2 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 2 pr nested NB; prob. nested JL; 10 reports of singles.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 9 Cary Rd. FtE 19 Jul; breeding noted Schodack Ctr & Nassau RENS (PC); 2 y fledged Amsterdam 12 Jul (TP); family group of 4 Brookview RENS 8 Aug (PC); nested FR 4 m chicks fledged (CT).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 5 active nests LG area, 8 young fledged; 1 active nest Dunn Mem. Br. 1 fledged; 1 territorial pr Rip Van Winkle Br. Catskill; 3 CISP area thru (all BL) ; 1 imm Middleburgh SCHO 15 Aug (Bbi).  
**Virginia Rail:** bred BCM, VF; not reported from other areas where expected.  
**Sora:** 1 VF 22 Aug, only report.  
**Com. Moorhen:** bred BCM, CP, VF; max 6 FtM 21 Aug; 1 ad, 4 y VF 25 Jul.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 New St. Cohoes 16 Aug (WE, NM), only report.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 11 Cohoes, 4 FR 9 Aug; max 24 MR ALBA 16 Aug.  
**Killdeer:** max 104 Cohoes/SI 9 Aug; 66 StFI 9 Aug.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 NB 23 Jul; 2 Cohoes 2 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 SI 4 Jul; max 76 Cohoes Commons 9 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 4 VF 9 Aug.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 11 Cohoes 2 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 13 FtE 11, 14 Jun (Bbi, BP); SCA 26 Aug (RP); 3 reports of singles.  
**Sanderling:** 3 FtM 31 Aug (JS), first report since 1994.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 1 FSF 31 Jul; max 66 Cohoes Commons 3 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 2 LR Stillwater 19 Jul; max 114 MR, VF, Cohoes 9 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 1 Cohoes 2 Aug; 3 Cohoes Commons 3 Aug; 3 FR, Cohoes 9 Aug; 2 Sharon Springs 26 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1 juv VF 16 Aug (WE), only report.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 VF 16 Aug (WE), first report since 1993 and 6<sup>th</sup> Regional report.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** 2 VF 23 Aug (BEN).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 3 reports of singles.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 200 incl 1 early juv SI/Cohoes 4 Jul; 650 incl 70 juv Cohoes 20 Jul (WE).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 3<sup>rd</sup> yr SI 2 Aug (WE), very early.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 75 Cohoes 20 Jul.  
**Forster's Tern:** 1 NB 14 Jul (RG).

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 12 reports of singles.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** no reports.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** only 4 reports of singles.  
**Great Horned Owl:** only 2 reports.  
**Barred Owl:** 3 GL 6 Jun; 3 TP 20 Jun; 3 JL 8, 27 Aug; 3 reports of singles.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 Garnet L 6 Jun (DR).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 Slingerlands 14 Aug; VF 15 Aug; 39 Slingerlands, 26 Saratoga 21 Aug; 109 Saratoga 22 Aug; 154 Saratoga 21 Aug; 8 Slingerlands, 28 Schenectady 25 Aug; 36 Slingerlands, 10 Albany, 5 Saratoga 26 Aug; 6 Guilderland 27 Aug; 14 Wash. Ave. Ext. Albany 28 Aug.  
**Whip-poor-will:** 1 Coeymans Hollow ALBA Jun-Jul (CT); 1 CSR 5 Aug (JG).  
**Chimney Swift:** max 200 VF 27 Aug.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 7 VF 4 Jul.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 18 banded JL thru, 1 imm 14 Aug (RY).  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** numerous CISP; 2 FR 16 Aug; 2 Schodack Ctr. 16 Aug; 6 reports of singles.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** nested JL; 9 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 6 TP 20 Jun; 7 reports of singles.  
**N. Flicker:** max 10 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 11 SNHP 29 Aug.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 10 SkW 6 Jul; 9 SNHP 26 Aug.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 NB 16 Aug (RG to BEN); 1 FR 26 Aug (DS).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** max 6 TRd 7 Jun; 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** max 10 BCM 26 Jul.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun.  
**E. Phoebe:** 2 broods of 4-5 each banded JL 23 May, 3 Jul (RY), from f banded 1995.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 6 CHSF 8-9 Jun.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 12 MONT 8-9 Jun.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 4 TP 20 Jun.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 5 VF 4 Jul; 4 Lisha Kill SCHE 26 Aug.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 10 VF 4 Jul.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 40 CHSF 8-9 Jun.  
**Fish Crow:** max 5 Colonie 9 Aug.  
**Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region.  
**Horned Lark:** 4 MONT 9 Jun; nested SCA.  
**Purple Martin:** 3 Chatham 2-4 Jul (ADBC), SL colony not checked.

**Tree Swallow:** 71 nestlings banded Palmer colony Amsterdam; 179 hatchlings banded Veeder colony (RY).

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last L7 26 Aug.

**Bank Swallow:** nesting colonies T Jackson Garage Greenwich, Rotterdam; 40 FtE 19 Jul; max 300+ StF1 26 Aug.

**Barn Swallow:** last Blatnick Pk SCHE 26 Aug.

**Cliff Swallow:** last Greenport 22 Aug.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** 16 + 5 returns banded JL 25 Jul-31 Aug (RY); no irruption anticipated.

**Tufted Titmouse:** one hy banded JL 14 Aug, rare in Adirondacks (RY).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 10 banded JL thru.

**Brown Creeper:** max 4 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

**Carolina Wren:** only 5 reports of singles.

**House Wren:** max 8 SNHP 1 Jun.

**Winter Wren:** 8 reports of singles.

**Marsh Wren:** nested BCM, CP, VF; max 11 VF 4 Jul.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 2 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 4 TP 20 Jun, pr w fledglings; 1 Barberville 11 Jul.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1ad, 3y VF 4 Jun; 3 VF 4 Jul.

**E. Bluebird:** no nesting reports FR; max 12 BCM 14 Jul.

**Veery:** max 30 CHSF 8-10 Jun; 15 VF 4 Jul; fledgling being fed CISP 5 Jun, early (JG).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** no reports from GREE peaks.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 3 singing Lens L WARR 13 Jul (PC); 1 NB 24 Jul (RG to BEN).

**Hermit Thrush:** max 12 CSR 5 Aug.

**Wood Thrush:** max 30 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

**Gray Catbird:** max 31 VF 4 Jul.

**Brown Thrasher:** reported throughout Region; max 6 MONT 8-9 Jun.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 48 FR 28 Aug; pr nest-building TP 20 Jun.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 18 SNHP 1 Jun; 2 FR 16 Aug; 2 NB 25 Aug.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 4 reports of singles.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 Kinderhook L 4 Jun (CW); 1 NB 10 Aug (RG to BEN).

**Tennessee Warbler:** 1 TRd 10 Jun (WL), late migrant.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr one Malta SARA 23 Aug.

**N. Parula:** 2 GL WARR 6 Jun; 1 Cherry Plains SP 19 Jul, only reports.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 40 VF 4 Jul.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 12 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 12 CHSF 8-9 Jun; arr 1 VF 23 Aug.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 6 T Bleeker FULT 1 Aug.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 9 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 3 Garnet L 6 Jun; arr 1 Malta 23 Aug, early migrant.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 8 CHSF 8-9 Jun; 9 reports of singles.

**Pine Warbler:** arr 1 Austerlitz 29 Aug.

**Prairie Warbler:** 2 SNHP 18 Jun (JG); 4-6 TRd 16 Jun.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 JL 29 Aug (RY).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 4 reports of singles Jun.

**Cerulean Warbler:** at least 10 singing m CISP 5 Jun (JG, CW)

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 19 reports of singles.

**Am. Redstart:** max 25 CISP 5 Jun; 20 CHSF 8-9 Jun; fledgling being fed CISP 5 Jun, early.

**Ovenbird:** max 10 SkW 6 Jun; 25 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

**N. Waterthrush:** max 4 Ballston L 24 Jun; 1 Guilderland 12 Jul, observed mobbing cat; 3 reports of singles.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** max 2 ad 2 y Greenport 4 Jun; 3 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

**Kentucky Warbler:** 1 Austerlitz 27 Aug (M. Lobdell/ADBC), first report since 1988.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 22 SNHP 1 Jun; 30 MONT 8-9 Jun; 28 VF 4 Jul.

**Wilson's Warbler:** 1 Greenport 4 Jun; 1 VF 17 Jun, only reports.

**Canada Warbler:** max 4 TRd 7 Jun; 4 TP 20 Jun.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 20 reports of singles, numbers up.

**E. Towhee:** max 13 SNHP 1 Jun.

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 15 MONT 8-9 Jun; did well JL, 19 hy, 10 ad + 9 returns banded (RY).

**Field Sparrow:** max 9 SNHP 3 Jul.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1 Cary Rd, FtE 3 Jun; 1 Town Line Rd 13 Jun; 2 T Nassau 31 Aug.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 20 MONT 8-9 Jun; 11 Cary Rd FTE 13 Jun; 9 Rt 197 FtE 28 Jun.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 3 FtE 13 Jun.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 Hinds Rd, 1 Cary Rd FtE 13 Jun; 4 Downtont Rd T Argyle 24 Jun; did not breed SNHP.

**Song Sparrow:** max 80 VF 4 Jul.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** possibly heard 21 Jul in bog near Round Pd where probable breeding noted 6 Jul 1995 (PC).

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 19 VF 4 Jul; 14 BCM 14 Jul.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 6-8 TRd 10 Jun; 6 CDWMA 11 Jul, incl begging juvs.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 6 TP 20 Jun, incl fledglings & nest w young being raided by Blue Jay; not recorded JL.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 10 MONTT 8-9 Jun; 7 VF 4 Jul.

**Indigo Bunting:** max 6 Schenectady Museum Preserve 26 Aug; 15 reports of singles.

**Bobolink:** max 120 Amsterdam 21 Jul (TP); reported in good numbers from FtE, SNHP.

**E. Meadowlark:** good numbers SNHP.

**Orchard Oriole:** 1 Brookview RENS 9 Jun (PC), only report.

**Baltimore Oriole:** max 15 MONT 8-9 Jun; 13 VF 4 Jul (WE), mainly family groups.

**Purple Finch:** max 10 CHSF 8-9 Jun.

**Pine Siskin:** 1 Gansevoort 23 Jun, only report.

**Evening Grosbeak:** reported in small numbers.

e-mail: jgraves@skidmore.edu

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## REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

MICHAEL BOCHNIK

86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

The very wet spring was followed by a summer that was quite dry. June did have its normal rainfall, but July was very dry; less than an inch of rain fell for most of Region 9. Average rainfall for July is normally 4.0 inches. August came in with 2.2 inches where normal is 3.7. Temperatures in June averaged 2 degrees below normal, but in July and August were right on target. There were no major hot or cold spells for the period.

After a disappointing spring, summer was not much better. The only exceptional sightings included: Clay-colored Sparrow, found in Sullivan County in August for a first county record, and a few White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins which lingered into the summer. The crossbills were at a feeder in Pound Ridge, Westchester Co. in early June, and there were three reports of siskins from Ulster and Sullivan counties. In addition, a Yellow-breasted Chat spent most of June at Vassar Farms.

Winter Wren reports were up. They are apparently increasing in numbers.

The Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count covers parts of Westchester Co. and included many late birds usually found only in the colder months. A Red-necked Grebe stayed as late as 21 June off Marshland Conservancy and waterfowl found on the count included Brant, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Oldsquaw and Red-breasted Merganser. A Blue-winged Teal and Gadwall were found in Dutchess Co. in July.

The Putnam County Summer Bird Count included five new species. The most unusual was a Mourning Warbler found in Fahnestock. The other new species were Bald Eagle, Alder Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the latter being well reported elsewhere in Region 9, indicating numbers are increasing.

**Contributors:**, Michael Bochnik, Barbara Butler, Binnie Chase, Kris Conklin, Jeff Daley, Renee Davis, Valerie Freer, Sibyll Gilbert, Tom Gilbert, Ruth Greenwood, Lillian Misner, Dan Niven, Richard Nord, Peter Nye, Eleanor Pink, Peter Relson, Ruth Shursky, Henry Turner, Chris Valligny, Alison Van Keuren, Marion Van Wagner, Otis Waterman, Joe Weise.

**Abbreviations:** , Ash. R.-Ashokan Reservoir, BCF - Blue Chip Farm, CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, GA-Galeville Airport, GSSBC-Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count, HSP-Harriman State Park, JBNHS-John Burroughs Natural History Society, KP-Kakiat Park, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, MC Marshlands Conservancy, MRG-Mianus River Gorge, PCSBC-Putnam County Summer Bird Count, PP-Piermont Pier, RNC-Rye Nature Center, RTWBC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, SHSRM-Six and Half Staion Road Marsh.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Horned Grebe:** 1 Ash. R 9 Jun (LHVBL).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 MC 13-21 Jun (GSSBC,LHVBL).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 12 Norrie Pt 10 Jun.  
**Am. Bittern:** 1 Bashakill 20 Jun (VF).  
**Great Blue Heron:** 14, 12 young Buttercup 24 Jun; 8 nests Bearsville ULST Jun.  
**Little Blue Heron:** 1 MC 13-14 Jun; 2 SHSRM 8 Aug.  
**Tricolored Heron:** 1 PP 30 Aug (LHVBL).  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 MC 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).  
**Black Vulture:** few reported from each county except WEST.  
**Brant:** flock Rye 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 1 PP 19 Aug (LHVBL).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 1 DUTC 10 Jul (MV).  
**Gadwall:** 1 DUTC 10 Jul (MV).  
**Greater Scaup:** 4 Rye Beach 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 2 Rye Beach 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).  
**Oldsquaw:** 2 Rye Beach 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1 Rye Beach 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** nesting pair Bashakill 7 Jun (LHVBL); 2 Eldred 15 Jul (DN); 1 Wappinger's Creek Jul (EP,JD).  
**Bald Eagle:** 1 Constitution Marsh Jun (PCSBC); 2 y banded Swan Lake, SULL 10 Jun (PN).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1 MC 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 HSP 6 Jun (LHVBL); 7 PUTN Jun (PCSBC).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 1 Ferncliff 5 Jun ; 1 Sharparoon 19 Jun.  
**Virginia Rail:** 1 Bashakill 7 Jun; 14 Great Swamp Jun (PCSBC).  
**Sora:** 4 Great Swamp Jun (PCSBC).  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 BCF 6 Jun.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 2 PP 1-12 Jun.  
**Dunlin:** 2 PP 1-12 Jun.  
**Caspian Tern:** 2 PP 1-12 Jun (LHVBL).  
**Com. Tern:** 2 PP 1-12 Jun (LHVBL).

### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Long-eared Owl:** 1 DUTC 12-13 Aug (TG).

**Com. Nighthawk:** few MC 21 Aug.

**Whip-poor-will:** 1 Phillipsport 19 Jun (VF,LM).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1 Patterson Jun (PCSBC); 1 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); 1 Deep Hollow 3 Jun; 1 Tymor 9,17 Jun ; 13 on Jun SULL count.

### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 MC 21 Aug; 1 Tivoli Bays 30 Aug.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 Purchase 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 3 Deep Hollow 3 Jun 4 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); 1 MRG 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 1 Pound Ridge 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 8 DUTC 18 Jul.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 3 CPP 5 Jun (LHVBL); 1 MC 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 1 New Castle 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 1 Purchase 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 1 Sharparoon 19 Jun ; 1 Pawling 26 Jul.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 3 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); few MRG 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 6 SULL 20-21 (RD); 3 DUTC 22 Jul.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 1 Ash. R 9 Jun (LHVBL).

**Com. Raven:** reported from each county.

**Purple Martin:** few Rye 13-14 Jun; 1 DUTC 20 Jun ; 6 Verbank 12 Jul ; 2 Verbank 19 Aug.

**Bank Swallow:** few EGR 13-14 Jun; 1 DUTC 5 Aug.

**Winter Wren:** 5 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); few MRG 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 12 PUTN Jun (PCSBC); many other reports, numbers are increasing.

**Hermit Thrush:** 1 MRG 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 1 DUTC 20 Jun (EA,RN); 17 SULL 20-21 Jun.

### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 2 HSP 6 Jun (LHVBL).

**Nashville Warbler:** 1 DUTC 27 Aug.

**N. Parula:** 1 North White Plains 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).

**Magnolia Warbler:** 1 HSP 6 Jun (LHVBL); 2 White Plains 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 1 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); 1 Pawling 13 Jun.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 1 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); few MRG 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); few reports from DUTC early Jun.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); 1 DUTC 3 Jun.

**Pine Warbler:** 1 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 1 DUTC 2 Jun.

**Cerulean Warbler:** 1 Bashakill 7 Jun (LHVBL); 1 Kitchawan Preserve 13 Jun (LHVBL); 1 DUTC 4 Jun (BB,SG); usual numbers at Doodletown.

**N. Waterthrush:** 26 PUTN Jun (PCSBC); increasing in number.

**Mourning Warbler:** 1 Ash. R 9 Jun (LHVBL); 1 Fahnestock Park 21 Jun (PCSBC).

**Hooded Warbler:** 1 HSP 6 Jun (LHVBL); good numbers at Doodletown; few reports from DUTC.

**Canada Warbler:** 1 Peekamoose Mt. 5 Jun (LHVBL); 1 New Castle 13-14 Jun (GSSBC); 1 DUTC 3 Jun ; 1 SULL 20 Jun (RD,RS,KC).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 Vassar Farms 1-28 Jun (CV).

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**CLAY COLORED SPARROW:** 1 SULL 20,25 Aug (LHVBL), first county record.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1 DUTC 4 Aug.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1 BCF 6 Jun (LHVBL); 1 Ellenville 13-15 Jun (VF).

**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 6 MC 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 1 MC 13-14 Jun (GSSBC).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1 DUTC 10 Jun ; 1 MC 13-14 Jun (GSSBC), very late.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 2 Fahnestock Jun (PCSBC), breeding; 6 DUTC 3 Jun ; 1 DUTC 20 Jun (EA,RN); 4 Deep Hollow Rd. DUTC 18 Jul (RTWBC).

**E. Meadowlark:** 1 CPP 5 Jun (LHVBL).

**Orchard Oriole:** 2 CPP 5 Jun (LHVBL); 1 Pt. Ewen 6 Jun (LHVBL); 1 DUTC 28 Jun (PR); 1 DUTC 14 Jul; 1 DUTC 12 Jul.

**White-winged Crossbill:** few at feeder Pound Ridge (LHVBL), early Jun.

**Pine Siskin:** 1 Claryville 14 Jun (JW); 1 Cape Pond 10-17 Jul (VF); 1 Lake Katrine ULST 14 Aug (LHVBL).

(914) 785-3840 (work) (914) 237-9331 (home)  
E-mail: 76652.3224@compuserve.com





## REGION 10-MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550

ALVIN WOLLIN

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

June was wetter and a bit cooler than normal. July averaged about normal in temperature, with rainfall a mere 1.09 inches against the normal of 4.35. August was slightly warmer than normal, again with scant rainfall, 2.78 inches against a normal of 4.35. Thus the season was about average in temperature, but with few extremes, and substantially dry during the summer months. As usual, mid July saw the beginning of migrants, and by the end of August the Fall season had begun.

The most unusual bird of this or any season was a **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** discovered at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge by William Benner on Thursday, 27 August. The bird was seen on Friday, rediscovered on Saturday morning in a small section of the NW corner of the West Pond where, remarkably, it remained at that spot until the following Friday. **This is a first record for the lower 48 states.** The bird was seen by multi-hundreds coming from as far away as California and Alaska. The full report with photos can be seen in *The Kingbird* 1998 Sep; 48(3): 182-186. We might add that the refuge staff was very helpful, with information and strung tape at the site to mark the area and to keep the throngs on the path.

The "Patagonia Picnic Table" syndrome was certainly in effect on Saturday, 29 August at Jamaica Bay. Birders coming to see the Broad-billed Sandpiper also found a Western Kingbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler and Blue Grosbeak. NY state birders who attended the Federation Field Trip to Jamaica Bay on that day got more than their money's worth.

Paul Gillen reported that, while a whale watching trip out of Montauk on 21 June was productive, a similar trip on 21 August did not produce a single pelagic. Details of the first trip are listed under the species accounts.

A survey was made of the colonial nesting herons and gulls on Shooter's Island, Prall's Island, and other spoil islands in Kill Van Kull between Staten Island and New Jersey. While there was much nesting activity, one colony of some 250 pairs of birds evidently was devastated by human intervention. Other island communities surveyed appear to be healthy.

We are seeing a range extension of vultures in the Region. Turkey Vultures have been seen more widely and in greater numbers for some time. They are regular on migration and have been frequenting the Staten Island Landfill this past summer. Black Vultures have also been sighted in Staten Island, Central and Prospect parks.

After a slight pause, the Mute Swan population at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge continues its upward spiral with a count of 312 in mid season on the East Pond. This species and Double-crested Cormorant continue their breeding expansions in our Region.

Eric Salzman discovered an adult American Coot with 5 or 6 young at a restored marsh near Riverhead. As he points out, and I quote from his report, "This is an unusual record; these young, in immature plumage in mid-July, would have been hatched in mid-May. There is only one published breeding record for coot in Suffolk County (Mecox Bay, 1954), although a pair nested in Water Mill Pond in the late 1970's (*fide* Jim Ash)."

The sod fields off Route 105 in Riverhead, starting in mid August, attracted the usual shorebird flocks led by two dozen American Golden-Plover. Other shorebirds at this site included a few Upland, Baird's, and Buff-breasted sandpipers. Upland Sandpipers, becoming increasingly scarce in recent years, were noticeably so this year.

A **Thayer's Gull** was seen at Shinnecock on 6 June by Eric Salzman (details to us and to NYSARC).

On 19 July, Cliff Hagen found a **Common Raven** feeding at the Muldoon Ave dump, Staten Island. Receiving a call, Henry Flamm went to the site and confirmed the ID (details supplied). This is the second record for this species at the site. It might be noted that 4 Turkey Vultures and a Red-tailed Hawk were also present that day

As mentioned in the Spring report, the unusually wet May weather and birders being out later in the Spring resulted in numerous comments on late migrants; this was particularly true for warblers. Many birders may have been seeing possible breeding birds. To analyze this phenomenon, a search was made of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Surprisingly, we found that 21 warbler species were probable or confirmed nesters in Region 10 during the 1980-1985 period. For your information a list of these "Summer" warblers follows: Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

**A personal note:** This report completes 10 years as Region 10 Editors. We thank all our friends for their help and assistance in the past, the present, and into the future.

**Contributors:** George Barrowclough, William Benner, Steven Biasetti, Howard Boltson, Thomas W. Burke, James Clinton, Sr., Mike Cooper, Lester Feldman, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Ken Feustel, Paul H. Gillen, Jr., Cliff Hagen, Joel L. Horman, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Shaibal Mitra, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff,

Lore J. Schore, Peter Shen, Marty Sohmer, Norman Stotz, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin (AW).

**Abbreviations:** CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CUP-Cupsogue State Park; FI-Fire Island; FP-Forest Park; GKP-Great Kills park, SI; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LII-Line Islands; LI-Long Island; MNSA-Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MP- Montauk Point; MOR- Moriches; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PTM-Pelagic trip from Montauk, PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; RT-Route 105 sod farms; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island.

#### LOONS-DUCKS

**Cory's Shearwater:** 3 PTM 21 Jun; 2 mi S of JBCH 4 Jul.

**Greater Shearwater:** 280 PTM 21 Jun.

**Sooty Shearwater:** 3 off SHIN 7 Jun; 4 off SHIN 13 Jun; 19 PTM 21 Jun.

**Manx Shearwater:** off RMSP 6 Jun (TB).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 3 off SHIN 13 Jun; 5 PTM 21 Jun.

**Brown Pelican:** 1 FI 7 Jul; 10 JBCH 9 Jul; 9 SHIN 12 Jul; 1 MOR 13 Jul; 2-3 during next week inlets at JBCH, FI, SHIN; 10+ FI bridge 17 Jul.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** at least 53 nests at Stony Brook mill pond.

**Least Bittern:** 1 ad, 2 y SI 12 Jul, breeding on this site at River Road on oil tank property for the past several years.

**Cattle Egret:** only report came from SI and JBWR, after initial increase on LI east of New York City, this species is less common or absent.

**Black Vulture:** bird present since mid-May picked up emaciated 6 Jun at Montauk fide (TB).

**Turkey Vulture:** PP 6 Jun; Captree 6 Jun.

**Mute Swan:** 300+ east pond JBWR.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** N. Queens had its first Osprey nesting, on a platform erected in a salt marsh restoration area on Little Neck Bay, 2 y raised (SW).

**Bald Eagle:** SI 4 Jun; JBWR 4, 11 Jul.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** additional nesting sites of note, NY City building and SI.

**Am. Coot:** 1 ad, 5-6 y near Riverhead (fide Jim Ash), an unusual record, intro. It has

vanished or is nearly gone from previous breeding strongholds in the NY City area.

**Am. Golden Plover:** CUP 1 Jun; scattered reports from 16 Aug on, 26 max RT by end of Aug.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 6 Gabriski Airport, Westhampton 21 Aug thru; 20 Aug thru.

**Whimbrel:** Acabonack 6 Jul; scattered reports JBWR to CUP 2 Aug thru.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** LII 31 Jul; then scattered reports JBWR to CUP 16 Aug thru.

**Marbled Godwit:** CUP 22 Jun, LI 11 Jul; then scattered reports JBWR to CUP 16 Aug thru.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** single widely scattered 25 Aug thru.

**BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER:** JBWR 27 Aug-4 Sep (WB,mob,NYSARC), **first NY and lower 48 states record.**

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 1 RT 20 Aug; increasing to 8 by 30 Aug; a few others JBWR to Cutchogue.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR 10 Jun; 2 JBWR 9, 22 Aug; Riverhead farm pond 18 Aug.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 2 JBWR 9-10 Aug; JBWE 25 Aug (mob).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** Democrat Pt 1 Jun.

**Black-headed Gull:** BR 27 Aug, old one-foot back for its 9th year per Jim Ash.

**THAYER'S GULL:** SHIN 6 Jun (ES!).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** GKP 22 Aug; BR 27 Aug.

**Gull-billed Tern:** per staff 5 pr nested with Com. Terns on the marsh islands off the foot of the MNSA; numbers of these pairs were seen flying over the area hawking insects

during the summer, and a pr fed y still in juv plumage on the property in Aug; birds were seen during Jul at JBWE to the east and CM to the west.

**Royal Tern:** CUP late Jul; others on South Shore 16 Aug thru.

**Black Tern:** SHIN 13 Jun; scattered reports JBWR to Sagg Pond 16 Aug thru.

**Black Skimmer:** 1 seen flying west over 168th Street, Manhattan 11 July (GB).

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Chuck-will's-widow:** 4 heard Fresh Pond, Acabonack 6 Jul; others usual places Oak Beach, Riverhead.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Connetquot 6 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** PP 7 Jun.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 2 CP 4 June; others to 13 Jun.

**W. Kingbird:** near FI banding station 18 Jun (SM), very rare in the spring; JBWR 28 Aug.

**COMMON RAVEN:** Muldoon Ave dump, SI 19-20 Jul (CH, HF!).

#### WARBLERS

Syschiff@ascensionet.com

A list of warblers warblers lingering into summer, many PO or PR in the NYBBA, may be found in the *intro*.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** singing PP 4 Jul; JBWR 29 Aug.

**Cerulean Warbler:** Maple Swamp area, Flanders 31 July!, perhaps a breeding bird (ES!, *et al*).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** JBWR 29 Aug.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** bird found feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird, Hunter's Garden, Riverhead; same or another bird feeding a young warbler later in the same area (DF); PP 19 Aug.

**Mourning Warbler:** thru early Jun.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** apparent resident bird JBWR, no evidence of breeding.

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Oak Beach 6 Jun.

**Blue Grosbeak:** JBWR 29 Aug.

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** SI, JBWR, MNSA, JBCH, CB, SH.

**Evening Grosbeak:** CP 1 Jun; JBWE 11 Jul (EL,AW), unusual date.



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*The Kingbird* publishes papers on all aspects of the ornithology of New York State. Articles should adhere to the standard journal format: Title - Abstract - Introduction - Methods - Results/Observations - Discussion - Conclusion - Literature Cited. **Titles** tell what the article is about. The birds involved should be named, either specifically or as some appropriate higher taxa. **Abstracts** must be terse, but able to stand alone, separate from the article. The **Introduction** should provide the background necessary to understand what follows. The **Methods** explains how the information being reported was obtained. The **Results/Observations** reveals what was found. The **Discussion** puts those results in perspective with the current knowledge base. The **Conclusion** is essentially the punch line, stating what the authors want the readers to take away. The **Literature Cited** tells where any information other than the authors' came from. It must state the exact pages! If you have no literature to cite, then your manuscript is not ready for submission; you have more work to do.

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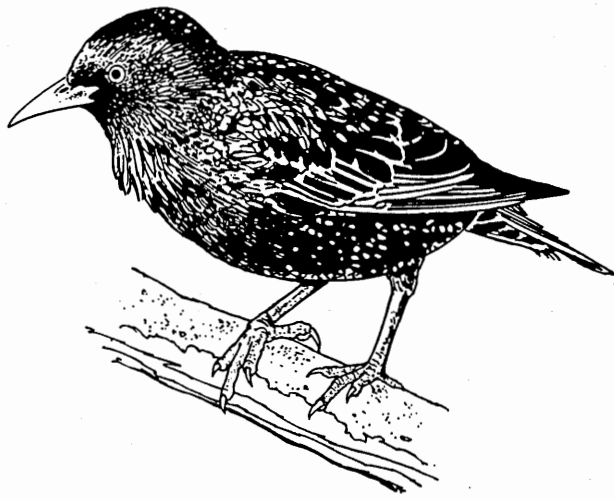
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**Editor of *THE KINGBIRD***

Donald A. Windsor, PO Box 604, Norwich NY 13815

**Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS***

Phyllis R. Jones, 9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy NY 12770

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**Web Site:** Barbara A. Butler

RD 2 Box 161, Verbank NY 12585

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