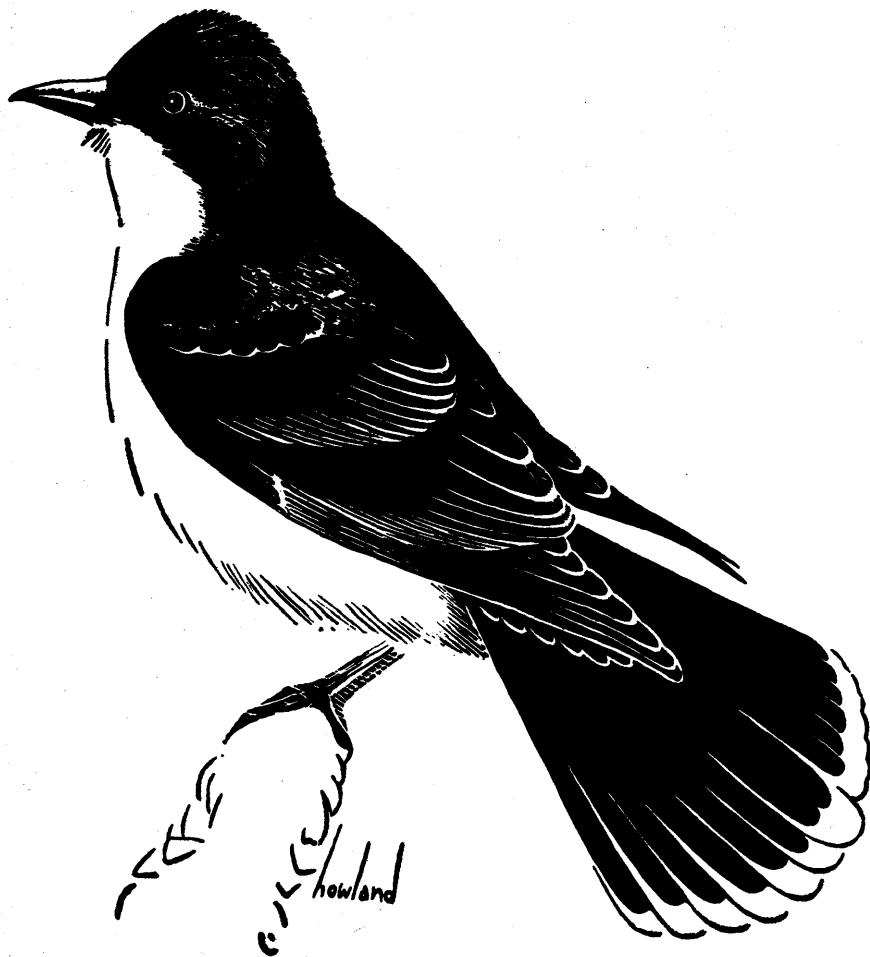


# The **KINGBIRD**



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# The KINGBIRD

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## EURASIAN SUBSPECIES OF MEW GULL (*Larus canus canus*)<sup>1</sup> ON LONG ISLAND

By Andrew Guthrie (1), Angus Wilson (2) and Anthony Lauro (3)

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On Sunday, 28 Feb 1999, the authors met on the east side of Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk County, NY to search for a subadult European Mew ("Common") Gull (*Larus canus canus*) that Lauro had identified earlier. We were eventually able to carefully study and photograph the gull at close range. To our knowledge this constitutes the first record of Mew Gull in New York away from the Niagara or St. Lawrence rivers. Here we recount the discovery and identification of this bird and review the status of Common Gull in New York State and the northeast.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

As far back as 31 Jan 1999, while scoping Shinnecock Inlet from the west side, Thomas W. Burke had gotten a tantalizing glimpse of an intriguing gull feeding behind the jetty on the east side of the inlet. Only seen briefly in flight, the bird superficially resembled a first-year Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*), but Burke was struck by the crisp black tail band, contrasting with the rest of the tail and uppertail coverts, which appeared completely white. Although distance and viewing conditions prevented any closer scrutiny, Burke relayed the observation to several local birders in the hope that they might relocate the gull and obtain better views.

On 6 Feb 1999, Anthony Lauro was birding the east side of Shinnecock Inlet when he noted a mid-sized gull actively foraging in the surf just east of the jetty. Upon seeing the bird's sharply demarcated black tail band, Lauro recalled the gull seen a week earlier by Burke. In addition, he noted that the bird appeared small, with a dainty head and bill, and flew more buoyantly than is typical of Ring-billed Gull. This combination of

<sup>1</sup>The species *Larus canus* appears on the A.O.U. and New York State checklists as Mew Gull. The name "Common Gull" refers to the nominate subspecies, *L. c. canus*, found primarily in Europe. For simplicity, this popular English name will be used throughout the article. Additional discussion of Mew Gull taxonomy is provided below.

features led him to believe it was a first-year Common Gull. Lauro telephoned Wilson and Guthrie, separately, from the field to discuss the identification. We discussed pertinent field marks that we recalled and Guthrie and Wilson read some additional passages from several references including Grant, 1986 and Harris, 1988. Again, however, the gull was seen only in flight and did not allow close scrutiny of the field marks which might confirm its identification.

On Sunday 21 Feb, Lauro and Patricia Lindsay again located the gull flying along the surf line immediately east of the Shinnecock Inlet. They managed to get better looks at the tail pattern, confirming the essentially unmarked uppertail coverts, and were struck again by its small-billed, dove-headed appearance. The bird landed briefly, and Lauro was able to study the pattern of the wing coverts. This second viewing convinced Lauro that it was in fact a Common Gull. Based on additional discussions with Wilson and Guthrie, a remaining concern regarding the gull's positive identification was that the gray color of the mantle did not appear darker than that of Ring-billed Gull - a field mark highlighted in every available reference. We will return to this issue in the identification section below.

The following Friday, 26 Feb, Gerta and John Fritz and Joan Quinlan were able to study the gull, and they were also struck by its distinctive "jizz" and markings, and agreed that the correct identification was Common Gull.

Based on the gull's continuing presence, Wilson and Guthrie decided to cut short a potentially exciting Saturday of gulling at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island. The two made the long trek to Shinnecock Inlet, arriving in the late afternoon, walked out to the east jetty, and were soon joined by Lauro. We searched unsuccessfully for the gull for almost an hour. Finally, as the light was rapidly fading, the gull flew along the beach, passing directly over our heads. Based on our experience with three of the four taxa within the Mew Gull complex, we were impressed by its extremely small-headed and thin-billed appearance, the striking tail pattern, and its narrow looking wings. It circled over us once and then flew several hundred yards out to the ocean where it landed next to a typical adult Ring-billed Gull. Our excitement quickly turned to frustration as we realized that the combination of distance and twilight would prevent us from studying and photographing the bird. We had no choice but to return the next morning.

Arriving shortly after dawn the following morning, we again spent one-and-a-half fruitless hours working up and down the beach until, finally, the gull made another brief appearance, this time flying past us to

the west and continuing alarmingly far down the beach on the far side of the inlet. After another agonizingly long wait, the gull returned, and this time obligingly foraged close to shore in the cove just east of the jetty. We were able to carefully note and photograph the essential field marks of a first-year Common Gull in flight: the well-defined, clear-cut black tail band on an otherwise white tail, the virtually spotless rump and upper-tail coverts and the subdued upperwing pattern. The tail and rump pattern ruled out *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, the subspecies of Mew Gull found in western North America, which has a strongly barred rump and extensively dark tail in first-winter plumage.

After a short while, the gull landed and began feeding on the beach, allowing us to study and photograph it at close range. We carefully noted the thin, "weedy" bill, which lacked any obvious gonydeal angle; the gentle, dove-headed and large-eyed appearance; and, perhaps most importantly, we were able to confirm that the lesser and median wing coverts were uniform brown with rounded rather than pointed tips, positively eliminating Ring-billed Gull. We noted that the bird had a number of retained juvenal scapulars, so that the gray mantle was reduced in size compared to a more typical first-winter bird. We believe that this delayed molt contributed to the difficulty in assessing the shade of the mantle compared to Ring-billed Gull, as we will discuss in the identification section.

Over the next several weeks, many birders were able to study the Common Gull as it regularly returned to the east side of Shinnecock Inlet where it was first sighted. Later, the gull was relocated further east, near Agawam Pond in Southampton, NY, and was seen both there and at the inlet until it was last reported on 23 March 1999.

## IDENTIFICATION

Separation of first-year Common and Ring-billed gulls is not simple and care must be taken to use a combination of structural and plumage features. Common Gull averages 10-15% smaller than the corresponding ages and sexes of Ring-billed Gull, and has a smaller bill and shorter and thinner wings (Cramp, 1983). However, the smallest Ring-billed Gulls fall within the size range of Common Gull; small female Ring-billed Gulls, particularly, can be problematic, especially when seen together with more typical Ring-billed Gulls (Tove, 1993; Lauro & Spencer, 1980).

The Common Gull at Shinnecock showed the classic structural features. It was smaller and thinner-winged than Ring-billed Gull in flight.

When it landed, we could see its more rounded head, and, of particular importance, the short, thin, pointed bill, as opposed to the heavier, more parallel-sided bill of Ring-billed Gull (Tove, 1993; Harris, 1989). The combination of head and bill structure, along with the relatively large eye, contributed to the "gentle" expression exhibited by the Common Gull, in contrast with the "fierce" look typical of Ring-billed Gull (Grant, 1986). The color of the bill also supported the identification. As shown by the Shinnecock gull, Common Gull typically has a brownish-gray base to the diffusely black-tipped bill, as opposed to the generally pinkish based, sharply black-tipped bill of first-year Ring-billed Gull (Grant, 1986; Harris, 1989; Tove, 1993).

In order to firmly establish the identification, we took care to examine specific plumage details. When the bird was in flight, the sharply demarcated black subterminal tail band that is characteristic of Common Gull was obvious. Most Ring-billed Gulls show a more diffuse tail band, with a less clearly defined border and often one or more additional narrow bands along the inner edge (Grant, 1986; Tove, 1993). While this difference is sometimes thought to be diagnostic, it is clear that a few first-year Ring-billed Gulls can also show this tail pattern. The Middle Atlantic Coast regional report of the Winter 1997-1998 issue of *Field Notes* discussed one such individual, and references another gull studied and photographed by Wilson and Guthrie at Breezy Point, Queens Co., NY in March 1998 (Iliff, 1998). That individual displayed a strikingly sharp tail band, but all other plumage and structural features indicated that the bird was a Ring-billed Gull.

Also contributing to the Shinnecock Common Gull's distinctive appearance in flight was the relatively muted upperwing pattern. Ring-billed Gulls generally have a highly contrasting upperwing, created by a combination of darker brown outer primaries and secondaries, and paler gray inner coverts, which form a distinctly pale mid-wing panel (Grant, 1986; Harris, 1991).

Perhaps the best single plumage feature for separating the two species is the patterning of the upper wing coverts. Overall, Ring-billed Gull shows a more mottled folded wing, created by the pointed, arrowhead-shaped dark centers and wide white margins of the lesser and median coverts. The greater coverts tend to have more dark markings than on Common Gull and the paler gray base color contrasts more with the darker brown of the wing coverts. On Common Gull, the lesser and median coverts have wide, rounded brown centers and narrow U-shaped margins, and the darker gray greater coverts lack the dark internal markings of Ring-billed Gull, creating a more uniform folded wing. The ter-

tials differ as well; dark brown and more mottled on Ring-billed Gull, with narrow white edges, while on Common Gull the centers of the tertials are a more uniform, paler brown, with distinctly wide whitish edges. (Lauro, 1980; Tove, 1993). It is important to note that this feature is only useful as long as feather wear does not obscure the pattern of the individual feathers, and can be difficult to assess with any certainty unless extended close views can be obtained (Grant, 1986). Close study of the Shinnecock gull, both in the field and from photographs taken at close range, enabled us to confirm that the covert and tertial patterns matched that of Common Gull, and conclusively eliminated Ring-billed Gull.

Another feature often cited for the identification of Common Gull in all post-juvenile plumages is the perceptibly darker mantle compared to Ring-billed Gull. All references available to the authors highlight this difference as an important mark for field identification; the statements in Peter Grant's classic *Gulls: A Guide to Identification* are typical:

"Ring-billed Gull resembles Common Gull....The grey of the mantle is much paler... [In first-year birds], because of the paleness of the grey upperparts, Ring-billed lacks the contrasting dark grey saddle which is obvious on first-year... Common Gulls." (Grant, 1986).

We were initially troubled by the fact that the gray of the mantle on the Shinnecock Common Gull did not appear discernibly darker than that of Ring-billed Gull. There are important points to consider when applying this field mark. Observers familiar with side-by-side comparisons of Common and Ring-billed gulls note that while there is a real difference in mantle shade, often extended views in a variety of lighting situations may be required to correctly assess the relative mantle color (M. Garner, B. Mactavish, pers. comm.) In addition, and perhaps more relevant, in Common Gulls that retain a number of juvenal scapulars, the gray of the mantle feathers can appear paler than normal (M. Garner, pers. comm.)

As stated above, *L. c. brachyrhynchus* is eliminated by the tail pattern. North American Mew Gulls in first-year plumage have an extensively dark tail and heavily barred rump and uppertail coverts. They also retain substantially brownish underparts well into first-winter plumage, and appear darker mantled than *canus*. *L. c. heinei*, included in the "Common Gull" group along with *canus*, is very similar in all plumages. It tends to have darker gray upperparts, which should be noticeable on a first-winter bird, and is somewhat larger than *canus*. The distribution of *heinei*, as discussed below, suggests that its occurrence in North America is unlikely. Another remote possibility for an eastern North American vagrant is "Kamchatka" Gull (*L. c. kamschatschensis*), the Siberian subspecies of Mew Gull, which in many respects is intermediate between *L. c. canus* and



Ring-billed Gull. "Kamchatka" Gull can be eliminated by details of the tail and rump pattern. Although "Kamchatka" Gull has a dark terminal tail band, it is not as clear-cut as on Common Gull, with the brown color extending up the inner webs of the tail feathers. The rump of "Kamchatka" Gull also shows prominent brown barring, unlike the clean white or lightly marked rump of Common Gull, and the bill is typically pink-based with a sharply demarcated black tip (Carey & Kennerly, 1996).

## STATUS IN NEW YORK AND NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA

Mew Gull is found throughout the northern hemisphere, except for eastern North America. There are four subspecies; two of these - *L. c. canus*, found in western Europe; and *L. c. heinei*, found in eastern Europe and Russia - comprise the old-world Common Gull. The remaining subspecies are *L. c. brachyrhynchus* (formerly known as Short-billed Gull), found in western North America; and *L. c. kamschatschensis*, "Kamchatka" Gull, which is found in eastern Siberia.

*L. c. canus* is the most numerous of the four subspecies. Its European range and population have been expanding over the last few decades. Iceland was first colonized in 1955, and the breeding population appears to be expanding rapidly. Some 60 breeding pairs in the early 1980's had risen to 300-400 pairs by the end of the decade (Cramp, 1983; Snow and Perrins, 1998).

Common Gull is a rare but now seemingly regular vagrant to the east coast of North America, although its true status is clouded by a frequent failure to differentiate *canus* from *brachyrhynchus*. There are accepted records of *canus* for Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. In several cases the same individual has returned for multiple winters. The majority of North American records have come from the maritime provinces of Canada, suggesting that these birds originate in Iceland or the Faroe Islands, enter North America through eastern Canada, and then either move along the St. Lawrence Seaway - there are 19 records for the Province of Quebec (Bannon and David, 1996) - or filter down the Atlantic seaboard. This hypothesis is supported by a first-winter individual photographed in St. John's, Newfoundland first seen on 20 Oct 1990 that had been banded on 14 Jul 1990 as a chick in a breeding colony in northern Iceland. This same individual returned to St. John's most autumns until 1995 (B. Mactavish, pers. comm.) The occurrence of mul-

tiple individuals is not unprecedented in both Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and in recent years three to four wintering individuals or more - as many as eight were noted in 1998 - has become typical for Newfoundland. In 1988 a first-winter bird seen in March and again as a second-winter in August is believed to have remained for the summer (B. Mactavish, pers. comm.) Further south, Massachusetts records of Mew Gull fall into two seasonal classes: more than twenty records (including two specimens) from January to the first week of May were attributed to *canus*, while five records from August to October were attributed to *brachyrhynchus*. A number of the *canus* records may represent the return of a single individual (Veit and Petersen, 1993). It is possible, however, that Common Gulls occurring in the mid-Atlantic states originate in the British Isles or mainland Europe, having crossed the Atlantic via a more direct route. Although not involving the same species, this possibility is exemplified by a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*) observed on Long Island at Cold Spring Harbor, NY that had been banded in a Dutch breeding colony (de Knijff and van Swelm, 1998). The recovery of additional banded individuals would doubtless shed new light on this interesting question.

There have been five previous records of the Mew Gull complex from New York State. The first two records, 4 October 1986 at the Moses-Saunders Dam near Massena, and 29 November and 4 December 1992, in the Niagara Falls area, were identified as *L. c. brachyrhynchus*. The third record, 27-29 December 1992, again at the Moses-Saunders Dam, was identified as *L. c. canus* (Levine, 1998). The New York State Avian Records Committee has recently accepted two additional records of Mew Gull, both along the Niagara River: one 10 Nov 1996 in the gorge below Niagara Falls; and one at the Robert Moses Power Station in Lewiston, Niagara Co. 17 Nov 1996 (Andrle, 1999). These records were accepted by the Committee as Mew Gull, but not to subspecific level.

To our knowledge, the Common Gull at Shinnecock represents the first record of Mew Gull in downstate New York or Long Island, and is the first occurrence for New York State to be documented by a photograph or other physical evidence.

Many thanks to Martin Garner, Julian Hough, Bruce Mactavish, and John Vanderpoel for discussions regarding the identification issues involved, and to Jim Lowe and Paul Lehman for assistance in details of records for New York and New Jersey.

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First-winter Common Gull, Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co. 28 Feb 1999. Note the slender bill, rounded head, distinctive pale mid-wing panel and the retained juvenal scapulars



Note striking solid black tail band contrasting with the clean white bases of the retrices and the more compact, "hunched" appearance when compared to Ring-billed Gull

Photographs by Angus Wilson

**A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT  
EXHIBITING MALE AND FEMALE PLUMAGE  
(*Bilateral Gynandromorph*) IN ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK**

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**ABSTRACT**

A bird that is genetically part female and part male is called a gynandromorph. An apparent bilateral gynandromorph Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) was banded, photographed, and released at Crown Point State Historic Site, Essex County, NY, on 27 May 1999. Presumably the same individual was observed singing the next day. We believe that this is the first bilaterally gynandromorphic Common Yellowthroat reported.

**OBSERVATIONS**

Between May 8 and May 31, 1999, we operated a banding station located on the grounds of the 360 acre Crown Point State Historic Site at the northern tip of the Crown Point peninsula (44°01'N, 73°26'W), two miles southeast of Port Henry, NY. Mistnets were set in hawthorn thickets (*Crataegus* sp.) west of the ruins of the British fort. On the afternoon of May 27, a Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) was captured which was an apparent bilateral gynandromorph.

This Common Yellowthroat appeared to be male on the right side, with slightly mottled black forehead and auriculars forming a mask on the right face (Figure 1). The left auricular was olive brown, as in a female of the species. The gray forehead line over the mask occurred on the right (male) side only. The rectrices were worn. We aged the warbler conservatively as after-hatching-year (AHY), although in the experience of both master banders the mask's mottled appearance and the thin superior gray line, without white outline, suggested a second-year (SY) bird. Sex was recorded as unknown (U), with qualification. After discussion,

we decided not to collect the bird, although we were aware of the importance of a specimen. It was banded with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band, photographed and released that afternoon. Regrettably, no measurements were taken.

According to Gill (1995, p.352), "Nothing is known about the breeding activities of such birds." On the following morning (May 28) at about 6:15 a.m., Peterson was walking near the northern tip of the peninsula in search of an Orchard Oriole which he had heard singing earlier. He noticed a small bird perched on the dead upper limb of a tall deciduous tree. Through 10X42 binoculars, he could see the left side of a plain olive bird, well-lit by the rising sun behind it, throwing its head back and opening its bill in song. Moving closer, he could just hear a well-spaced "tee...tee...tee," the end of the song. Finally, he heard the song resolve into the familiar "witchity-witchity-witchity-witch" of the Common Yellowthroat, issuing from an olive-brown bird with yellow undertail coverts, but no visible mask. The songster paused to turn its head in a glance over its right shoulder, revealing the black mask on the right side. Shortly after, the bird flew to the west, not to be seen again. No band was seen, but the obvious presumption is that this was the gynandromorph banded the day before.

Because the banding station closed on May 31, we do not know whether this Common Yellowthroat, one of 32 banded at Crown Point between May 10-30, 1999, was a late transient or newly arrived local bird. But we did learn that at least one bilateral gynandromorph could initiate the breeding activity of singing.

## DISCUSSION

Normally, the bodies of birds and other animals - humans included - show a certain symmetry. External bilateral symmetry, in which the left side is the mirror image of that of the right, is the norm in higher order animals. While bilateral asymmetry due to injury is common, developmental asymmetry is unusual. A bird, or other animal, that is genetically part female and part male is called a gynandromorph. Collectively, they are referred to as "gynanders" (Kumerlove, 1954).

Butterfly watchers may be familiar with bilateral sexual mosaics that crop up from time to time. This would seem unlikely in birds and mammals due to the impact of hormones on secondary sexual characters, say size and color in birds. However, reports of avian mosaics and gynandromorphs have appeared sporadically since 1874 (Bond 1914;

Laybourne 1967; Witschi 1961, p. 127). Kumerloeve (1987) presents an extensive list of such reports. In native wild birds, gynandromorphs have been reported most frequently from the family Fringillidae, particularly Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) in the U.S. But the condition is now known to occur in many avian families, including Emberizidae (Patten 1993). It may be that the perceived rarity of the condition is due to its not being well-known among the birding public or to the transitory nature of many field observations. For example, a sighting may be written off as an incomplete or delayed molt. As Evening Grosbeaks frequent bird feeders, and are large and, have dramatic plumage differences between the sexes (dimorphic plumage), the mosaics and gynandromorphs among them may be more readily noticed than those of other species. This might lead to over reporting in comparison to other species.

Harrison (1964 p. 645) and others (Bond 1914; Crew and Munro 1938; Holland 1975; Huxley and Bond 1934; Laybourne 1967; Lillie 1931; Lowther 1977; Terres 1980, p. 472) indicate that mosaics and gynanders may exhibit dimensional development consistent with the "gender" of the particular parts. That is, those parts that exhibit female characters will be proportionately smaller if that is the normal condition for the female of that species. Furthermore, the dimensional differences will be within the normal ranges for females of the species which are not gynandromorphs when compared to normal males (Lowther 1977).

Avian gynanders result from an aberration that occurs during the first mitotic division of the fertilized ovum. One half of the embryo carries the male (ZZ) chromosomes and the other half the female (ZW) chromosomes, becoming a bilateral gynandromorph (Gill 1995, p. 352). [Note: Gill (1990 p. 323) used XX and XY, respectively, while Witschi (1961 p. 117) uses ZZ and ZO with the "O" indicating the lack of a partner gene in the female]. Not only do such birds have both an ovary and a testis, but the plumage shows a sharp division down the median line: female on one side, male on the other (Gill 1995, p.352). Usually, the plumage corresponds to the internal anatomy with the female side being to the left. However, Kumerloeve (1954) reports that the reverse is true in about 15% of the cases.

While a true gynandromorph has both a testis and an ovary, an avian mosaic may have one or the other (Hollander 1975). In these birds the sexual characters of the plumage are scattered about, but sometimes the distribution approximates the bilateral asymmetry of gynanders. Hollander (1975) presents several excellent photographs of spontaneous

[natural] mosaics in pigeons. Of the 182 mosaic individuals he studied over a 25 year period, only one was a true gynandromorph. He hypothesizes that mosaics are not caused by the mitotic aberration cited above, but by bipaternity with the incorporation of some supernumerary sperm into the embryo, thus providing the conflicting genotypes displayed in the asymmetrical phenotypic patchwork of male and female plumage [the mosaic] (Graves et al. 1996). Huxley and Bond (1934) offer another explanation of mosaics. They reason that an ovo-testis is present, and that this gland, containing both ovarian and testicular tissues, is capable of producing both male and female hormones, thereby causing portions of the plumage to exhibit female and other portions to exhibit male traits

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

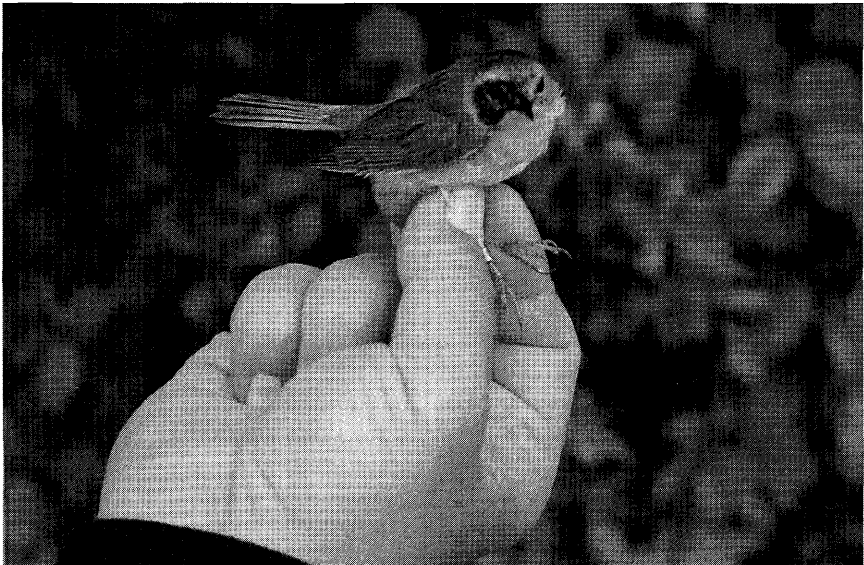
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**Figure 1:** Bilateral gynandromorph Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) banded 2410-18813 at the Crown Point State Historic Site, Essex County NY, on 27 May 1999.

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## FIRST RECORD OF SWAINSON'S HAWK FOR LONG ISLAND

Joseph DiCostanzo and Helen Hays  
Great Gull Island Project  
American Museum of Natural History  
New York City 10024

On Friday, September 18, 1998 Helen Hays and a volunteer crew of sixteen arrived at Great Gull Island, Suffolk County for three days of maintenance work. Great Gull Island, a field station of the American Museum of Natural History, lies seven miles east of Orient Point on the north fork of Long Island and is the site of a long-term study of nesting Common and Roseate terns (Heilbrun, 1970). After unloading the boat, Hays led the group on a tour of the island. On the way to the eastern end they encountered a large, very dark, buteo which landed atop one of the wooden blind towers. The bird was unafraid and allowed close approach. Several people, among them Margie Haggerty and Lisa Neild, were able to take pictures of the bird. There were lots of comments and tentative identifications including a barely audible "Swainson's?" from Doug Kopsco, but no definite identification was made.

The bird remained on the island all weekend. Whenever the work crew moved down the island in a line, picking up traps and nest markers, the hawk would land on one of the blinds ahead of the group. It would stay there until people were within twenty feet of it and then it would fly. On Sunday the hawk flew down from a tower about 200 feet away from where volunteers were sitting at an outside table. They heard the sound of its wings as it flew by them to seize a live Meadow Vole, (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) just beyond the table. The hawk then flew back to the tower where it ate the vole. The hawk often hovered while hunting over brushy and open areas on the island. The bird was still on the island when everyone left on Sunday, September 20.

When Alan Poole arrived on Great Gull Island on Monday, September 28 he found a buteo there matching the mystery bird in plumage and behavior. It was still on the island on Saturday, October 3 when Hays arrived with another work crew to close the island buildings for the winter. The bird continued to be inquisitive, and to land on blinds and buildings not far from people. On the last day of the weekend everyone swam off the South Beach of the island. The hawk landed on a blind overlooking the South Beach remaining there until the swimmers headed for the buildings at the center of the island. As they approached the buildings

they looked up to see the hawk landing on a tower overlooking the area. The bird seemed surprisingly unafraid, however, there were no bands or jesses which would suggest it was anything other than a wild bird.

Migrant hawks (Sharp-shinned, *Accipiter striatus*, Red-shouldered, *Buteo lineatus*, Broad-winged, *B. platypterus*, Red-tailed, *B. jamaicensis*) sometimes remain on Great Gull Island for periods of time waiting for just the right weather conditions to move on. While on the island they feed on the meadow voles and sometimes a young tern. The mystery hawk was still on the island when everyone left October 4.

Though DiCostanzo was not on the island for either of the weekends when work crews visited, he did hear about the mystery hawk from Helen Hays. When copies of photographs arrived at the Great Gull Island office at the museum in November, DiCostanzo immediately suggested it was a dark-morph, juvenile Swainson's Hawk (*B. swainsoni*). Lisa Neild's close-up color photograph (Fig. 1) shows a very dark buteo, chocolate-brown above and very heavily streaked dark chocolate-brown below. The bird has a very prominent white patch on its face immediately above the bill. The tail is marked with alternating gray and dark brown bands with the dark bands getting slightly larger toward the end of the tail. The terminal band is gray. The wings are long with the wing tips reaching slightly beyond the end of the tail when the bird is perched. A check of the collection at the museum by DiCostanzo confirmed his first impression that the bird was a dark-morph, juvenile Swainson's Hawk. The next day DiCostanzo again examined specimens, this time in the company of Dean Amadon, George Barrowclough, Carol Griffiths and Manny Levine, who all concurred in the identification. The dark-morph, juvenile Swainson's Hawk is not illustrated in the standard field guides but Wheeler and Clark (1995) describe and picture this plumage.

Swainson's Hawks are characterized by Bent (1937) and Palmer (1988) as being among the tamest of hawks. Preston (1885) reported a Swainson's Hawk boldly pouncing upon a field mouse close to his horse-drawn plough. As we moved about Great Gull Island on both weekends the hawk was always nearby. As there are over 30 blinds on the island it was easy for the bird to find a perch near us. We were not aware of frightening voles that the hawk could pick up, but it might have happened.

The Swainson's Hawk is a buteo of the open spaces (grasslands, shrublands and open woodlands) of western North America which migrates south through Mexico and Central America to its chief winter range in

southern South America (England, *et al.*, 1997). The species migrates primarily west of the Mississippi River. However, Howell (1932) noted Swainson's Hawk as a casual migrant in South Florida. Brown and Amadon (1968) report that since 1950 up to 300, almost all immatures, have wintered in South Florida. They note the birds occur on trees or fence posts overlooking fields that are being plowed, flying from these perches to pick up insects or rodents forced into the open by the plowing activity. Having examined banding records as well as specimens of Swainson's Hawk from south Florida, Browning (1974) concludes most of the birds are immatures. Roberts and Woolfenden (1992) point out numbers of Swainson's Hawk occur regularly in winter in the Keys and mainland southeast Florida, with a good deal of variation in the numbers from year to year.

Swainson's Hawk has been reported in eastern North America with increasing frequency since the 1970's (England, *et al.*, 1997). Dodge and Nicoletti (1998) note that of the fifty-three New York State records of Swainson's Hawk, forty-seven have been since 1979, two years after the formation of The Hawk Migration Association of North America. They underline the coincidence of increased sightings of Swainson's Hawk in the northeast and midwest with the increase in numbers of hawkwatching sights during the same period. Nearly all sightings of Swainson's Hawk in New York State have been at upstate hawkwatches, most in the spring. This is the first record of Swainson's Hawk from Long Island.

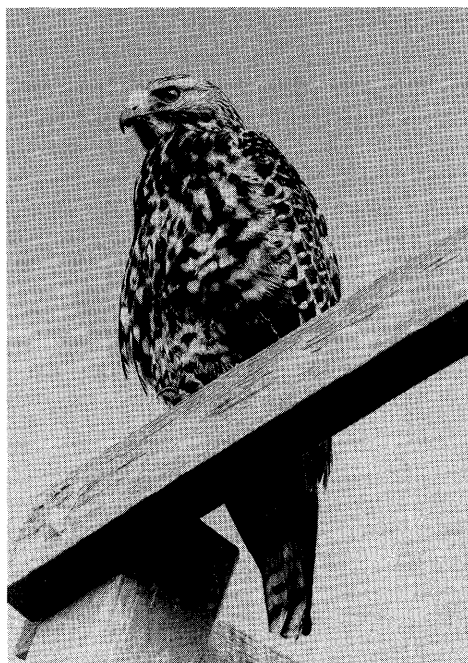
### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. Dean Amadon for reading the manuscript and offering helpful comments which improved this note.

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Swainson's Hawk on Great Gull  
Island 18 Sep 1998

Fig. 1 Photo by Lisa Neild

# LONG-TERM ANALYSIS OF MIGRATORY WATERFOWL VISITATION, COLLINS LAKE, SCHENECTADY COUNTY

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## ABSTRACT

Quantitative daily observations of grounded migratory waterbirds at Collins Lake, Scotia, Schenectady County, NY, from 21 March 1988 through 30 May 1998, suggest a fixed duration for the spring migration regardless of ice-off date, i.e. early ice-off dates are not followed by a prolonged period of migration and, conversely, delayed ice-off is not followed by a relatively brief migratory period. It is proposed that such "temporal structure" provides improved resource allocation for earlier arriving senior birds. Incidence of grounding by migrants was greater in spring than in fall.

## INTRODUCTION

The behavior of migratory waterfowl has been intensively reviewed (Hochbaum, 1955; Nisbet and Drury, 1968; Bellrose, 1976; Richardson, 1990; Alerstam, 1990) with regulatory factors (such as weather), navigational-orientational characterization and mechanism (radar survey is especially important) receiving particular attention. But regardless of the hundreds of studies published, long-term, daily census of grounded migratory waterfowl has received little attention. This is a significant flaw in the record because it is crucial to fully characterize the phenomenon of migration for its best analysis. The study at hand reporting on ten years of daily observation and census of migratory waterfowl at Collins Lake, Scotia, Schenectady Co., NY, provides some of the needed detail. The many numbers for 75 species of waterbirds are available on-line at [www.virtual.union.edu/~birds/](http://www.virtual.union.edu/~birds/). Several phenomena relating to the timing of first-of-season appearance, day of peak occurrence, last-of-season appearance, ice-off dates and seasonal incidents of increased migration are also presented.

## STUDY SITE AND METHODS

Collins Lake is an eutrophic, spring-fed, oval (no concealed bays), waterbody of 55-acre extent of kettlehole and river-meander origin. An elongate island is centrally located. Collins Lake is part of Collins Park, a major recreational resource of Schenectady County bordering the

northern shore of the Mohawk River. Motor boats and hunting are prohibited. The spring-fed character results in delayed ice-on and early ice-off thus fostering an extended season of visitation by waterbirds.

The lake was observed daily from March 21, 1988, through May 30, 1998, from two locations, one at the east end of the lake and one at the south. Other observation points were used when necessary. Binoculars and spotting scope facilitated counts. Data were recorded on standard forms and totaled on a weekly basis in terms of total standard sightings. Other authors have used the term "bird days" in a similar vein. Weekly summaries were then entered on-line. Ice conditions, cloud cover, movement, air and water temperature, lake and river level, air visibility, growth of aquatic vegetation, and other environmental variables were regularly recorded.

Several categories of birds are excluded from the study to better focus on migratory behavior: resident waterbirds such as Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Black Duck and Mallard, as well as herons, hawks, shorebirds and passerines; long-term sojourning migrants such as the Common Merganser, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull; escapes such as the Bar-headed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin Duck; and accidental visitors such as Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Glaucous Gull.

## RESULTS

Twenty-four species are included in this analysis: Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey and Bonaparte's Gull.

The complete results and full analyses are available on-line at [www.virtual.union.edu/~birds/](http://www.virtual.union.edu/~birds/).

## DISCUSSION

The daily record at hand is probably one of the longest available for North American waterbirds providing several novel concepts requiring further consideration. Of these the *temporal structure* of the migratory



passage with its three key parameters of onset, peak, and ending, is the more provocative. At the onset two hypotheses regarding migratory passage seem available:

1. The passage is relatively plastic, expanding or contracting in time depending upon the character and duration of the spring. In example, if the spring thaw is especially delayed we would predict that the migration would be compressed into the period following ice-off.

2. The passage is relatively structured and takes about the same duration following ice-off. In example, if the spring thaw is delayed the migratory passage would extend longer into the spring without significant shortening.

Two of our data sets support the second hypothesis.

To the best of our knowledge our study is the first to provide quantitative support for a temporally structured migration for waterbirds.

Assuming that there is validity to our interpretation of the data, we must consider the adaptive value of such a multi-species structured migration, in this case 24. We suspect that earlier migrants are more senior, experienced birds providing maximum reproductive potential. Younger, less experienced migrants, on the other hand, are delayed to reduce competition for nesting sites and forage base, further enhancing the relationship of the species group to the breeding grounds. It is the temporal structure of the migratory period, regardless of how early or late the spring, which is essential.

Analysis of the spring migration is emphasized because 83% of the excursions occur during this period. The smaller number of grounded birds seen during the fall (17% of excursions) could be the result of reduced numbers of migrants or better weather conditions supportive of continuous flight.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the many field observers of Union College, along with Ray Perry of the NYS Department of Conservation and computer programmers, especially Thomas Gade and Professor George Williams, for their relentless support of this survey.

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### NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS

We have always seen warblers  
As brilliancies of the North Woods

Lemon yellow of Black-throated Green  
flame wings and tail of American Redstart

But the redstart is Cuba's "Little Candelita"  
the Black-throated Green flies his colors from Ecuador

Our boreal yellows, reds, blues are tropical  
Burnt orange of Blackburnian  
orange red of Bay-breasted

What do we send back?

Blackburnian with only the yellow  
Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Pine we cannot tell apart

"Confusing Fall Warblers"  
"Color them up!" we demand  
Paint back the cheeks and flanks of Chestnut-sided  
Brighten back the pigments of Black-throated Blue

Send back these warblers  
Of the "Big Day" in May  
In oak and tamarack  
we will check off glories of the Rain Forest

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.  
Courtesy: *Friends of Acadia Journal*  
Friends of Acadia National Park

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

### WILLETS ON WIRES

The persistent, localized employment of telephone and electric wires as lookouts by Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) on Dune Road in the western portion of Shinnecock Bay, Suffolk, is a possible example of culturally learned behavior in a semi-colonial species. The use of bushes, stumps, poles and structures for observation posts is well-known and widespread in this species but landing on a wire requires a fair amount of skill for a large shorebird. Nevertheless the habit is now well-established, from the beginning of breeding season into midsummer, on wires adjacent to the rather densely occupied marshes in the southwestern part of Shinnecock Bay. It is easily observed on the stretch of Dune Road between Tiana Beach and the village of Quogue where, at any given time of day, a half-dozen or more birds may be seen on wires.

This behavior does not appear to be connected with courtship display but rather with territorial defense. One or more members of what is essentially a series of dispersed colonies simultaneously occupy suitable vantage points on poles and wires along Dune Road and its several pull-outs. Loud alarm calls from these sentinels bring numbers of calling birds up from local and even adjacent marshes to mob intruders. The use of wires for this purpose, characteristic of a particular population, may be learned behavior which has been passed on locally for more than a quarter century.

Eric Salzman, P.O. Box 775, East Quogue, NY 11942

### INVITING NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Readers are invited to submit short pieces of interesting sightings, observations or incidents, etc., that do not require full-blown article treatment. No bibliography is necessary unless the author wishes to submit one. If a photograph is included, we require either a black-and-white glossy print or a color negative which we will convert to a b&w print. If the editor believes the note should be expanded to a full article, you will be invited to do so.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON 1999

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension  
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### WEATHER EFFECTS

The summer was hot and dry. Save for portions of Region 6, drought conditions were prevalent throughout the state. To illustrate the uniformity of the dryness, we can look at the geographic extremities of the state. Westernmost Region 1 experienced its third driest summer on record, northernmost Region 7 its fifth driest summer ever, and southernmost Region 10 its two driest summer months ever (June and July). In addition to the lack of rain, all Regions were well above normal in temperature in June and July. Region 1 experienced its third warmest summer ever, Region 7 had its hottest June ever, and it was the hottest July on record in the normally hot Region 10. In much of the state the drought was alleviated somewhat in August but in central New York, it remained very dry.

Effects of the drought on plants and insects varied widely. For example, some Regional editors stated that fruit and berry crops did well while others reported a poor crop. In Region 7 it was felt that the poor berry crop led to several incidents of bears and raccoons raiding bird feeders. Similarly, some editors believed the drought greatly reduced insects with Region 6 editor Long citing the early departure of some aerial insectivore bird species as a result, while others felt that the effect upon insects was not great or at least not enough to harm most nesting species which rely on bugs to feed their young.

Obviously, the effects of weather on our nesting birds are very complicated. Many editors stated that our breeding species probably fared well. However, in a drought year such as this, negative effects may be less obvious than during cold wet summers which tend to cause more rapid and dramatic destruction.

Marsh breeders and shorebird migrants are highly susceptible to water level changes. In several Regions, marsh habitat dried up and mud flats filled in with vegetation, pushing those birds out. The state-endangered Black Tern may have been hurt the most by the drought. Numbers were low in Regions 1, 3, & 5. In addition its breeding season was described as dismal in Region 2 and poor at Perch River WMA in Region 6, a stronghold for the species.

## BREEDING BIRDS

Our nesting species are the major focus of the season. For colonial waterbirds, it can be a good time to assess their populations and surveys were made in Regions 1, 7, & 9. Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons were cited for good or excellent seasons in Regions 1, 5, & 7. Great Egrets continue to prosper at the Region 1 colony but were scarce as summer visitors to Regions 3, 4, & 5. In Region 6, a count of 48 Great Egrets was very high though they were believed to be from a colony in nearby Quebec. Away from its breeding areas in coastal Region 10, the Glossy Ibis is an annual visitor upstate. This year it occurred in Regions 3, 5, & 8 and in Region 7 the species did more than just show up - it raised a family, providing the first non-coastal breeding record in New York!!

Another group of birds that get extra attention in summer is the raptors, particularly Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Osprey. From all accounts they had another fine nesting season although Bald Eagles were cited as scarce in Region 4 where they do not breed. Osprey was a real highlight with the first nests of this century in Regions 2 & 9. They also bred at new sites in Regions 5 & 10 and did well at relatively new sites in Region 1. Merlin has been forcing its way into that elite raptor group with breeding records in recent years in the North Country. This season, Regions 5 & 8 had their first breeding records.

A couple of very rare state nesters were reported. Northern Shoveler adults were seen with young at the Region 1 waterfowl hotspot, the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. During the Atlas there were only three confirmed breeding blocks for this species, one in Region 3 and two in Region 10. Slightly more unusual, the state's second Blue Grosbeak nest was located near Riverhead, Long Island (Birol, 1999). Five young made it to fledging.

## NONBREEDING BIRDS

Western Sandpipers are always a rare treat in the spring, when in their breeding garb. This year there were seven at two sites in Region 2 on 1 Jun. This is an outstanding, though not a record, spring concentration. Comments on Common Nighthawks were generally negative, not only as breeders but as early fall migrants. One remarkable exception was a count of 932 in Region 8, one of the highest counts in the last two decades. Numbers of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were again banded in early June

at Braddock Bay in Region 2. I find this active nervous bird to be a difficult one at which to get a good look. Perhaps that is why it seems to be more frequently encountered in mistnets.

Birds that occur out-of-season can sometimes be as exciting as the rarities discussed below. In this group were Red-necked Grebes in Regions 3 & 9, Brant in Region 2, Surf Scoter in Region 1, and a gorgeous very accommodating breeding-plumaged Red-throated Loon on the Niagara River in Region 1. We end this section with a first July New York record of Fox Sparrow, seen at Montezuma NWR in Region 3, the report thankfully accompanied by a detailed description.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Finding rare birds is not just a matter of luck. Observer effort plays a big role. Birders working on a Big Year in Region 2 proved that by turning up multiple great rarities.

Things to be on the lookout for in the Regional reports are summer counts in Regions 3 & 9 and a pelagic summary in Region 10. In an attempt to extract more out of the reports sent to him, Region 3 Editor Ostrander analyzed Regional population trends. His caveats about interpreting the data are appropriate for any analysis of randomly collected data.

## RARITIES

There were a number of exciting finds this summer. As usual at this season the shorebirds comprised a large percentage of the goodies. Pretty much annual now, American Avocets were found in Regions 1 & 10. Marbled Godwits in three Regions (2, 6, & 10) might almost be considered an invasion while Red-necked Phalaropes in Regions 2 & 3 are about as expected. Other highlights were Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Region 3, Willet in Region 5, Long-billed Dowitcher in Region 6, and Black-necked Stilt in Region 10.

Although not the best season for gulls, a few strays are found every summer. This year, Little Gulls were found in Regions 2, 6, & 10, Franklin's Gull in Region 8, Laughing Gull in Region 2, and Black-headed Gull in Region 10.

The best of the rest, starting with Region 1, included a Tricolored Heron and a second consecutive late spring Western Kingbird. Region 2

added Great Cormorant, a good summer find , a late spring Mississippi Kite, King Rail, and a Yellow-throated Warbler in good breeding habitat but apparently unmated, and two very rare Long-tailed Jaegers. Region 3 chimed in with a Tricolored Heron and an American White Pelican. Region 4 also had an American White Pelican as well as a Cattle Egret. A Three-toed Woodpecker was at the same location where last found in Region 5 and a fall migrant Loggerhead Shrike provided that Region's first since 1994. The Trumpeter Swans bred again at Perch River WMA in Region 6 and that area also hosted a Cattle Egret. Region 8 had their first summer Dickcissel in 25 years while Region 9 added a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, found during a breeding bird survey. As usual Region 10 had several scintillating finds, including their own Mississippi Kite, the earliest fall sighting ever of Yellow Rail, two Arctic Terns, yet another White-winged Dove, and a LeConte's Sparrow.

My choice for Bird of the Season (BOTS) was not an easy one. The Long-tailed Jaegers in Region 2, Mississippi Kites in Regions 2 & 10, and Arctic Terns and LeConte's Sparrow in Region 10 are all close seconds to the White-faced Storm-Petrels found on a pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon off Long Island. There are only six records of this petrel for the state, all but one falling between mid-August and early October (Askildsen, 1998). This summer's sighting of two individuals, at least one of which was well photographed and videotaped, occurred on 28 August which falls within the "expected" time period.

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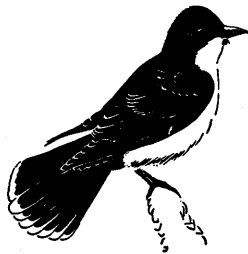


## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD UPPERCASE**; 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.

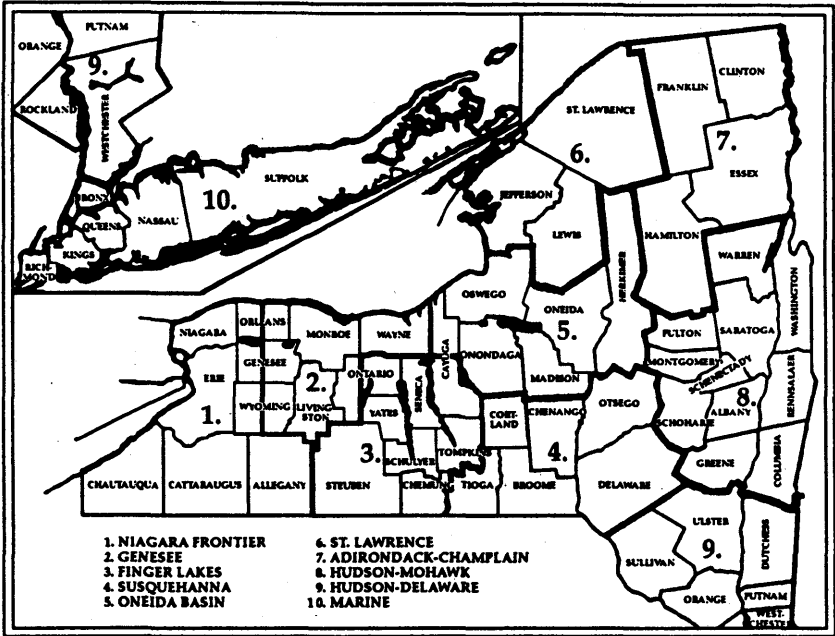
## REPORTING DEADLINES

**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

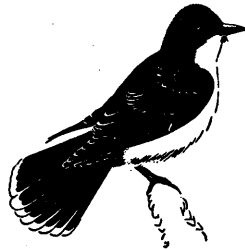


Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except at:*

**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 Street

Fredonia NY 14063-1937

This summer in Region 1, June and July were warm and dry. August brought a change of pace as the jet stream shifted, bringing frequent frontal passages along with changeable conditions. Unfortunately, the drought continued until the end of August when a week of showers and thunderstorms finally eased the situation.

Looking at specific meteorological factors, June ended up being the warmest and driest since the June of 1995. Temperatures averaged 68.4°F, 2.5° above normal. Two periods saw extremely high temperatures along with high humidity: the 6th-13th and the 21st-28th. Three 90°+ days were recorded. The big story for this month was the lack of rainfall, with only 1.93" measured for the entire month, lowering the reservoirs in many inland western New York towns. The most notable weather event for the month was a severe thunderstorm accompanied by high winds on the 28th and 29th.

July averaged 74.3°, the third warmest July in 56 years of record keeping by the National Weather Service facilities at Buffalo Greater International Airport. Many communities surrounding the City of Buffalo saw as many as ten days with temperatures reaching the 90° mark. As with June, the high temperatures were again accompanied by high humidity. The continued lack of rainfall, with only 1" being recorded for the month, saw many of the small inland communities now being forced into mandatory water restrictions. The month concluded with a strong thunderstorm on the 31st downing many trees and power lines in the area. The Lake Erie water temperature reached 77°, the warmest since July 1987.

August weather brought a change of pace due to a shift in the jet stream. While drought conditions worsened through mid-month, a week of localized showers and thunderstorms near the end of the month brought some welcome relief to the area. Temperature averaged out at 67.9° and, while rainfall varied widely throughout the area, the total amount of 4.38" brought some temporary relief from the persistent drought conditions. Finally, while August continued the trend of tranquil weather that started in spring, conditions became turbulent after mid-month. Bouts of severe thunderstorms occurred from the 20th to the 27th. These storms caused local flooding, with over 3" falling on Alden.

Widespread flooding and wind damage hit the eastern and northern areas around Buffalo.

To summarize, the summer of 1999 will be remembered as warm and dry, the fourteenth warmest in 57 years of record keeping and the third driest in the last 42 years. Meteorological data obtained from the website of the National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo, NY.

Some fine rare sightings during the month of June ushered in the summer of 1999. A **Western Kingbird** was found during the 40th Anniversary of the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage (held annually in Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus County) on 5 June by Frank Gardner. This record is only the second spring report of this species for Region 1, with the other occurring 2-3 June 1998. Another notable record was a **Tricolored Heron** reported from 2-12 June by William Watson. This appears to be the eighth sighting of this bird in this Region, with all other reports coming from the month of May. Some observers believe this year's bird may have been the same one seen in the area during the latter part of May. Not as uncommon as the two previous birds, but nevertheless exciting for this area, was the observation of a **Snowy Egret** on 8 and 12 June, also by Watson. The month ended with a report of a **Clay-colored Sparrow** on 11 June in the Allegany County town of Andover by Elizabeth Brooks.

Other highlights of the month were nesting records of at least 40 young Great Blue Herons, 13 adult Great Egrets with two nests of three and four young, and a report from Mark Kandel, NYSDEC biologist, of about 70 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests in the area. Double-crested Cormorants were observed with 110 individuals on 35 nests, some with young, in the Niagara River above the Peace Bridge. Ospreys and Bald Eagles were again successful in the Region, with nesting reports coming from previously known sites. At Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge there were two young Ospreys on a nest and in Allegany State Park, nine active Osprey nests produced 16 fledglings. In the Allegany area there were also two Bald Eagle nests, with one of the nests producing two young, a male and a female which were banded. Unfortunately, the July bird of the month cannot be counted as a New York State avian record. Many western New York birders drove across the Peace Bridge to Canada to see a Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage! While I know that this is not a NY record, I chose to use editorial prerogative to report it. However, a sighting of an **American Avocet** in Dunkirk Harbor by Joanne Goetz on 14 July is countable. The bird was observed by many local birders and video and still photographs were taken at close distances.

Whether the dry condition that prevailed during the summer had an influence on transient species or not can only be surmised by reviewing the records reported. Local birders were checking past records to determine the summer movements of such birds as the Olive-sided Flycatcher at Bond Lake in Niagara County on 28 July. RBA reports from other Regions of the state noted similar arrivals.

Summer breeding reports are most valuable for determining the health of the populations of individual species. Each month, without fail, a timely and well- documented report comes to me from Vivian Pitzrick. This report contains the sightings for the prior month and any other significant data regarding unusual bird movements and breeding records. Her description of the nesting of Prairie Warblers at Amity Lake in Allegany County in July is as detailed as one can imagine. Young aspiring birders could well take note of the observation skills and reporting details utilized. [Regional Highlights Editor's note: Hopefully, examples of this documentation are made visible through publication in local newsletters, or perhaps a future article in *The Kingbird*.]

The Peregrine Falcon nesting on the Statler building in downtown Buffalo produced three young, two females and one male, all of which successfully fledged.

The final month of summer brought an observation of an immature male Surf Scoter 2-19 August along the south shore of Lake Erie near the village of Silver Creek in Chautauqua County by David Neveu. The bird was also videotaped by your editor. This is only the second summer sighting of this species in Region 1, the prior record one in the Niagara Gorge on 13 July 1946 (Nathan and Filor.) [C. Beardslee & H. Mitchell, *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, (Root Press: Buffalo, 1965), p.149.]

As a final note, many Red-breasted Nuthatches have been reported moving through the Region as well as elsewhere. This cyclic species' appearance may be a positive sign for things to come at our winter feeders.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Allen Benton, Robert Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davis, Kurt Fox, Mike Galas, Frank Gardner, Joanne Goetz, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Alex Humann, Tom Jurczak (NYSDEC Biologist), Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Dick Miga, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Judy Mosher, David Neveu, Pat O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Gerald Rising, Richard

Rosche (Buffalo Ornithological Society Data), Gail Seamans, Jack Skalicky, Richard Sowinski, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Bob Sundell, Robert Wagner, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ASP - Allegany State Park CATT; BWWTP - Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; BuSP - Buckhorn Island State Park, Grand Island; DH - Dunkirk Harbor, City of Dunkirk CHAU; GI - Goat Island, Niagara Falls; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge GENE/ORLE; JAS - Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, Kiantone CHAU; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area GENE; Tiffit NP - Tiffit Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area WYOM; WB - Woodlawn Beach ERIE.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 7 y INWR 10 Jun; 16 OOWMA 19 Jul.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 15-292 several sites in the NR 2 Jun - 26 Aug; max 1,282 BuSP 23 Aug (WW).  
**Am. Bittern:** OOWMA 1 Aug (MD, JS).  
**Great Blue Heron:** 40 y NR 8 Jun; 131 TWMA 14 Jul.  
**Great Egret:** 1-13 TWMA, INWR, NR thru (WW, SO, TO); 2 ad + 6 y Motor I NR 26 Jul (WW); T North Harmony CHAU 27 Aug (DN).  
**SNOWY EGRET:** NR 8 & 12 Jun (WW!).  
**TRICOLORED HERON:** NR area 2 & 12 Jun (WW!).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 WB, 21 Jun; 7 y Motor I, NR 30 Jun (RA, WW); 4 TWMA 29 Jul; 1 T Pomfret CHAU 31 Jul (WW, mob, DN).  
**Mute Swan:** 2 ad T Olcott NIAG.  
**Wood Duck:** 61 TWMA 16 Aug.  
**N. Shoveler:** 3 ad + 5 y BWWTP 10 Jun (WW); 4 there 11 Jul (GS, mob); 26 there 21 Aug.  
**Canvasback:** 1 Buffalo R 5 Jun (MM).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 1 BWWTP 22 Aug.

**Lesser Scaup:** 1 BWWTP 10 Jul (GS); 22 BWWTP 22 Aug (MM).  
**Surf Scoter:** 1 imm Silver Creek CHAU 6-18 Aug (DN, DM), 2nd summer record for Region, video by DM.  
**Hooded Merganser:** 15 BWWTP 18 Jul.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 Silver Creek CHAU 13 Jul (DN).  
**Ruddy Duck:** 8 BWWTP 10 Jul; 5 BWWTP 18 Jul (GS, mob); 6 BWWTP 22 Aug.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 INWR 10 Jun; 2 INWR 23 Jun (WW); 1 Silver Creek CHAU 19 Jun (DN); 2 ad + 3 y INWR 19 Jul (GS, KF); 1 OOWMA 1 Aug; 16 y fledged ASP (TJ).  
**Bald Eagle:** 1-4 ad + 1 imm from nesting sites in Region thru; 1 y INWR thru; 2 nests + 2 y fledged ASP (TJ).  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 T Eagle WYOM 5 Jun (WW).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 1 banded T Alfred ALLE 28 Aug (EB).  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 1 albino Jamestown CHAU (DN).  
**Merlin:** arr 1 T Cheektowaga ERIE 21

Aug (BK).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 ad Buffalo 24 Jun (MM).

**Virginia Rail:** 2 T Hanover CHAU 26 Jun (DN).

**Com. Moorhen:** 8 y TWMA 23 Jun.

**Am. Coot:** 3 y TWMA 23 Jun.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 2 DH 12 Jul.  
**AMERICAN AVOCET:** 1 DH 14 Jul (JG, DM, AB), photos and video by AB and DM.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 BWWTP 11 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 TWMA 1 Jul (BK, PY).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BWWTP and INWR 11 Jul; max 16 JAS 8 Aug.

**Willet:** 1 juv Bournes Beach Westfield CHAU 17 Jul (BS).

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 T Colden ERIE 6 Jun; 1 INWR 18 Jul.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 3 TWMA 1 Jul (BK, PY).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 25 T Batavia GENE 28 Aug.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 4 Times Beach Buffalo 28 Aug.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 2 Silver Creek CHAU 7 Jul (DN); 3 Times Beach Buffalo 28 Aug.

**Com. Snipe:** 14 JAS 8 Aug.

**Caspian Tern:** 2 BWWTP 22 Aug; 8 DH 22 Aug; 4 Buffalo Harbor 24 Aug.

**Black Tern:** 6 TWMA 1 Jul.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1 T Alfred ALLE 3 Aug.

**Long-eared Owl:** 4 T Hamburg ERIE 25 Jun (RA, mob).

**Com. Nighthawk:** 200 T Eggertsville ERIE 22 Aug (MD); 62 Buffalo 25 Aug (AH).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 ASP 4 & 6 Jun (BK); 2 Bond Lake P NIAG 28 Jul (RB, mob); 1 T Pomfret CHAU 21 Aug (TM).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 Wheelers Gulf T Pomfret CHAU 7 Jun (DN); 1 banded T Alfred ALLE 15 Aug (EB).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** INWR 19 & 23 Jul (MG, BK); 5 Wheelers Gulf T Pomfret

CHAU 26 Jul (DN).

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** 1 ASP 5 Jun (FG!).

**Com. Raven:** 1-2 T Amity, Alfred, Andover ALLE thru (VP, EB, BK).  
**Cliff Swallow:** 6 T Alexander GENE 19 Jun (MM, GR); 2 BuSP 1 Jul (WW, MG).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 2-5 several ALLE towns thru.

**E. Bluebird:** 14 T Amity ALLE 31 Jul.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 1 T Tonawanda ERIE 2 Jun; 5 T South Valley CATT 4 Jul (PY, BH).

**N. Mockingbird:** 1 T Tonawanda ERIE 7 Jun; 1 Tonawanda ERIE 8 & 14 Jul.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 2 T Pendleton NIAG 12 Jun (RS, BK).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 4 T Pendleton NIAG 1 Jun (RS, BK).

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 Allegany Indian Reservation CATT 6 Jun (PY).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 GI 27 Aug.

**Nashville Warbler:** singles 5-20 June ALLE & CATT (VP, EB, BK); arr 1 T Wheatfield NIAG 20 Aug.

**N. Parula:** 1 ASP 5 Jun (BK).

**Pine Warbler:** 1 East Otto State Forest CATT 19 Jun (WD).

**Prairie Warbler:** 1-6 ALLE 4 Jun-26 Jul; 3 y 21 & 26 July (VP, EB, BK, PY, RW).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 3 Tift NP 28 Aug.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr GI 27 Aug.

**Cerulean Warbler:** 1 T Alexander GENE 19 Jun.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 1 T Pomfret CHAU 19 Aug.

**N. Waterthrush:** 1 T Grove ALLE 21 Jun; 2 there 26 Jun.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 1 JAS 8 Aug (WW).

**Hooded Warbler:** arr 1 banded T Alfred ALLE 28 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** 1 banded T Alfred ALLE 15 Aug.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 2 T Andover ALLE 11 Jun (EB!).

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1 T Newfane NIAG 12

Jun (WD, BF).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1-2 ALLE, ERIE, ORLE Jun-Jul.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 3 T Somerset NIAG 13 Jun (PO); 2 TWMA 1 Jul (BK, PY).

**White-throated Sparrow:** 1-6 several ALLE towns 5-26 Jun (EB).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 2 INWR 1 Jul (JS).

**Red Crossbill:** 1-3 T Ward, Grove, Alfred, Almond ALLE 5-24 Jun (EB).Mar (SO); 85 Niagara River 19 Mar (GB).

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The summer season really worked out pretty well for a good majority of the species. June and July generally continued the pattern that had been prominent in the spring - warm and dry. June was 3.2°F warmer than usual with an average of 68.3°. Precipitation totaled 2.52", which was just under 0.5" below normal. This was really misleading, since rain on the first two days of the month and heavy thunderstorms on the 28th and 29th brought a good portion of this total rainfall. The bulk of the month really experienced moderate drought conditions.

July pretty much continued the trend, with an average temperature reading of 74.3°. This represented a plus 4.1° departure from normal. Total precipitation was nearly an inch below normal at 1.78". Seventeen days occurred when there was less than 0.1" of rainfall. There were numerous days when high humidity ruled the Region.

August finally broke the mold. Temperatures averaged nearly a degree below normal at 67.1°. Precipitation was 2.32" above normal with a total of 5.72". The cooler temperatures and the increased rainfall brought much needed relief to the area.

The dry conditions produced low soil moisture in the Region for the bulk of the season. While this did create some stressful conditions for plants, it didn't seem to affect the insects and other invertebrate populations. This in turn bodes well for breeding species, primarily the passerines. Sufficient food was available although some annelids were tougher to find due to the low soil moisture, which kept them away from the surface. The Region is blessed with a general abundance of water resources that were available to the birds throughout the season.

Coverage and reporting for the Region were about average for a non-

atlas year. Breeding Bird Survey routes helped with the reporting south of Rochester. A real plus has been the effort of Dave Tetlow in his fund-raising "Big Year." He and Mike Davids have continued to turn up uncommon to rare species in the Region. This was especially true for August.

The season, due to its configuration, always has at least a hint of two migration periods. The late spring migration into June was not particularly eventful this year. The usual shorebirds arrived in July and things picked up pretty well in August for the start of fall migration.

The usual summer reports of Common Loon occurred, but Lake Ontario seemed to have more than usual this summer. A July Horned Grebe was unusual. An August Great Cormorant from Hamlin Beach was a good find. It was not a very good year for summer waders. Least and American bitterns were minimally reported.

Canada Geese again had a good nesting season. Mute Swans seemed down slightly, and a Tundra Swan lingering into June may have been an injured bird.

A Mississippi Kite sighting on 6 June at Braddock Bay by Dave Tetlow and Mike Davids highlighted the end of the spring migration. The first Osprey nest for Region 2 was discovered in Wayne County. There were two young on the nest. This is more than likely a dispersal related to the continued nesting at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Region 3. A Red-shouldered Hawk in Penfield in June was unusual for summer. A few still nest south of the city, but it is uncommon in Monroe County during summer. A Merlin at Braddock Bay in June was very interesting, most likely a late migrant. The Peregrine Falcons in downtown Rochester fledged three young this year. A video camera hooked up to a computer system gave local birders and non-birders internet access to the daily goings on at the nest.

The August hawk flights monitored by Braddock Bay Raptor Research logged 2,523 Red-tailed Hawks, 195 Broad-wingeds, 8 Sharp-shinneds, 47 Cooper's, 2 N. Goshawks, 13 N. Harriers, 79 Turkey Vultures, 7 Bald Eagles, 5 Ospreys and 3 Am. Kestrels.

The rail situation was actually quite difficult to evaluate. The water was low in the marshes and numbers of reports were low, but canoe ventures into the more isolated sections of marsh produced rails without too much difficulty. It was only from the peripheral areas of the marshes that traditional rail reports were scarce. The King Rail at Mendon Ponds was a new location for a Regional rarity. Sandhill Crane reports continued into the summer season. This species continued its pattern of an increasingly numerous and widespread occurrence. Shorebird reports were



generally lackluster. Some habitat was available but things were just about typical for the season. A July Marbled Godwit was a good report. A Laughing Gull in June was good, and reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull extended its documented presence to throughout the year. Black Terns had a dismal nesting season and are approaching the point where they may soon be extirpated as a breeder in the Region.

Once again, a juvenile N. Saw-whet Owl was located in the Region. The bird visited the backyard of a Greece resident during the middle of the day and was photographed. It appeared to be having some difficulty with one of its eyes. This once again raises the question of the breeding status of this species outside of Bergen Swamp. A single Whip-poor-will report was the extent of it for that species. Along with Common Nighthawk, it seems to have disappeared as a nester in the Region. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported during the summer along the lakeshore, an occurrence that has not been noted for a number of years.

Common Raven reports continued into the summer. How long will it be before we actually confirm breeding in the Region? Maybe it will happen during the Atlas 2000 field work. Thrushes continued to be on the low side. A singing Swainson's Thrush in early June, while not unprecedented, was interesting.

The rest of the passerine situation didn't seem to bring much to the forefront. Summer observations were limited. Highlights included a singing Yellow-throated Warbler at Letchworth State Park and a Clay-colored Sparrow that was reported into July at Mendon Ponds Park. Breeding was not confirmed for either bird.

Grassland sparrows continue to be a concern. Henslow's and Grasshopper sparrows did make some decent showings in the traditional locations such as Nations Road in Avon/Geneseo, but overall totals continue to be low.

August culminated with a species total for the year to date of 271. That is well above the 10-year average.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Jessie Barry, Liz Barry, Dave Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Dan & Judy Davis, Carolyn & Charlie Dean, Frank Dobson, Robert Dobson, Bob Dows, Jack Duvall, Brett Ewald, Jeannine & Kurt Fox, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Robert Guthrie, Helen Haller, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Chita & Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara, John Olson, Elinor Osborn, Tom Painting,

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay; C - Charlotte (Ontario Beach Park); CH - Cobbs Hill Park; CU - Cuylerville (LIVI); G - Greece; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; LP - Letchworth State Park; M - Manitou; MP - Mendon Ponds; NR - Nations Road, Avon; P - Perinton; PB - Point Breeze.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** max 17 HB 3 Jun.  
**Horned Grebe:** 1 HB 26 Jul, unusual date.  
**GREAT CORMORANT:** 1 Hamlin 31 Aug (DT), 2nd year bird.  
**Tundra Swan:** 1 Castile 1-28 Jun, injured?  
**N. Pintail:** arr 1 HB 18 Aug.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 6 BB 6 Jun, good summer total.  
**Greater Scaup:** 1 male C 24 Jun; 1 HB 29 Aug.  
**Lesser Scaup:** arr 2 HB 7 Aug.  
**White-winged Scoter:** arr 12 HB 4 Aug.  
**Bufflehead:** arr 1 female HB 8 Aug.  
**Com. Merganser:** arr 2 HB 4 Aug.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 1 HB 18 Aug.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 1 BB 6 Jun (DT, MD).  
**Osprey:** ad & 2 y WAYN (DT), 1st breeding Reg 2.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 BB 29 Jul; 1 BB 25 Aug, not a traditional summer locale.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 Penfield 24 Jun (B&BP), unusual summer locale; 1 BB 25 Aug.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 31 BB 8 Aug.  
**Merlin:** 1 BB 6 Jun; 3 CU 29 Aug; 2 HB 29 Aug; 1 C 29 Aug; 1 CU 31 Aug; good season.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 ad & 3 y Rochester

1-30 Jun; 1 Geneseo 9 Aug; 1 Geneseo 28 Aug.  
**KING RAIL:** 1 MP 26 Jun (DT, MD), new location for this rarity.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 1 Elba 4 Jun (WS), new location.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 1 HB 8 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 Hamlin 21 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last 2 P 9 Jun; arr 1 HB 21 Jul.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 BB 16 Jul.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last 4 P 1 Jun; arr 1 Galen 27 Jun.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 Galen 27 Jun; max 24 CU 29 Jul (JK), excellent Regional total.  
**Whimbrel:** arr 1 BB 9 Jul.  
**MARBLED GODWIT:** 1 BB 9 Jul (DT), not seen every year.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 3 C 1 Aug.  
**Red Knot:** arr 1 PB 13 Aug, only report for the year.  
**Sanderling:** arr 8 HB 8 Jul.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 385 HB 3 Jun, good total.  
**Western Sandpiper:** 3 P 1 Jun; 4 HB 1 Jun.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 3 BB 24 Jun.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 1 BB 22 Jul.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 1 BB 16 Jul.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 1 P 19 Jul.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 HB 9 Jul.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr 1 IB 31 Aug.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr 1 HB 13 Aug.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr 1 HB 1 Aug; 1 HB 29 Aug; 2 HB 30 Aug.  
**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 1 ad HB 18 Aug (WS, DT); 1 ad HB 29 Aug (WS, DT, CC).  
**unidentified jaeger:** 1 HB 29 Aug; 1 HB 30 Aug.  
**LAUGHING GULL:** 1 PB 11 Jun (DT), 1st summer plumage.  
**Little Gull:** 1 ad HB 6 dates 2-27 Aug.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 Hamlin and C sev Jul dates (DT, MD, ST), 1st summer plumage.  
**Caspian Tern:** 1 Hemlock L 7 Aug (DT, MD), 2nd fall migration record LIVI.  
**Black Tern:** last 1 BB 13 Aug.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 G 18 Jul (C&CD), photo.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 1 Brighton 16 Aug.  
**Whip-poor-will:** 1 Webster 9 Jun (JC), only report.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last 1 G 2 Jun; arr 1 G ? Aug; 1 G 18 Aug; 1 Clarkson 21 Aug.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 45 banded M 1-8 Jun; arr 1 HB 13 Aug.  
**Fish Crow:** 1 C 26 Aug (KG).  
**Com. Raven:** 1 BB 6 Jun (DT, MD); 2-3 LP 20 Jul (RR).  
**Winter Wren:** 1 Penfield 1-30 Jun (C&RMc), unusual location.  
**Sedge Wren:** 1 MP 3 Aug (KG), only record.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last 1 M ? Jun; arr 1 M 31 Aug.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last 1 H.H. Spencer Rec Area 20 Jun (DT); 1 M 31 Aug.  
**Hermit Thrush:** 1 banded M 1 Jun, late.  
**N. Mockingbird:** max 14 NR 26 Jun.  
**Am Pipit:** arr 1 HB 18 Aug.

#### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** last 1 M 1 Jun.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr 1 M 23 Aug.  
**N. Parula:** 1 LP 4 Jun, only summer report.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 1 BB 15 Aug.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 1 M 16 Aug.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr 1 M 16 Aug.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 1 M 15 Aug.  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** 1 LP thru 20 Jun (KF, DS, MT).  
**Pine Warbler:** 1 HB 1-30 Jun, nesting?  
**"Western" Palm Warbler:** 1 M 4 Jun (MZ), banded.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 3-4 Nunda 1-30 Jun.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last 1 CH 4 Jun; arr 1 M 23 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 21 M 2 Jun; 1 G 3 Jul (KG), very unusual date for this species; arr 1 BB 3 Aug.  
**Kentucky Warbler:** 1 G 31 Aug (BE), uncommon.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr 1 BB 10 Aug.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last 1 M 4 Jun; arr 1 M 23 Aug, banded.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 Clarkson 9 Jun, scarce this year.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 1-2 MP 6-30 Jun (MZ); 1 MP 1 Jul (KG).  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** max 21 LIVI 28 Jun (JK).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** last 1 M 1 Jun, banded, late; 2 CU 7 Aug (JK); 1 BB 30 Aug (BE), very early.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** last 1 M 3 Jun, banded, late.  
**Bobolink:** max 82 migrants BB 6 Jun (DT, MD), large migration number for so late.



## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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June and July 1999 were about 3.5°F warmer than normal. August was just 0.4° cooler than normal. The warmest temperatures recorded were 94° on 6 and 7 July. The coldest temperature was 38°, recorded 16 June. Every month in the summer of 1999 was much drier than normal. Ithaca received 6.15" of rain during the entire summer, 4.51" below normal. Elmira was even drier with only 3.52" of rain, 6.08" below normal. The extremes of the temperatures probably did not present particular problems to the avifauna in the Region. The main effect of the higher than normal temperatures was accelerating the evaporation rate of the already sparse rainfall.

The dryness of the season affected some environmental factors of importance to the birds. First, it had an effect on water levels in the Region's wetlands and streams, although the results turned out to be mixed. The staff at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge drew down the water in the main pool to simulate a drought and its purifying effects on the marsh. While this yielded poor birding in the Main Pool, water level control measures at Benning Marsh and May's Point Pool yielded good numbers and variety of shorebirds. Meanwhile, the marsh at Lowe Pond in Big Flats experienced a real drought and by summer's end was quite dry. The Chemung County Sportsmen's Federation installed a control gate at the north end of the marsh at The Center at Horseheads to inhibit its drainage into the St. Lawrence drainage system and sandbagged the south end to inhibit its drainage into the Susquehanna drainage system. As a consequence, water levels throughout most of this marsh were higher than usual and relatively good numbers of Least Bitterns, Green Herons, Common Moorhens, Virginia Rails, Marsh Wrens and Swamp Sparrows were present, but almost no suitable habitat was available to shorebirds. The flow of water over the Elmira Dam was reduced to a trickle. Consequently, shoals below the dam were invaded by Purple Loosestrife, Common Mullein and other plants. As a consequence, conditions for shorebirds on the shoals and on the face of the dam were dismal.

The drought seemed to favor the growth of apples, grapes and all kinds of berries, a boon to fruit-eating migrants and likely to favor certain

winter bird populations. Mosquitoes seemed almost nonexistent in many places and consequences for swallows and other aerial feeders were at least rumored in the birding community. Honeybees seemed numerous and had favorable conditions for pollinating flowers, factors which favored seed production for many plant species.

The fifth consecutive annual Ithaca June Count produced high counts for several species, which are noted in the species accounts below. Lows were recorded for American Woodcock, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Eastern Towhee and House Finch. The Eastern Towhee numbers have decreased every year of the count. However, readers should keep in mind that chance could be expected to produce several species with four consecutive declines over so short a period of study. Nevertheless, the towhee numbers and the presence of several other shrubland species in the list of low counts supplements other evidence that shrubland birds are in decline.

John and Sue Gregoire opened their banding station at Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, Schuyler County, for fall migration on 12 July and banded a record 658 birds that month. They banded 476 birds in August. The banding highlight was their third Olive-sided Flycatcher since 1986. They also found their first evidence of nesting Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the observatory property. John noted that only one or two Veerys were present during the breeding season. Normally several pairs are present.

Interesting this summer was the August arrival of individuals of several duck species, both dabbling and diving, not normally seen until the fall months. Also of note were waders. Great Egrets were not nearly as common and widespread as they were last summer, but the appearance of Snowy Egrets at several well-birded spots throughout the Region, and of Glossy Ibis and Tricolored Heron at Montezuma, made up for the Great Egret's scarcity.

In an attempt to detect the beginnings of population trends, I have calculated numbers for each species which are the total of all the maximum counts for the season from each site from which reports were received during the summer period (i.e., each site contributes one maximum to the species total.) These figures are then normalized for birder effort as measured by the number of database records recorded for the season in each year (1998 - 15,637; 1999 - 12,961.) The result of these calculations yielded 136 species with no significant change, 63 species with significant increases, and 22 species with significant decreases.

There are, of course, many pitfalls with the methodology. For exam-

ple, virtually all grassland species showed significant increases. These were not population increases, but rather, reporting increases. Matt Victoria conducted a study for the National Audubon Society on grassland birds that yielded many counts from many sites throughout the Finger Lakes Region and, indeed throughout New York State. As a result, we now know that a significant population of Upland Sandpipers resides in Seneca County, an important population of Grasshopper Sparrows dwells in an industrial center in Horseheads, and many Henslow's Sparrows are living in southwest Steuben County.

Focusing in on the declines, several of the species are very uncommon summer birds, such as Common Loon, American Black Duck, Acadian Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Red Crossbill and Pine Siskin, whose scarcity makes fluctuations due to birder effort more pronounced. On the other end of the scale are abundant species that birders tend to ignore and whose numbers may only be reported by one or two birders whose birding patterns may change numbers significantly from one year to the next. Birds in this category are Ring-billed Gull, American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and possibly Double-crested Cormorant. Swallows, which often occur in large swirling flocks of mixed species, are impossible to count. Hence the statistically significant declines in Bank and Barn swallows and the significant increases in Tree and Northern Rough-winged swallows may not be truly significant. Migrants which may or may not appear in the summer months are also among the declines: Brant and Cape May Warbler. The vast majority of Common Nighthawks seen in the Region are migrants. Their peak numbers may occur in either late August or early September. The peak apparently did not occur in August this year. A few species which most birders would report whenever seen or which have a good representation on the Ithaca June Count showed Region-wide declines: Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Wood Thrush and Black-and-white Warbler.

Particularly notable rarities reported this summer and not already noted above were the breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebe at Seneca Lake State Park, the two American White Pelicans soaring over Ithaca and later over the Town of Hector, and a very well-described Fox Sparrow at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

DSF - Danby State Forest; EIDa - Elmira Dam CHEM; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; GIMe - Gleason Meadows CHEM; HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest; IJC - Ithaca June Count; KeuL - Keuka Lake; KH - Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU; LoPd - Lowe Pond CHEM; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MyPt - Myers Point; PSt - Park Station CHEM; SaWo - Sapsucker Woods TOMP; SLSP - Seneca Lake State Park; SBPd - Seybolt Road Bait Ponds SENE; StP - Stewart Park TOMP; SSF - Summerhill State Forest; TCAH - The Center at Horseheads CHEM; WDan - West Danby.

## LOONS - DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** 1 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 16 MNWR 7 Aug.  
**RED-NECKED GREBE:** 1 SLSP 1 Jul (fide CT-H).  
**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** 2 Ithaca and Hector 12 Jul (fide CT-H).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr 2 MNWR 24 Jun; max 25 StP 8 Aug; 3 EIDa 24 Aug.  
**Am. Bittern:** max 2 MNWR 5 Jun; 1 TCAH 3 & 9 Jul; 1 MNWR 12 Jul.  
**Least Bittern:** 2 TCAH 11 Jun; 1 MNWR 7 Jul-9 Aug.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 44 IJC 13 Jun; 20 MNWR 22 Aug.  
**Great Egret:** arr 3 MNWR 15 Jul; max 12 MNWR 22 Aug.  
**SNOWY EGRET:** arr 1 Newman Municipal Golf Course TOMP 1 Aug (MY!); 1 EIDa 2-5 Aug (BiO, DR); 1 SBPD 7-16 Aug (BF, MY!).  
**TRICOLORED HERON:** arr 1 MNWR 5 Jul (KR) -8 Aug (fide JHa).  
**Green Heron:** max 19 IJC 13 Jun; 17 TCAH 9 Jul.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 1 MNWR 30 Jul; max 4 MNWR 27 Aug.  
**GLOSSY IBIS:** arr 1 MNWR 29 Aug (BF, KR, CS, JV); max 2 MNWR 30 Aug (GK).  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 49 IJC 13 Jun, high; 20 KH 31 Aug.  
**Canada Goose:** max 430 IJC 13 Jun, high; 133 LoPd 16 Jul.  
**Mute Swan:** last 1 IJC 13 Jun; arr and max 6 Cayuga L 9 Aug; 1 Hog Hole 22 Aug.  
**Wood Duck:** max 87 TCAH 13 Aug.  
**Gadwall:** 1 MNWR 18 Aug (J&KM); MNWR 22 Aug (SS).  
**Am. Wigeon:** 1 MNWR 2 Aug (BF), early; 1 MNWR 22 Aug.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 2 MNWR 22 Aug; 1 LoPd 3 Jul.  
**Mallard:** max 700 StP 23 Aug (BE), high; 241 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 1 MNWR 12 Aug; max 2 StP 16 Aug; 1 MNWR 18 Aug; only reports.  
**N. Shoveler:** 1 MNWR 18 Aug (J&KM), early.

**N. Pintail:** 1 StP 9 Aug (BE, CH, MMe, BrO, MSa, MY), early; 1 MNWR 18 Aug (J&KM).  
**Green-winged Teal:** arr 1 MNWR 12 Aug; max 100 MNWR 22 Aug (L&TS), high; 3 StP 15 Aug.  
**Redhead:** arr 1 StP 9 Aug (BE, CH, MMe, BrO, MSa, MY), very early; 1 KeuL 11 Aug (fide JHa).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 1 KeuL 11 Aug (fide JHa), very early.  
**LESSER SCAUP:** arr 1 StP 9 Aug (BE, CH, MMe, BrO, MSa, MY), very early; 1 StP 22 Aug (BrO, MSa).  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 5 FLNF 5 Jun; 2 IJC 13 Jun; 2 TCAH 30 Jul.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 14 EIDa 5 Aug.  
**Ruddy Duck:** 2 MNWR 21 Jul (CTH), only summer report in last 6 years.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 3 MNWR 7 Aug; 3 EIDa 31 Aug.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 5 MNWR 17 Jul.  
**N. Harrier:** max 6 DSF 5 Jun (CCBG), high; 5 MNWR 18 Aug (J&KM).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 6 WDan 11 Aug (GK), high.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 4 IJC 13 Jun; 4 WDan 25 Jul.  
**N. Goshawk:** max 3 IJC 13 Jun, high; 1 HHSF 13 Jun.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 5 IJC 13 Jun, high; 4 Shindagin Hollow TOMP 4 Jun (MauF).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 4 IJC 13 Jun, high; 2 FLNF 5 Jun; 2 Ithaca 2 Aug.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 33 IJC 13 Jun, high; 4 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 14 KH 21 Aug (J&SGre), high; 8 IJC 13 Jun; 5 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** arr 1 MNWR 9 Aug (GK), early; 1 MNWR 22 Aug.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 2 Halderman Hollow CHEM 4 Jul; 2 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 16 IJC 13 Jun, high.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 60 KH 22 Aug (J&SGre), high; 27 Mt. Pleasant TOMP 19 Aug.



**Virginia Rail:** max 10 TCAH 9 Jul (Bi&JoO), high.  
**Sora:** 2 TCAH 3 Jul; 2 MNWR 17 Aug.  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 25 TCAH 30 Jul.  
**Am. Coot:** max 4 MNWR 25 Jul.  
**SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 MNWR 9 Jun (CS).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** last 1 MyPt 1 Jun; arr 1 MNWR 14 Aug; max 2 MNWR 27 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 2 MNWR 30 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last 1 EIDa 3 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 13 Jul (MY), early; max 60 MNWR 22 Aug (BrO, MSa), high.  
**Killdeer:** max 205 MNWR 26 Aug (SK), high; 110 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 10 MNWR 26 Jun (MH), early; max 20 MNWR 12 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 10 MNWR 26 Jun; max 302 MNWR 26 Aug (SK), high.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last 2 IJC 13 Jun, late; arr 1 KH 27 Jun (J&SGre), early; max 17 MNWR 25 Jul (J&KM), high.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 20 MNWR 14 Jul (MV), high.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** max 15 Martin Road Fayette 10 Jun (MV), high.  
**WHIMBREL:** 2 SLSP 26 Jun (fide CTH), early.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** last 1 SLSP 25 Jun (fide CTH); arr 1 MNWR 30 Aug.  
**Sanderling:** last 3 SLSP 25 Jun (fide CTH); max 15 MyPt 3 Jun.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last 1 MyPt 8 Jun; arr 4 MNWR 12 Jul (GK), early; max 90 MNWR 26 Aug; 36 SBPD 25 Jul.  
**Western Sandpiper:** arr 1 MNWR 17 Jul (J&SGre), early; 1 SBPD 7-12 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 2 LoPd 3 Jul; max 416 MNWR 26 Aug (SK), high.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr 1 SBPD 20 Jul (MV), early; max 3 SBPD 7 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 2 MNWR 15 Aug; max 3 MNWR 26-27 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 9 MNWR 26 Jun (MH), very early; max 162 MNWR 26 Aug (SK), high.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 1 MNWR 22 Aug; max 18 MNWR 30 Aug.  
**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** arr 1 MNWR 26 Aug; max 3 MNWR 27 Aug

(CTH), high.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 MNWR 7 Jul (SK), early; max 36 MNWR 26 Aug.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr and max 2 MNWR 26 Aug.  
**Com. Snipe:** max 16 MNWR 26 Aug.  
**Am. Woodcock:** 1 IJC 13 Jun, low; 1 KH thru (J&SGre).  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr 1 MNWR 3 Aug (MNWR Staff), early; 1 MNWR 14 Aug.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** 1 StP 8 Aug (BE, CH, BrO, MSa, MY), early.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 StP 2 Aug; 1 MyPt 9 Aug.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 300 Elmira 2 Aug; 150 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Herring Gull:** max 6 EIDa 31 Aug.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** last and max 10 IJC 13 Jun; arr 1 EIDa 3 Aug; 2 MNWR 22 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** last 3 EIDa 2 Jun; arr 1 MNWR 7 Jul; max 60 StP 7 Aug (BP, MY), high.  
**Com. Tern:** max 2 EIDa 19 Jul; 1 StP 19 Aug (KM).  
**Black Tern:** max 4 MNWR 5 Jun.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Mourning Dove:** max 473 IJC 13 Jun, high; 32 LoPd 16 Jul.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** max 5 IJC 13 Jun; 2 TCAH 18 Jun.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** max 6 IJC 13 Jun, high; 2 Tyre 5 Jun; 2 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** max 4 IJC 13 Jun, high.  
**Barred Owl:** max 6 IJC 13 Jun; 1 WDan 22 Jun.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 5 Ithaca 17 Aug, very low; 2 MNWR 30 Aug.  
**WHIP-POOR-WILL:** 1 Addison thru Jun (M&JC).  
**Chimney Swift:** max 51 IJC 13 Jun, low; 50 EIDa 17 Jun.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 45 IJC 13 Jun, high; 7 KH 19 Aug.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 17 IJC 13 Jun, low; 6 TCAH 3 Jul.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 Canandaigua 26 Jun (fide CTH); 1 Southport 9 Jun (MV); only reports.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 54 IJC 13

Jun.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 103 IJC 13 Jun, very high.

**Downy Woodpecker:** max 110 IJC 13 Jun, high.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 44 IJC 13 Jun.

**N. Flicker:** max 84 IJC 13 Jun, high.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 29 IJC 13 Jun, high; 3 Cranberry Marsh SENE 11 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 banded KH 31 Aug (J&SGre), only report.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 166 IJC 13 Jun; 8 SaWo 21 Aug; 7 FLNF 5 Jun.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last 1 HHSF (MSc, MV, MY) and 1 IJC 13 Jun, late; arr 1 KH 27-31 Aug (J&SGre).

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** 1 DSF 24 Jun (WH); 1 KH 29-31 Jul (J&SGre).

**Alder Flycatcher:** max 73 IJC 13 Jun; 8 FLNF 5 Jun.

**Willow Flycatcher:** max 66 IJC 13 Jun; 14 TCAH 30 Jul.

**Least Flycatcher:** max 59 IJC 13 Jun; 4 FLNF 5 Jun.

**E. Phoebe:** max 162 IJC 13 Jun; 4 FLNF 5 Jun; 4 WDan 11 Jul.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 67 IJC 13 Jun, low; 10 FLNF 5 Jun.

**E. Kingbird:** max 50 IJC 13 Jun; 13 KH 8 Jul; 13 TCAH 13 Aug.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 19 IJC 13 Jun.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 81 IJC 13 Jun, very high; 4 FLNF 5 Jun; 4 Dryden 3 Aug.

**Warbling Vireo:** max 85 IJC 13 Jun, high; 7 TCAH 13 Aug.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 505 IJC 13 Jun; 15 SaWo 21 Aug.

**Blue Jay:** max 327 IJC 13 Jun, high; 6 FLNF 5 Jun.

**Am. Crow:** max 840 IJC 13 Jun; 20 Avoca 14 Aug.

**Fish Crow:** max 6 StP 10 Aug; 5 Langdon Plaza 27 Jul.

**Com. Raven:** max 40 GIMe 30 Jun (Bi&JoO), very high.

**Horned Lark:** max 5 TCAH 10 Jun. swallow (Sp): max hundreds of thou-

sands MNWR 22 Aug (L&TS).

**Purple Martin:** arr 1 MNWR 25 Jul; max 8 MyPt 10 Jun, very low; 6 StP 8 Aug.

**Tree Swallow:** max 579 IJC 13 Jun; 23 LoPd 3 Jul.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 3000 MNWR 17 Jul (J&SGre), state record high; 41 IJC 13 Jun.

**Bank Swallow:** max 150 KH 18 Jul; 123 IJC 13 Jun.

**Cliff Swallow:** max 58 EIDa 17 Jun.

**Barn Swallow:** max 426 IJC 13 Jun; 77 TCAH 13 Aug.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 516 IJC 13 Jun; 23 PSt 10 Jul.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 84 IJC 13 Jun; 7 Lowman 19 Jun.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 20 IJC 13 Jun; 4 DSF 30 Aug.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 56 IJC 13 Jun.

**Brown Creeper:** max 34 IJC 13 Jun, high; 2 HHSF 22 Aug.

**Carolina Wren:** max 10 IJC 13 Jun, high; 2 StP 8 Aug.

**House Wren:** max 284 IJC 13 Jun; 8 GIMe 30 Jun.

**Winter Wren:** max 8 IJC 13 Jun; 3 HHSF 12 Jun.

**Marsh Wren:** max 9 TCAH 30 Jul (BiO), high.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 37 IJC 13 Jun, very high; 6 HHSF 22 Aug.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 30 IJC 13 Jun, high; 15 StP 8 Aug.

**E. Bluebird:** max 47 IJC 13 Jun, high; 12 FLNF 5 Jun.

**Veery:** max 304 IJC 13 Jun.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 37 IJC 13 Jun.

**Wood Thrush:** max 222 IJC 13 Jun; 4 LoPd 3 Jul.

**Am. Robin:** max 1430 IJC 13 Jun; 27 LoPd 3 Jul.

**Gray Catbird:** max 606 IJC 13 Jun; 17 TCAH 30 Jul.

**N. Mockingbird:** max 23 IJC 13 Jun; 6 TCAH 9 Jul.

**Brown Thrasher:** max 12 IJC 13 Jun, low; 3 LoPd 19 Jun.

**European Starling:** max 2515 IJC 13 Jun, high; 1500 LoPd 22 Aug.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 404 IJC 13 Jun; 65 TCAH 13 Aug.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 47 IJC 13 Jun, low; 4 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 Dryden 6 Jun (BE, D&SGo).  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr 1 KH 31 Aug (J&SGre); max 3 SSF 10 Jun (MY); 1 IJC 13 Jun; 1 HHSF.  
**Yellow Warbler:** max 699 IJC 13 Jun; 28 TCAH 18 Jun.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 113 IJC 13 Jun, high; 8 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 35 IJC 13 Jun, high; 2 HHSF 13 Jun.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 40 IJC 13 Jun, high; 2 HHSF 13 Jun.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 61 IJC 13 Jun, high; 7 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 142 IJC 13 Jun, very high; 10 HHSF 12 Jun.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 32 IJC 13 Jun, high; 2 HHSF 13 Jun.  
**Pine Warbler:** max 8 IJC 13 Jun, high; 1 HHSF 13 Jun.  
**Prairie Warbler:** max 10 IJC 13 Jun, very high; 6 Baldwin Preserve TOMP 1 Jun; 6 WDan 1 Jun.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 1 KH 1-2 Jun.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** max 12 MNWR 1 Jun.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 20 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Am. Redstart:** max 189 IJC 13 Jun, high; 8 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** max 2 Chemung Canal Towpath SCHU 9 Jul (J&SGre).  
**Ovenbird:** max 326 IJC 13 Jun; 18 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**N. Waterthrush:** max 14 IJC 13 Jun; 1 KH 7-22 Aug.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** max 28 IJC 13 Jun, very high.  
**Mourning Warbler:** max 11 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 612 IJC 13 Jun; 20 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Hooded Warbler:** max 28 IJC 13 Jun, high; 3 FLNF 5 Jun; 3 WDan 11 Jun.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** 1 KH 20 Aug (J&SGre), early.

**Canada Warbler:** max 27 IJC 13 Jun; 3 HHSF 13 Jun.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 136 IJC 13 Jun, very high; 4 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**E. Towhee:** max 92 IJC 13 Jun, low; 9 GMe 30 Jun.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 456 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Field Sparrow:** max 109 IJC 13 Jun; 7 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 3 Southport 9 Jun; 3 Tuscarora 16 Jul.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 259 IJC 13 Jun, high; 44 TCAH 10 Jun.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 26 TCAH 10 Jun (MV), high; 15 Woodhull 19 Jul.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** max 8 Rathbone 13 Jul (MV), high; 8 Tuscarora 15 Jul.  
**FOX SPARROW:** 1 MNWR 9 Jul (B&RKI! NYSARC).  
**Song Sparrow:** max 1265 IJC 13 Jun, high; 20 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 99 IJC 13 Jun; 33 TCAH 9 Jul.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 11 SSF 10 Jun (MY), high; 3 IJC 13 Jun.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 225 IJC 13 Jun, high; 8 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**N. Cardinal:** max 289 IJC 13 Jun; 12 TCAH 18 Jun.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 114 IJC 13 Jun; 12 LoPd 22 Aug.  
**Indigo Bunting:** max 190 IJC 13 Jun; 12 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Bobolink:** max 267 IJC 13 Jun; 30 FLNF 5 Jun.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 1803 IJC 13 Jun; 175 TCAH 16 Jul.  
**E. Meadowlark:** max 88 IJC 13 Jun; 14 TCAH 10 Jun.  
**Com. Grackle:** max 664 IJC 13 Jun; 85 TCAH 3 Jul.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 375 IJC 13 Jun; 50 Big Flats 24 Aug.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 1 Springport 6 Jun (DSu); 1 Canoga Springs 5 Jun (GB).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** max 203 IJC 13 Jun; 11 KH 13 Jul.  
**Purple Finch:** max 26 IJC 13 Jun; 6 FLNF 5 Jun.

House Finch: max 180 IJC 13 Jun, low; 15  
TCAH 16 Jul.  
Red Crossbill: 1 Cornell University 13  
Jul (BE); 1 HHSF 13 Jun.

Am. Goldfinch: max 810 IJC 13 Jun,  
high; 20 TCAH 9 Jul.  
brown\_creeper@sg23.com East Ithaca

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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Everyone in Region 4 who enjoys the outdoors will long remember that during the summer of 1999 they had plenty of chances to indulge in their favorite activities. Almost every day was bright and sunny, inviting all to come outside and play. Data from the Binghamton Regional Weather Service showed that on 17 out of 30 days in June, 25 out of 31 days in July, and 21 out of 31 days in August the area received over 50% of the possible sunshine. The downside of all this sunshine was the drought conditions that lowered water levels in reservoirs and rivers, dried up tributaries, and stunted vegetation.

The average monthly temperatures for June and July were slightly warmer than normal. The average temperature in June was 66.2°F, 2° hotter than normal. June 7 was the hottest day of the month (90°), making us wonder if temperatures would be exceptionally warm this summer. However, the average temperature in July was 71.7°, only 2.5° above normal. The hottest day in July was on the 6th, with the mercury hitting 91°, and from 24 July through 1 August the temperatures did not fall out of the 80s. However, the "dog days" of August failed to materialize. Although the temperature climbed to 89° on 17 August, throughout the rest of the month it never rose above 83° during the day. In fact, the average monthly temperature in August was 65.6°, 1.6° cooler than usual.

Records show that the total precipitation for June (3.28") was only slightly below normal, but the area received less than half the rain it normally gets in July and August. July's total precipitation (2.27") was 1.23" less than normal and August's total precipitation (1.42") was almost 2" less than normal. The shortage of rain, coming on the heels of a drier

than normal spring, forced many local communities to impose restrictions on water use.

The effect the drought had on breeding success this season may be reflected in the comments from many contributors who mentioned "low numbers" or "fewer reports than usual." What effect, if any, it will have on fall migration remains to be seen.

Many birds were only reported by observers at the beginning of June and at the end of August which may mean they were extremely successful at maintaining a low profile during the breeding season. Overall numbers were low, perhaps due to the impact of the drought on the birds' food supply. Only two Breeding Bird Surveys were reported, down from the usual 6-7, therefore no comparisons could be made to previous years' reports.

Waterfowl numbers were on the low side, especially Pied-billed Grebe. Missed species were American Bittern, American Black Duck and Hooded Merganser. On the up side, however, were reports of a **Cattle Egret** in the Town of Preston by Elva Hawken, and a report of an **American White Pelican** in the Town of Windsor on 22 and 23 July. The homeowners were not receptive to letting a few experienced birders come to their Susquehanna River property to verify the pelican. They cited all the commotion stirred up by the Anna's Hummingbird seen in Binghamton last November as one reason they did not want anyone on their property. They did videotape the pelican and sent a copy to Marie Petuh of the Naturalists' Club. Sara Kinch and Eric Sullivan viewed the tape as well, and it sure looked convincing. This copy will be sent to NYSARC.

All members of the rail family were noticeably absent from the reports, probably reflecting the poor wetland conditions due to the drought. Hawks had an average showing with low numbers overall. Some more unusual species such as **Golden Eagle** near Oneonta, **Merlin** at Upper Lisle, and the continued presence of a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** in downtown Binghamton were good additions to the summer list. Northern Goshawk was missed.

Low counts were noted for Ring-necked Pheasant and Ruffed Grouse. Sandpiper numbers were low, with only single birds sighted for several species. Upland Sandpiper and Common Snipe were missed. Common Nighthawk was reported in low numbers, as Marie Petuh noticed that they are "missing from usual locations in Binghamton-Johnson City area."

Passerine highlights included Olive-sided Flycatcher in Pharsalia, Chenango County and Philadelphia Vireo in Tioga County. Reported in summer but not in spring were Marsh Wren and Wilson's Warbler. The

Hooded Warbler in Vestal, not seen since May, was checked for by Marie Petuh at least once each in June and July, but was not found. Orchard Oriole was not reported. Two Golden-crowned Kinglets in Otsego County at the end of August were possible local breeders, although summer records are more often from Chenango and Cortland counties. It will be interesting to see how the population is faring in Atlas 2000.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BUNP - Binghamton University Nature Preserve, Vestal BROO; Bpd - Boland Pond, Chenango Bridge BROO; BrPd - Brick Pond, Owego TIOG; HPd - Hawkins Pond, Windsor BROO; CoP - Nathaniel Cole Park, Colesville BROO; GyL - Goodyear Lake OTSE; PaRd - Parsons Road, Chenango Forks BROO; WeB - West Burlington OTSE; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir and surrounding area BROO; UL - Upper Lisle Park BROO.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 1 Bpd 12 Aug.  
**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** 1  
Susquehanna R Ouaquaga T Windsor  
BROO 22-23 Jul, videotaped (Logan &  
Chris Nagle, fide MP), possibly a  
Regional first.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 3 reports  
Aug; 1 juv Susquehanna R BROO 9 Aug,  
average.  
**Great Blue Heron:** at least 10 active nests

W Owego rookery 7 Jul (MP); 6 UL 22  
Jul.

**Great Egret:** 1 Portlandville OTSE 25  
Aug (IW); Owego 31 Aug; scarce.

**CATTLE EGRET:** 1 T Preston CHEN 20  
Aug (EH), not seen since spring of 1987,  
perhaps only 2nd Regional report, very  
rare.

**Green Heron:** widespread reports; max 8  
Portlandville 6 Aug; 7 Endicott 28 Aug.

**Turkey Vulture:** widespread reports;

high numbers GyL 7-22 Jul, max 30 on 18 Jul (IW).

**Mute Swan:** 1 BPd 12 Aug, only report.

**Canada Goose:** max 100 WPR 24 Aug.

**Wood Duck:** many BrPd; 14 (mostly y) Apalachin marsh 12 Jul; 54 BPd 12 Aug (MP).

**Am. Black Duck:** no reports.

**Mallard:** max about 80 Susquehanna R T Union BROO 9 Aug.

**Com. Merganser:** max 20 GyL 6-13 Aug; 9 Owego 7 Jul; 12 Port Dickinson BROO 15 Aug.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 GyL 20 Jun and 14-27 Aug (IW); T Preston 12 Jul (EH); max 2 Portlandville 25 Aug.

**Bald Eagle:** ad UL 27 Aug (SK, MP), only report, scarce.

**N. Harrier:** 2 T New Berlin 27 Jun; singles 26 Jun and 4 Aug T Preston; T Oxford 17 Jul; Morris 4 Aug.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** occasional thru; no reports from CORT, DELA, OTSE.

**Cooper's Hawk:** T Oxford 17 Jul; TIOG Aug; only reports.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** T Preston thru Jun; max 2 there 12 Jul.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 3 reports Aug, scarce.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 3 y fledged Jul TIOG (C&JB); few reports.

**Golden Eagle:** 1 along I88 w of Morris exit near Oneonta 23 Aug (M&SW), uncommon.

**Am. Kestrel:** pair + 2 y fledged WeB (TS); max 7 T Preston 23 Jul (EH); 6 reports BROO; TIOG thru.

**Merlin:** 1 "headed south" UL 31 Aug (EHw, MP).

**Peregrine Falcon:** pair downtown Binghamton thru, nesting not confirmed (mob).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** TIOG Jun, only report.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 4 reports; max 2 CHEN, low.

**Wild Turkey:** max 17 Vestal 9 Aug.

**N. Bobwhite:** TIOG Aug (D&W), uncommon, no details.

**Killdeer:** 4 y GyL 11 Jun; max 24 Kirkwood River Park BROO 22 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 UL 31 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1 UL 22 Jul and 31 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 1 report a month without dates TIOG; UL 22 Jul.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 3 GyL 16 Aug and Endicott 28 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 3 Susquehanna R T Union 9 Aug (MP); 4 UL 31 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** Mirror L TIOG Aug (C&JB).

**Am. Woodcock:** 1 BUNP 10 Jul (MP); 1 T Preston 23 Jul (EH); scarce.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 in winter plumage UL 24 Aug (MP), second summer since 1987.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 20 WPR 4 Aug.

**Herring Gull:** TIOG thru.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** TIOG Jun and Jul; 1 T Preston 23 Jul-11 Aug (EH); 1 Masonville DELA 9 Aug (M&SH); good numbers.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1 Millbrook Res T New Berlin 13 Jul (FvM).

**E. Screech-Owl:** TIOG Aug; WB late Aug (TS).

**Great Horned Owl:** 1 Morris OTSE 4-5 Aug (JF).

**Barred Owl:** TIOG Jun; T Preston 23 Jul.

**Com. Nighthawk:** T Preston 27 Aug; 2 Johnson City 22 Aug "not found in usual places"(MP); "many in migration" TIOG Aug (R&RF).

**Chimney Swift:** max 110 Susquehanna R T Union 9 Aug (MP); average reports.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** "female feeding 2 juv on mullein flowers" Binghamton 17 Jul (MP); 36 banded TIOG (RP).

**Belted Kingfisher:** max 5 Portlandville 16 Aug.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** TIOG thru; only report.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** average reports.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** TIOG thru; 2 reports BROO; low.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 Pharsalia blow-down CHEN 6 and 13 Jun (DW); same place 19 Jun (JD, BD); very uncommon in summer.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** low numbers thru.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 OTSE 24 Aug; 3 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Alder Flycatcher:** reported CHEN, WPR Jun and Jul, low numbers.

**Willow Flycatcher:** reported CHEN, WPR Jun and Jul, low numbers.

**"Traill's" Flycatcher:** 1 BROO 27 Aug; 6 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Least Flycatcher:** good numbers thru; 7 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**E. Phoebe:** low numbers thru.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** low numbers thru.

**E. Kingbird:** 4 CHEN and 30 WPR 27 Aug; only reports.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** seen regularly thru; low numbers.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** CHEN, WPR, OSTE Jun and Aug.

**Warbling Vireo:** TIOG, BROO Jul and Aug.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** TIOG 6 Aug (J&CB), only report.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** regular thru, low numbers; 53 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Com. Raven:** TIOG thru, 3 reports; 1 Oneonta 15 Jun (AM).

**Purple Martin:** TIOG thru.

**Tree Swallow:** good numbers thru.

**Bank Swallow:** TIOG thru.

**Cliff Swallow:** colony under Main St bridge Oneonta (TS), "well established."

**Barn Swallow:** good numbers thru.

**Brown Creeper:** 1 WPR 27 Aug; only report.

**Carolina Wren:** 1 BROO 28 Aug; only report.

**House Wren:** 2 CHEN 23 Aug; 6 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Winter Wren:** 2 OTSE 24 Aug; only report.

**Marsh Wren:** 2 reports BPd Jul and Aug; only reports.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 2 OTSE 24 Aug; only report.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 WPR 31 Aug; only report.

**E. Bluebird:** low numbers thru.

**Veery:** low numbers thru.

**Hermit Thrush:** low numbers thru.

**Wood Thrush:** CHEN, WPR, OTSE Jun and Aug.

**Gray Catbird:** CHEN, WPR Jun and Aug; 25 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**N. Mockingbird:** thru.

**Brown Thrasher:** CHEN, WPR, TIOG Jun and Aug; low numbers.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 50+ WPR 31 Aug.

## WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** BROO, TIOG Jul and Aug; low numbers.

**Nashville Warbler:** BROO Jul and Aug (MP); low numbers.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** good numbers thru.

**Magnolia Warbler:** CHEN, WPR, OTSE Jun and Aug; 4 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** CHEN Jun and Jul; 1 banded Vestal 23 Aug (GK).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** good numbers thru.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** low numbers thru.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 TIOG 21 Aug; 1 banded Vestal 24 Aug (GK).

**Pine Warbler:** WPR 31 Aug; only report.

**Prairie Warbler:** 1 Oneonta 11 Jun (AM); BROO Jul; 1 banded Vestal 31 Aug (GK)

**Black-and-white Warbler:** BROO, TIOG, OTSE Jun and Aug.

**Am. Redstart:** CHEN, TIOG, OTSE Jun and Aug; 10 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Ovenbird:** CHEN, TIOG Jun and Aug; 8 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** TIOG Jun; only report.

**Mourning Warbler:** CHEN, WPR, OTSE thru; low numbers.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** 18 banded Vestal Aug (GK).

**Wilson's Warbler:** 2 banded Vestal 30 and 31 Aug (GK); TIOG Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** 1 PaRd 29 Jul; TIOG Jul.



#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** CHEN, BROO, TIOG Jun and Aug.  
**E. Towhee:** CHEN, TIOG Jun and Aug.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** CHEN, TIOG thru; good numbers.  
**Field Sparrow:** 1 CHEN 1 Jun; 3 BROO 30 Jul; TIOG Jun and Aug.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 BROO 1 Jul; 1 BROO 1 Jul.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 3 BROO 30 Jul; TIOG thru.  
**Song Sparrow:** 12 banded Vestal Aug (GK).  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 1 banded Vestal 22 Aug; WPR 27 Aug; TIOG Aug.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** CHEN, good numbers thru.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** good numbers CHEN Jun and Jul; 8 WPR 31 Aug.  
**Indigo Bunting:** TIOG Jun and Aug; 1 juv WPR 31 Aug; 2 banded Vestal Aug (GK).  
**Bobolink:** CHEN, TIOG Jun and Aug; 2 WPR 27 Aug.  
**E. Meadowlark:** CHEN, TIOG Jun and Jul; 1 BROO 6 Aug.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** CHEN Jun and Aug; TIOG Jun and Aug; 1 BROO 26 Aug; low numbers.  
**Purple Finch:** good numbers regularly seen CHEN; TIOG Jul and Aug.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** good numbers thru.

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### REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was much hotter and dryer than normal. June had an average temperature of 69.8°F, 4.5° above normal, with only 1.78" of rain, 2.01" below average. July was more of the same, with an average temperature of 75.0°, 4.6° above normal and 2.55" of rain, which was 1.26" below normal. A storm on the night of 3-4 July dropped 1.56" of rain at the Syracuse Airport and 2-4" in some areas to the north, the only relief from the drought. August was a bit cooler with an average of 68.9°, only 0.5° above the average. The month was very dry, with only 1.02" of rain, 2.49" below normal. In northern Herkimer County, Gary Lee said it was the driest summer in his 33 years there.

By the end of August many deciduous trees were showing signs of stress, with leaves beginning to change color and some trees already dropping most of their leaves. In woodlands much of the undergrowth was stunted. Matt Perry observed that ground nesters would have had a harder time concealing their nests, and that in areas of Oneida and Madison counties that suffered from extreme drought he found a much lower incidence of ground nesting birds feeding fledglings than in previous seasons. Conifers, except for some Norway spruce, had virtually no cone crop this year. But despite the drought, some trees had a good seed

crop, including ash, black locust, black cherry, apple and some box elders. Honeysuckle, common elderberry, green winterberry and viburnum all had good fruit crops.

Great Blue Heron colonies continue to do doing well in Oswego County, and Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at three locations, at least two of which are suspected to be breeding sites. Great Egrets were found in much lower numbers this year after large invasions over the past few years, while two Snowy Egrets and a Glossy Ibis were unusual summer visitors. There were several days in early June with Bald Eagles and Broad-winged Hawks still on the move past Derby Hill. Accipters were well reported during the breeding season, but N. Harrier numbers were low. Tom Salo found a **pair of Merlins with three young** at Beaver River Station on the east end of Stillwater Reservoir in Herkimer County. Although the young had fledged, this can probably be considered the first record of breeding in the Region.

Despite low water on Lake Ontario, shorebirds numbers at Sandy Pond were average at best, most likely due to the lack of storms to put migrants down. At Sylvan Beach a Willet and a Whimbrel were good finds. Delta Lake was not drawn down until August, although many birds were attracted to the mudflats afterward. No White-rumped Sandpipers or phalaropes were seen. There were several sightings of Little Gull, and Bonaparte's Gulls summered at Sylvan Beach as they sometimes do. However, Black Tern numbers were low, both as a breeder and a migrant. For the third consecutive year both cuckoo species were well reported. Black-backed Woodpecker is expected in northern Herkimer County, while Three-toed Woodpecker is much rarer. One of the latter at Moss Lake in August may have been a post-breeding vagrant. Three-toed Woodpecker was found in the 1980s as a breeder in the wilderness north of Stillwater Reservoir. There were no reports of breeding Red-headed Woodpecker.

Acadian Flycatcher was found at two locations in Hannibal this season, the first sites other than Whiskey Hollow. Olive-sided Flycatcher was not reported as a migrant, although there were a few reports from breeding areas. Fish Crow nearly met the same fate, with only one report of a species that is assumed to be breeding at several sites around Syracuse. A Loggerhead Shrike was most likely a post-breeding wanderer; it was seen for only one day. There were several reports of Horned Lark, a species that is frequently overlooked during the breeding season. Hermit Thrush and Blue-headed Vireo were both found at several locations where breeding records are scarce.

Two singing Kentucky Warblers were present at Whiskey Hollow in

Onondaga County through June. This species has never been known to nest in the Region and the decision was made to view the birds as discreetly as possible so that any possible breeding attempt would not be disturbed. Most grassland species were reasonably well reported, although the only Sedge Wren was a migrant and Eastern Meadowlark numbers seemed to be low. Henslow's Sparrow was found at two sites, and at Griffiss AFB in Rome Dave Cesari found breeding Upland Sandpiper, Horned Lark and Grasshopper Sparrow. There were scattered reports of Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeak numbers remained low and House Finches were often difficult to find in many areas.

A total of 199 species and 1 hybrid was reported for the season, slightly below what the Region has achieved recently. Highlights were Glossy Ibis, Snowy Egret, Merlin, Willet, Whimbrel, **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Loggerhead Shrike** and **Kentucky Warbler**.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle - Baldwinsville; BRSta - Beaver River Station, Herkimer; CM - Clay Marsh; DH - Derby Hill; DL - Delta Lake; HIWMA - Howland Island WMA; GAFB - Griffiss Air Force Base; HVWMA - Happy Valley WMA; OneiL - Oneida Lake; PSS - Peter Scott Swamp, Schroepel; RPPB - Rome Pitch Pine Bog; SPd - Sandy Pond; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park; StMC - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr - Syracuse; TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA; UM - Utica Marsh.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** 2 y hatched Dart's L 8 Aug, very late; y banded Moss L, Twitchell L and Moshier Res.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 4 ad, 10 y Moshier Pd HVWMA 4 Jul; also 2 broods confirmed UM and 1 W Monroe.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 150 per day OneiL thru; handful summering Delta L.  
**Am. Bittern:** 1 PSS 12 Jun; 1 BRSta 7 Aug; 1 SPd 29 Aug; only reports.  
**Least Bittern:** 1-2 UM thru; singles PSS 12 Jun; W Monroe 18 Jun; Snake Swamp Oswego 4 Jul.

**Great Blue Heron:** 58 nests Mallory 18 Jun; 47 nests with 70 y W Monroe 27 Jun.  
**Great Egret:** arr 1 SVB 7 Aug; 1 TRWMA 29 Aug; less common than recent years.  
**SNOWY EGRET:** 1 N Syr 4-5 Jun; 1 SVB 10-16 Jun; only 6 previous summer records.  
**Green Heron:** max 53 CM 12 Aug, very good count.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 WM 27 Jun; 1 SVB 29 Jul; 2 Snake Swamp Oswego 4 Jul; all possible breeding sites.  
**GLOSSY IBIS:** 1 SPd 29 Aug (MSc).  
**Snow Goose:** 1 DL after 1 Aug, of unknown origin.  
**Mute Swan:** resident pair at Woodman Pd thru.  
**Wood Duck:** max 1340 W Monroe 29 Aug.  
**Am. Wigeon:** arr 1 DL 8 Aug.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr UM 29 Jul; max 100 W Monroe 31 Aug.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 20 DL 29 Aug.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 2 DL 18 Jul, early.  
**Hooded Merganser:** 1 fem, 6 y Tully 19 Jun; 1 fem HIWMA 24 Jun; 4 LJ 16 Jul.  
**Com. Merganser:** 2 Camden 20 Jun; max 10 DL 28 Aug.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 2 y fledged T Manlius, new site; many reports from likely breeding areas.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 8 DH 2 and 8 Jun; nesting Cross L, no report of success; 4th year SPd in Jul for 2 weeks; 1 ad & 2 imm Beaver R early Aug; 1 ad & 1 imm DL after 1 Aug; 1 ad Oswego 11 Aug; 1 imm SSSP 21 Aug; 1 imm TRWMA 14 Aug.  
**N. Harrier:** only 5 reports from breeding areas; migrant max 6 SSSP 21 Aug.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** breeding Hamilton College, Sangerfield, New Hartford, and Tully; max 9 migrants SSSP 21 Aug.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** about 14 individuals, but no reports of breeding.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 ad Sangerfield 9 Jun; 1 Forestport 13 Jun, carrying prey; 1 W Winfield 13 Jun; 1 ad Old Forge 8 Jul; 1

Highland Forest 28 Aug.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 8 reports, 3 Adirondacks and 5 north of Oneil.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** spring migrants include 146 DH 2 Jun and 87 DH 8 Jun; early fall flight 57 SSSP 21 Aug, unexpected numbers.  
**Merlin:** 1 ad m Pompey 28 Jun (DWC); family of 5 BRSta first week Aug, possibly first Regional breeding record (TS); 1 SVB 26 Aug; 3 DL after 15 Aug.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 Lafayette 12 Jul; 1 imm Syr 4 Aug, on window ledge.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 4 reports; this species probably only exists because of private stocking.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** only 3 family groups and scattered singles reported.  
**Wild Turkey:** family groups reported from many areas.  
**Virginia Rail:** max 9 UM 22 Jun; breeding SVB and Duck L.  
**Sora:** max 3 UM 1 Jun and 15 Jun; 2 SVB 9 Jul.  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 20 UM 29 Jul; good breeding success there but max only 5 W Monroe 24 Aug.  
**Am. Coot:** 4 DL 16 Aug, unusual location.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 1 DL 17 Aug; max 2 DL 20 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 DL 18 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr SVB 29 Jul; max 31 SPd 29 Aug.  
**Killdeer:** max 53 NMP 14 Aug.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Schroepfel 23 Jul; max 30 DL 28 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Schroepfel 27 Jun; max 45 DL 28 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** 2 Cazenovia to 9 Jun, late; arr WM 17 Jul; max 6 Schroepfel 28 Jul.  
**WILLET:** 1 SVB 20 Aug (MP).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 8 SPd 29 Jul and 12 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** max 5 Steuben 6 Jun; 4 L Julia 13 Jun; 1 ad, 3 juv GAFB 21 Jun.  
**WHIMBREL:** 1 SVB 16 Aug (MP).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 1 SVB 6 Aug; max 4 SPd 29 Aug.  
**Sanderling:** arr 5 SPd 18 Jul; max 15 SPd 15 Aug, low.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr SPd 11 Jul; max 140 SPd 15 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr Schroepfel 24 Jun; max 50 Biddlecum Pd 13 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 2 CM 7 Aug; total of 8 for the season.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr CM 31 Jul; max 6 DL 6 Aug.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 SVB 28 Aug, only report.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 16 Lysander 8 Jul; max 21 DL 28 Aug.  
**Com. Snipe:** 8 reported from 5 sites.  
**Am. Woodcock:** max 4 Hastings 3 Jul and 4 TRWMA 8 Jul; 7 other reports from 4 sites.  
**Little Gull:** 2 ad SPd 2 Aug (MSc, BP); 1 SPd 15 Aug (MAK).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** some present all season SVB; max 85 SPd 2 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 100 SPd 15 Aug.  
**Com. Tern:** max 84 SPd 17 Aug.  
**Black Tern:** carrying food to 2 nests Deer Creek WMA 26 Jun; max only 11 SPd 12 Aug.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** widely reported from most habitats; max 3 N Victory BBS 14 Jun.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 19 reported, good year; 2 nests found CM (MSc).  
**E. Screech-Owl:** 1 ad, 3 y Labrador Hollow Unique Area 21 Jun; 3 New Haven 15 Jul, including 1 red phase; 6 other reports.  
**Great Horned Owl:** 8 individuals.  
**Barred Owl:** 2 pairs HVWMA in Jun and Jul; ad with fl Highland Forest 17 Jun; 1 WH 6 and 13 Jun; 2 imm Sangerfield 7 Jul; 2 Gayville 28 Jun; 1 SPd 2 Aug.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 2 ad, 3 fl Dewitt 11 Jul; 1 Whiskey Hollow 13 and 22 Jun; 1 Big Otter L 28 Aug.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** no reports during breeding season; max 70 Syr 21 Aug; total 323 Syr 15-30 Aug, lower than past 2 years.  
**Whip-poor-will:** calling at 3 sites: 3 Cold Brook, 2 Trenton Falls, 3 Constantia.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 40 T Western 23

Aug.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 4 SPd 15 Aug; 8 CM 21 Aug.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 Bville 1 Jul, only report.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1 Syr to 13 Jun, unusual location.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** pair Third L Crk Trail 3 Jul.  
**THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 fem Moss L 23 Aug, same location as last in 1992 (Dan Skinner, fide BP).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 27 Kirkland 5 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 1 Sangerfield 19 Aug.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** 5 singing males at 2 locations T Hannibal in Jun (MSc, MR); 3 Whiskey Hollow Jun with fem on nest 29 Jun (JB).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** max 6 Sangerfield 22 Jul.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** max 12 CM 5 Jun and UM 15 Jun.  
**"Trail's" Flycatcher:** only 1-2 per day in migration after 15 Aug.  
**Least Flycatcher:** observers thought present in low numbers.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 10 Verona 2 Jun.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 13 CM 12 Aug.  
**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** 1 TRWMA 13 Aug (JB), not relocated; first sighting since 1994.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 5 HIWMA 24 Jun.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** 1 CM 5 Jun, late; max 9 Brookfield 16 Jun; also at Green Lakes SP, Cicero Swamp, and Camillus Unique Area, unusual breeding sites.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1 DL 23 Aug; 1 CM 29 Aug.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 54 Kirkland 5 Jun; 1 fl Hastings 15 Aug.  
**Fish Crow:** only 1 report Syr.  
**Com. Raven:** max 6 Orwell 26 Jun; other reports from Old Forge, Rome Sand Plains, L Julia, Penn Mtn, and HVWMA.  
**Horned Lark:** max 4 ad, 6 juv GAFB 21 Jun; reports from 6 other breeding areas,

more than recent years.

**Purple Martin:** pair at DL 12 Aug, where they've been absent in recent years.

**Tree Swallow:** max 70 SPd 12 Aug.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 5 SPd 12 Aug.

**Bank Swallow:** max 236 DH 12 Jun.

**Cliff Swallow:** max 12 DL 20 Aug.

**Barn Swallow:** max 1740 CM 12 Aug.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 2-3 migrants per day in Aug.

**Brown Creeper:** max 6 SVB 23 Jun; 6 Moss L 24 Jun.

**Carolina Wren:** after a few severe winters in mid-decade it has reoccupied much of former range south of OneiL. **Winter Wren:** present StMC through Jun; occasional breeder there.

**Sedge Wren:** 1 transient DH 19 Jul.

**Marsh Wren:** max from CM & UM as usual but reports of 1-3 at many small marshes after mid Jun; 2 SVB 23 Aug, where they are not known to breed.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** reported from Penn Mtn, Tully, Littlejohn WMA.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 4 L Julia 16 Jul.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 20 Rome 12 Jul.

**Wood Thrush:** max 47 Kirkland 25 Jun.

**N. Mockingbird:** max 5 Erie Canal Fayetteville 8 Aug.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 100 feeding on wild cherry BRSta 1 Aug.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 3 Sangerfield 9 Jun; low numbers in traditional breeding areas.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** absent from former areas ONEI.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 Rome Sand Plains 10 Jun; only report.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr CM 21 Aug; 2 other reports.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 8 RPPB 21 Jun.

**N. Parula:** Whiskey Hollow continues as only site outside Adirondacks.

**Yellow Warbler:** low numbers reported fall migration.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 3 SPd 16 Aug.

**Cape May Warbler:** 1 Hastings 27 Aug; only report.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 CM 29 Aug; only report outside breeding areas.

**Prairie Warbler:** 4 males Dewitt in Jun, breeding not documented.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr SVB 30 Aug.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** last New Hartford 13 Jun.

**Cerulean Warbler:** 5 Fairdale Woods 7 Jun.

**N. Waterthrush:** migrant max 3 SPd 29 Aug.

**Kentucky Warbler:** 2 singing males Whiskey Hollow thru Jun (JB), last heard 10 Jul; first records of summer birds present for more than a few days.

**Hooded Warbler:** 1 singing StMC into Jul, unusual.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Sangerfield 19 Aug, early; max 3 Oswego 31 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** max 16 RPPB 6 Jun; 1 DL 18 Aug.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 9 Verona 23 Jun.

**Vesper Sparrow:** reported 3 sites S ONEI where recently scarce.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 41 Sangerfield 19 Jun.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 2 carrying food GAFB 21 Jun; other reports Dewitt, T Onondaga, Hastings, Gayville, and Parish.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 3-4 pairs Mexico thru; 1 Verona after 23 Jun.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 31 CM 24 Jun.

**Bobolink:** max 50 T Western 4 Aug; early hay cutting in many areas reduced success.

**Com. Grackle:** max 1460 CM 25 Jul.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 420 CM 25 Jul; reports of FL from several warbler, vireo and Scarlet Tanager nests.

**Orchard Oriole:** fledged y Lysander, same tree as 1998; 1 West Monroe 3 Jul.

**Baltimore Oriole:** max 45 Verona 21 Jul, mostly juv.

**Purple Finch:** y noted several areas mid-Jul.

**House Finch:** very low numbers.

**Red Crossbill:** max 4 Forestport 13 Jun; 3 L Julia 17 Jun; 1 Old Forge 30 Jul.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 L Julia 17 Jun; 1  
Bville 11 Jul; 1 Eagle Bay 25 Jul.

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## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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June was 4°F warmer than normal throughout the Region. July was somewhat better, averaging 2.5° above average. A series of "cooler" fronts arrived in early August allowing normal temperatures to return. Precipitation varied considerably during June, with the Adirondacks receiving only half the usual rainfall. The St. Lawrence River Valley and Jefferson County had normal rainfall totals for June and July, but the rains came in brief downpours interspersed with long periods of no rain. The intense showers caused flooding of already dry marshes, creating problems for species nesting close to water. The statewide drought finally hit the North Country in August. The St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario were at their lowest levels in ten years at the beginning of the period due to the lack of snow in the Great Lakes Basin. Vegetation was lush in June, and the warm weather provided early nesting of many species. However, by early August much of the berry crop was withered and many species left the area early. Aerial insectivores, particularly swallows and martins, were gone two weeks earlier than usual.

**Double-crested Cormorant** eggs on Little Galloo Island IBA were oiled for the first time in New York State history as a result of a series of NYS-DEC studies which suggested that cormorants were causing a marked decrease in the population of Smallmouth Black Bass in the eastern Ontario basin. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and NYSDEC were also under heavy political pressure to do something this year. The eggs were oiled by DEC staff on five occasions from 6 May until 8 July. The number of nests varied from 2,844 to 4,283 and the number of eggs from 5,015 to a high of 16,310 on 20 May. Only 36 chicks hatched from the treated nests, which were all on the ground. There were 80 nests in trees, which were not oiled and which produced 106 chicks. The final assessment of the project was 146 chicks from a total of 2,924 nests counted on 8 July. This was less than two percent hatched, a dramatic decrease. This project will continue in the future, so the results will be not be known for some time. Meanwhile some

3,000 nests on Canadian islands in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River did very well. On the human side, the perpetrators of the massacre in 1998 were caught, fined and many committed to house arrest.

**Great Egret** reports are becoming more numerous every year. This year 48 were found in the Town of Lawrence, St. Lawrence County. The **Trumpeter Swan** pair nested for the fifth year in a row at Perch River WMA, producing six young. The total number of young produced is now 27. The Trumpeter Swan is fast becoming the most common large swan in this Region in the summer. An unusual goose was reported from Massena; it appeared to be a cross between Canada and White-fronted goose. The bird was associating with a flock of Canada Geese. A picture was taken by Beryl Bond and sent to Syracuse, then on to Cornell where it was identified as a hybrid Canada Goose-Swan Goose. The Swan Goose is a native of Asia and a few of these Geese have escaped from private collections in the Finger Lakes Region.

**Black Terns** arriving at Perch Lake WMA found dry conditions and did not use the artificial platforms which are designed for high water periods. Then heavy rains flooded nests and adults were seen moving to different areas. Rapid growth of emerging vegetation in dry areas may have been a problem, too. With few staff available to survey the nests, the NYSDEC staff decided on a less invasive method so as not to further distress the colonies. Adults were thus counted during disturbance to estimate pair numbers. In summary, this is an example of what poor weather can do to the breeding success of an endangered species that has few areas of habitat left.

This summer there were few reports from the grasslands and other open areas, probably due to the intense heat. Nick Leone reported good numbers of **Henslow's Sparrows** from a small sample of their breeding areas. Surveys conducted in the shade of the Adirondack and Tug Hill were popular this year. The Bog River flow and Sevey Bog were covered in the Adirondack, while the old Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper property in the Towns of Osceola and West Turin, Lewis County was surveyed, as well as Francis Lake, Lewis County.

One positive for the summer was a modest improvement in the shore-bird flight. It appears that the variety of shorebirds is better at Point Peninsula than El Dorado shores, which continues to have vegetation problems. Some birds rarely seen in recent years were reported at Point Peninsula, including: **Marbled Godwit**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, **Stilt Sandpiper** and **Long-billed Dowitcher**.

Rarities for the season included **Snow Goose**, **Cattle Egret**, **Little Gull**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and **Tennessee Warbler**.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AD - Adirondack Park; BMM - Beaver Meadow Marsh, Watertown JEFF; BRF - Bog R Flow, T Colton, Piercefield STLA; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve; FrL - Francis Lake, T Watson AD LEWI; HP - Holmes Pt, TMor STLA; IBA - Important Bird Area, National Audubon Soc.; JCSP - Jacques Cartier State Park, T Mor STLA; JEFF - Jefferson Co; LC - Limeric Cedars, T Brownville JEFF; LEWI - Lewis Co; LG - Little Galoo I, T Hounsfeld JEFF; LWMA - Lakeview WMA, TEL JEFF; MM - Massawepie Mire, T Colton T Piercefield STLA; MM-O - Michigan Mills-Osceola, T West Turin T Osceola LEWI; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS, T Philadelphia, Antwerp JEFF, T Rossie, Hammond STLA 18 Jun (RL); P-M - Page-Monteola Rd, T Osceola and West Turin LEWI; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; PtPen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam and vicinity, T Mas STLA; SB - Sawyer's Bay, T Hen; SC - Sevey's Corners, T Colton STLA; SF - State Forest; SLR - St. Lawrence R; SLV - SLR Valley; STLA - St. Lawrence Co; TEL - T Ellisburg JEFF; TH - Tug Hill JEFF & LEWI; T Hen - T Henderson JEFF; TLou - T Louisville STLA; T Mas - T Massena STLA; TMor - T Morristown STLA; WBBS - Wanakena BBS, T Fine, Clifton, Clare STLA 1 Jun (RL); WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent JEFF.

### LOONS - WATERFOWL

**Com. Loon:** pair FrL 4 Jun; max 8 BRF 19 Jun.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 8 PRWMA 15 Aug.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 5- 6 per day HP thru.

**Am. Bittern:** 3 areas; FY T Mas 16 Jun.

**Great Egret:** singles from 3 locations T Hen 3-17 Aug; 2 Yellow L T Rossie STLA 12 Aug; 48 beaver pond on Rt 11C T Lawrence STLA Jul (MM), most likely

from a growing colony on nearby Dickerson I in the SLR on the Quebec side.

**Cattle Egret:** 1 Chippewa Bay T Hammond STLA 23 Jun (NL).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 ad BMM 3 Jun; many ad Morristown Bay TMor, now nesting on McNairn I just across the border (LH); 3-6 PRWMA Jun and Jul (LC), new nesting location perhaps due to low water.

**Turkey Vulture:** now plentiful in all

areas.

**Snow Goose:** 1 ad Ives P Potsdam 10 Jun (SC), lingering with Canada Geese.

**Mute Swan:** 1 pair + 3 y and 1 pair + 2 y PRWMA 20 Jul.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 5 ad + 6 y PRWMA 26 Aug.

**Gadwall:** 12 PRWMA 4 Jul.

**Am. Wigeon:** 4 PRWMA 4 Jul.

**Am. Black Duck:** 1 PRWMA 25 Jul.

**Blue-winged Teal:** pair TLou 1 Jun; pair PRWMA 4 Jul.

**N. Shoveler:** 1 PRWMA 4 Jul.

**N. Pintail:** 4 PRWMA 4 Jul.

**Lesser Scaup:** 1 SB 2 Aug (G&PM).

**Oldsquaw:** 1 SB 2 Aug (G&PM).

**Hooded Merganser:** 1 TLou 1 Jun.

**Com. Merganser:** 3 BRF 19 Jun.

**Ruddy Duck:** 2 male PRWMA 25 Jul.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** FL Massawepie; ad daily on SLR TMor; max 8 PRWMA 15 Aug.

**Bald Eagle:** 1 ad + 1 imm Tmas 1 Jun; 1 ad BRF 19 Jun; 1 imm Barnes Corners T Pinckney LEWI 1 Aug.

**N. Harrier:** few reports, little coverage of grasslands?

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 3 reports.

**N. Goshawk:** ad calling on several occasions MM (PO).

**Am. Kestrel:** good numbers in JEFF for second year.

**Merlin:** 1 female FrL 4 Jun (LC).

**Wild Turkey:** large broods seen everywhere on a daily basis.

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

**Am. Coot:** 1 Brownie Rd TLou 1 Jun; 1 PRWMA 12 Jun.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 ED 6 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** 3 ED 16-19 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 5 ED 19 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 20 ED 18 Jul; max 30 ED 20 Jul.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 1 PtPen 25 Aug.

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

**Upland Sandpiper:** 3 y TThen 10 Jun; max 5 T Clayton JEFF 17 Jun.

**MARBLED GODWIT:** 1 PtPen 30-31

Aug (NYSARC, NL).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr PtPen 25 Aug.  
**Sanderling:** 4 ED 25 Jul; max 9 LWMA 17 Aug; 8 ED 19 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 20 ED 18 Jul; max 25 ED 20 Jul; 10 ED 19 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 18 ED 16 Jul; max 31 Pt Pen 31 Aug; 7 ED 16 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** 1 PtPen 25 Aug (NL).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 2 PtPen 11 Aug; max 12 PtPen 31 Aug.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** singles PtPen 11 and 31 Aug.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 3 PtPen 25 Aug; 12 PtPen 31 Aug.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 2 imm PtPen 30-31 Aug (NL).

**Little Gull:** 3 ad RMPD 14 Aug (MB, BB).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1ad PtPen 7 Jul.

**Caspian Tern:** 1,445 nests LG (GS).

**Com. Tern:** 150+ RMPD 11 Aug (MB), pre-migratory staging.

**Black Tern:** approx 50 pairs PRWMA, approx 25 pairs WBM 16 Jun, *intro*.

#### DOVES - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** only 4 reports.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1 TLou 1 Jun.

**Barred Owl:** calling heard in 3 locations T Clifton and Fine STLA; 2 pairs TLou.

**Long-eared Owl:** female calling during Aug in back yard TMas (LH).

**Com. Nighthawk:** *no reports*.

**Whip-poor-will:** 2 TMas 1 Jun; female on nest with 2 eggs CB 12 Jun; calling LC 4 Jul; 3 calling Stony Pt TThen 17 Aug.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 Mixer Rd TEL; 1 Henderson Village 16 Jun.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Henderson thru.

#### FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 3 FrL 4 Jun; 4 P-M 22 Jun.

**Least Flycatcher:** 8 P-M 22 Jun; max 9 WBBS 18 Jun.

**E. Kingbird:** max 20+ LWMA 2 Aug.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 2 PBBS 18 Jun; 3 P-M 22 Jun; 4 MM-O 23 Jun.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 7 SC 24 Jun.  
**Warbling Vireo:** 5 PBBS Jun; max 8 TLou 1 Jun.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** 1 T Colton STLA 18 Aug (SC), early.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** 60 P-M 22 Jun, 45 MM-O 23 Jun; max 97 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Purple Martin:** 16+ Henderson Village JEFF 20 Jul; 15 pairs + 31 y HP 29 Jul, early departure.  
**Cliff Swallow:** 20+ Pierrepont-Lorraine Rd JEFF 18 Aug.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** singles LWMA 25 Aug, TLou 2 Jun.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** pair TLou; 3 SC 24 Jun; max 5 P-M 22 Jun.  
**Brown Creeper:** pair Patterson Rd TLou 12 Jun.  
**Winter Wren:** singing males TLou and HP Jun; max 7 P-M, MM-O 22-23 Jun.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 2 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 2 LWMA barrier beach 2 Aug; pair Picton I SLR T Clayton JEFF 6 Aug (AH); departed CV 31 Aug.  
**Veery:** max 22 TLou/TMas 15 Jun; 22 P-M 22 Jun.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** 2 TH 30 Jun; 16 P-M 22 Jun.  
**Hermit Thrush:** 7 WBBS 1 Jun and P-M 22 Jun; 12 MM-O 23 Jun.  
**Wood Thrush:** 10 WBBS 1 Jun; max 30 per day TMas and TLou Jun.  
**N. Mockingbird:** 1 nesting Benton Rd TEL 23 Jun.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** single CB 12 Jun.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** several singing near SUNY College of Forestry Station at Wanakena mid Jun (PO); departed TMas 29 Aug.  
**Nashville Warbler:** 1 TH 30 Jun; 3 WBBS 1 Jun; 3 P-M 22 Jun.  
**N. Parula:** 2 BRF 19 Jun; 4 FrL 4 Jun; 5 SC/Chandler Pd WF 24 Jun.  
**Yellow Warbler:** 20 PBBS 18 Jun, down 30%; 26+ LWMA beach 2 Aug; max 50 per day TMas.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 11 WBBS 1 Jun; 12 P-M 22 Jun.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 4 FrL 4 Jun; 7 P-M 22 Jun; max 16 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 18 MM-O 23 Jun; 6 P-M 22 Jun; 4 FrL 4 Jun; 4 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 7 WBBS 1 Jun; 5 P-M 22 Jun; 3 SC 24 Jun.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 8 MM-O 23 Jun; 7 WBBS 1 Jun; 4 FrL 4 Jun.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 2 WBBS 1 Jun; 2 P-M 22 Jun; 2 FrL 4 Jun; 2 SC 24 Jun; max 5 TH 30 Jun.  
**Pine Warbler:** 5 JCSP 13 Jun; 3 FrL 4 Jun; 3 BRF 19 Jun; FY TLou 5 Jun.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 1 LC 4 Jul; only report.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** 2 FrL 4 Jun, late migrant.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** 1 PBBS 18 Jun.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 36 TLou/TMas; 8 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Am. Redstart:** 16 P-M 22 Jun; 10 MM-O 23 Jun; max 21 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Ovenbird:** 14 MM-O 23 Jun; max 34 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Mourning Warbler:** 10 P-M and MM-O 22-23 Jun.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 34 PBBS 18 Jun.  
**Canada Warbler:** 5 WBBS 1 Jun.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** 5 WBBS 1 Jun; 3 TLou 1 Jun; 3 P-M 23 Jun.  
**E. Towhee:** 11 PBBS 18 Jun.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 28 per day TLou and TMas.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 6 sites in JEFF; 2 TMor 23 Jun; 2 PtPen 21 Jun.  
**Field Sparrow:** 9 PBBS 1 Jun.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 Mixer Rd TEL 10 Jun.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 20 TMas 1 Jun; 10 PBBS 18 Jun.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** in 5 towns JEFF; 1 TLou 1 Jun.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** a small sample taken from the known breeding area yielded 33 singing males (NL).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 30 P-M 22 Jun; 21 WBBS 1 Jun, average.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 8 WBBS 1 Jun.  
**Indigo Bunting:** 5 PBBS 18 Jun; few

reports.

**Bobolink:** smaller numbers in STLA due to early cutting of the fields.

**E. Meadowlark:** 33 PBBS 18 Jun, highest number in 9 years.

**Purple Finch:** FY CV, Hen, TMAs.

**House Finch:** FY CV and TMAs; very rare in most parts of the Region.

**Red Crossbill:** 30+ feeding in tops of Red Pine SC and Chandler P WF 24 Jun.

**White-winged Crossbill:** heard overhead FrL 4 Jun.

**Evening Grosbeak:** reports from TMAs Jun; T Lorraine JEFF 28 Jun and 5 Jul; 2 Henderson Village 15 Jun; 2 BRF 19 Jun; T Fine Jul.

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The La Niña drought which began in the spring continued throughout the summer. Plattsburgh experienced record highs of 94°F on 7 June, 91° on 24 June, and a sweltering 96° on 27 June when a Bermuda high settled over the Region. June had only 1.68" of rain, and the average monthly temperature of 74.3° broke the 1893 record of warmest. By month's end, Lake Champlain stood at 94.90', a half foot lower than normal and 3 feet lower than a year before.

Another Bermuda high 3-6 July brought more hot, muggy weather, with Plattsburgh 93° on 5 July. Mid-month saw a respite of highs in the 70s and 80s, before the hottest day of the year hit on 17 July, when thermometers topped out at a record 97°. The month ended with another record high of 96° on the 31st, and the thundershowers scattered throughout July brought only another 1.68" of rain, the same as June. The lake, too, still stood at 94.86'. By the Palmer Drought Index, the Adirondack-Champlain Region was in "Severe Drought."

August began with a 15-acre forest fire on the 1,968' summit of Raven Hill, just over a mile south of the editor's home, finally brought under control after 0.5" of light rain on 4 August and multiple water deliveries by NYSDEC helicopter from Barber Pond. Monthly rainfall improved by an inch to 2.81", and August closed on a cool note with 32° at Inlet and frost in the Moose River Recreational Area on the 30th and Saranac Lake dropping to a frosty 31° on 31 August. Total summer rainfall was just 6.17", above the record low 4.51" of 1894, but some 7" below the yearly average. By comparison, summer rainfall was 24.77" in 1998. This

wound up as the fifth driest summer ever, and by season's end wells and reservoirs were drying up across the Region.

With Lake Champlain down to 94.22' by season's end, mudflats were exposed at Westport, but the Chazy riverlands saw too much of a good thing and vegetated into grasses and sedges. Newly retired Forest Ranger Gary Lee observed that the summer was the driest ever in his several decades in the Adirondacks, adding that "several springs and brooks that never dried up are bone dry." With the fuel load left by the Great Ice Storm of '98 and the woods tinder-dry, forest fire was a major concern. The drought also led to a failure of the berry crop, leading to depredations on feeders by hungry Black Bears. In Tupper Lake, Charlcie Delehanty reported their feeders knocked down and pulley-line feeder hauled down, so they were unable to feed birds for several weeks. Paul Kelly reported from Speculator, "The drought brought at least three bears to my feeders and bird baths, and they continue to visit at night." Raccoons made similar nightly forays at other feeders.

In a study of lead levels in Common Loons, a team from the USF&WS, NYSDEC and Loon Preservation Committee took blood samples and banded seven loons on five Hamilton County lakes: Lake Durant (1 adult, 1 chick), Ferris Lake (1 adult, 1 chick), Indian Lake (1 chick, Common Merganser), Mason Lake (1 adult) and Sheriff Lake (1 chick).

Highlight of the season was the addition of **GLOSSY IBIS** to the list of breeding birds in the Region. On 12 June, during banding and census operations on the Four Brothers, Essex County, Lissa Richardson called the team's attention to three adults flying over Island "B." A nest with deep blue eggs believed to be those of Glossy Ibis was found that day, but solid confirmation waited until 23 July, when three nestlings and an almost-fledged ibis were banded by wildlife manager Mike Peterson, warden Rich MacDonald and bander Bob Wei. Three adults and an immature were seen feeding at Shelburne Bay, Vermont, on 14 August by Ted Murin.

Other colonial waterbirds banded at Four Brothers 12 June and 23 July included: 90 Double-crested Cormorants, a Great Blue Heron, 3 Cattle Egrets, 67 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1,175 Ring-billed Gulls (175 color-banded adults and 1,000 chicks), 109 Herring Gulls and 6 Great Black-backed Gulls. A total of 1,372 cormorant nests were counted, down 1.5% from 1998. Great Blue Herons had a record 39 nests, while Black-crowned Night-Herons also increased to a record 227 nests. The population of this attractive night-heron has more than doubled in the past three years relative to the population of about 90 pairs present on Four Brothers in 1954. Figures are provided to the Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Census.

Four of the seven Franklin County Bald Eagle nests were successful, producing six eaglets, an improvement over the two fledged in the wet summer of 1998, but short of the eight eaglets (from six nests) in 1997. Of 11 known Peregrine Falcon eyries, all in Essex County, nine were active and produced young this year: two Chesterfield sites (2 and 3 chicks, respectively), Crown Point (adult present), Elizabethtown (inactive), two Keene sites (1 young fledged from each), Moriah (4 fledged), North Elba (2 fledged), Westport (2 fledged), Wilmington (3 fledged), and Willsboro (2 fledged), for a total of 20 chicks produced, the best year since nesting resumed in 1985.

Surprisingly, given the low lake levels, only 11 shorebird species were reported. For a second year, Wilson's Phalarope was absent from the Chazy Rivers nesting site. On the positive side, a **Wilson's Warbler** on the 5-6 June Federation trip was suggestive of breeding by another bird named after the great ornithologist and similarly rare in NYS, but no location was given. "**Yellow**" **Palm Warblers** at Spring Pond Bog, Franklin County, 5 June and Sabattis Bog, Hamilton County, 18 June provided hope for confirmation in the coming Atlas survey. Gretch reported a decline of grassland sparrows at the former Plattsburgh AFB, now the Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corp. (PARC) site; see details in the species accounts that follow.

A total of 165 species was reported, an improvement over the 157 in the wet summer of '98 (yet lower than the totals of 179 and 185 species in other recent drought years of 1997 and '95, respectively.)

Congratulations to Gary Lee on his distinguished career as a Forest Ranger in Hamilton County; Gary (315-357-4403) will continue to guide visiting birders as a licensed Adirondack Guide. And a reminder that the new Carleton's *Birds of Essex County, New York*, 3rd Ed., is available from this editor for \$10.50 postpaid, payable to "High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc."

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AP - Ausable Point WMA; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH - Cumberland Head; CR - Chazy Rivers; CRF - Cedar River Flow; FB - Ferd's Bog; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; PARC - former Plattsburgh AFB; SB - Sabattis Bog; SLB - Silver Lake Bog; WRS - Webb Royce Swamp.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** 7 banded and blood-sampled 5 HAMI lakes; pair setting L Abanakee to 18 Aug (GL); max 10 Little Tupper L 24 Aug (NO); *intro*.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1,372 nests FBI (down 1.5% from 1,394 in '98); 90 banded FBI; Little Tupper L 16-17 Jul (J&PT), unusual inland.  
**Least Bittern:** Ticonderoga 4 Jul (EG); Wadhams 8 Aug (GL); present at former site since 1930s, but latter a new site along Boquet R.  
**Great Blue Heron:** 39 nests FBI, 1 banded; nesting n. Speculator, HAMI (PK).  
**Great Egret:** Boquet R, Essex-Westport line 2 Aug (JP).  
**Cattle Egret:** 6 FBI, "B" 12 Jun (GH, JP, RW); 3 banded FBI 23 Jul (RM, JP, RW), where there were ~ 9 nests.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 227 nests FBI; 67 banded, a remarkable increase.  
**GLOSSY IBIS:** 3 ad FBI "B" 12 Jun (GH, RM, JP, LR, RW); 4 y banded FBI 23 Jul (RM, JP, RW), northernmost nesting in NYS and apparently worldwide.  
**Turkey Vulture:** 1 Tupper L 2 Aug (CD), fed on table scraps on front lawn, jousting with Am. Crows!  
**Canada Goose:** flock CR 7 Jun (TB, JP), late; pair with 5 goslings Essex 8 Jun (TB, JP); 48 FBI 23 Jul (RM, JP, RW), where known to nest; small race Westport 14 Aug (JP, J&PT); max 80 Tupper L municip p 27 Aug (DCR).

**Gadwall:** drake CR 7 Jun (TB, JP); Westport 29 Jul (J&PT), scarce here.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** drake CR 7 Jun (TB, JP), only report.  
**Green-winged Teal:** drake CR 7 Jun (TB, JP), uncommon here.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** L Serenity and Paul Smiths, only reports.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** hen with 6 ducklings CR 19 Jun (BK, CM), a fine sighting.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 100 FBI 23 Jul (RM, JP, RW), high for summer.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** hen FBI "C" 12 Jun (JP, RW), historic nesting site.

### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 4 FRAN nests produced 6 eaglets; Tupper L 19 Jun; ad Shingle Shanty Bk, imm L Lila 7 Aug; imm Little Tupper L 24 Aug, suggestive of nesting s. FRAN; imm Mountain View dam 27 Aug.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** foreign retrap CRF 27 Aug (RM), banded Cape May, NJ, 15 Oct 1993 as a *Cooper's Hawk* (Bird Banding Lab)!  
**Merlin:** nest with 4 y Abanakee L; nest with 4 y Raquette L (GL); female Mountain View 9 Aug (JT), where present in previous years; transient Whallonsburg 12 Aug (JP, DMR).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 20 chicks produced at 9 ESSE eyries (NYSDEC), *intro*.  
**Spruce Grouse:** male Roaring Bk, North Elba ESSE, 5 Jun (TB), previously

unknown site; male SPB also 5 Jun (JO), well-known site.

**Wild Turkey:** 2 hens, 5 chicks Rt 30, HAMI, 6 Aug (NO); 17 Whippleville late Aug (JT); many n.. FRAN reports; many broods s. FRAN; max 25 Speculator (PK).

**Virginia Rail:** pair with 4 chicks AP 29 Jun (BK, CM), plus other adults.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 2 alt. plumage CR 7 Jun (TB, JP), relatively late.

**Semipalmated Plover:** CR 14 Aug (JP, J&PT), only report.

**Killdeer:** max 40 Westport 28 Aug (JP).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 5 CR 28 Jul (BK); WRS 29 Jul (J&PT); Westport 12-14 Aug (JP, DR, J&PT).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 5 CR 19 Jun; Mountain View L 25 Jul (JT), unexpected; 2 CR 28 Jul (BK, CM); Westport 4 Aug (JP, RW); 2 Westport 12 Aug (JP, DR), more expected.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Westport 12 Aug (JP, DR); max 4 Westport 28 Aug (JP, J&PT, RW).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Westport airport 25 Jun (DS), first ESSE record since nesting was confirmed near Ticonderoga during 1980-85 Atlas survey.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 105 CR 7 Jun (TB, JP); 3 there 19 Jun (BK, CM), fairly late; arr Westport 29 Jul (J&PT).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Westport 20 Jul (JP, RW), present to 28 Aug; CR 11-20 Jul; FBI 23 Jul (RM, JP, RW); max 12 Westport 14 Aug (JP, J&PT).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 10 CR 7 Jun (TB, JP); arr Westport 4 Aug (JP, RW); max 40 there 28 Aug (JP).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 1,000 chicks, 175 ads banded FBI, the latter with numbered yellow bands on the rt leg. One banded as a chick 12 Jun was caught by entanglement in fishing gear at L Auburn, Maine 13 Aug and released alive (DF).

**Herring Gull:** 109 banded FBI.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 6 banded FBI.

**Com. Tern:** ad CR 7 Jun (TB, JP); Westport 28 Jun (GH, JP); CR 11 Jul (BK, CM, GW), good finds, although they nest in neighboring Vermont.

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** male WRS 8 Jun (TB, JP); Wadhams 19 Jun (JP, CS); male Elizabethtown 24 Jun (JP); a good showing.

**Whip-poor-will:** Redford 14 Jun (DF), first after a 10-yr absence there.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** FB; Helldiver Pd; Middle Pd, Floodwood Rd; Mountain View L; SLB; Stony Brook Pd, ESSE.

**Three-toed Woodpecker:** no reports.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** FB; L Lila; SLB; only reports.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** pair with fledged y Blue Mountain Rd 30 Jul (MB); FB; SB; SLB bode well for the coming Atlas project.

**Willow Flycatcher:** singing male Essex 8 Jun (TB, JP); Essex 19 Jun (JP, CS); AP 29 Jun (BK, CM); Scotion Cr 3 Jul (J&RH).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** transient CH 23 Aug (NO), an excellent find.

**Gray Jay:** BB; FB; Helldiver Pd; Shingle Shanty Bk; usual sites.

**Horned Lark:** 6 PARC (MG).

**Boreal Chickadee:** BB, Blue Mountain Rd; Helldiver Pd; Red R; Shingle Shanty Bk; SPB; usual haunts.

**Tufted Titmouse:** Plattsburgh city beach 2 Jun (GW), a good find.

**Marsh Wren:** AP 7 Jun (TB, JP); Ticonderoga 4 Jul (EG); L Lila 7 Aug (BL), a fine showing from 3 counties.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 2 Pt au Fer 8 Jul (GW), only report.

**Bicknell's Thrush:** Whiteface Mt 6 Jun (VF), only report...but assuredly more numerous than gnatcatchers here.

**N. Mockingbird:** CH 20 Aug (NO), only report.

**Brown Thrasher:** Heart Lake Rd 12 Jun (NO), scarce at this elevation.

## WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** BB 30 Jul (MB); French Settlement Rd, CLIN 10 Aug (J&RH), scarce here.



**Tennessee Warbler:** SB 18 Jun (WP); singing males SLB 4-10 Jul (J&RH, BK, CM), lend hope of finding first NYS nest during the coming Atlas.

**Yellow Warbler:** CH 20 Aug (NO), fairly late.

**Prairie Warbler:** pair with male singing The Gulf, CLIN 11 Jun (J&RH), northernmost NYS sighting of this regional rarity.

**"YELLOW" PALM WARBLER:** SPB 5 Jun (VF); SB 18 Jun (WP); now known bogs, but still excellent finds.

**Mourning Warbler:** banded Elizabethtown 6 Aug (JP).

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** unspecified location 5-6 Jun (FNYSBC), possible breeder; Tupper L 29 Aug (CD), presumed transient.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Vesper Sparrow:** 4 PARC (MG), down from 12 in 1994; Mountain View early Aug (JT).

**Savannah Sparrow:** 16 PARC (MG), down from 19 in 1994.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 6 PARC (MG),

down from 17 in 1994; Lewis Preserve 28 Jul (J&RH).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** nest with 3 y FB (GL).

**Com. Grackle:** 200 Speculator 15 Aug, with max 300 by late in the month (PK).

**Red Crossbill:** BB 5 Jun (FNYSBC).

**White-winged Crossbill:** SPB 5 Jun (FNYSBC).

**Evening Grosbeak:** 7 hamlet Indian L HAMI, 14-16 Jun (WP); with juv Speculator 23 Jun, 24 Aug (PK); 4 L Serenity 13 Jul (BK, CM); 2 Paul Smiths 29 Jul (MB); 6 CRF (RM); representative of summer distribution.

#### EXOTICS

**bobwhite:** CH 2 Jun (BK); bird looked much like Masked Bobwhite, cinnamon overall with black legs, bill, and mask, except for a crescent-shaped white patch on chest, mask that did not extend down the throat, and upper and underparts the same.

## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

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As reported from the Albany International Airport, the weather in June was extremely dry, with precipitation of 2.07", 1.55" below normal. Temperatures averaged 69.7°F, 2.8° above normal, with 61% sunshine. July continued dry, with precipitation totalling 2.24", 0.94" below normal. Temperatures averaged 74.1°, 2.8° above normal, with 64% sunshine. The dry weather ended in August, with rainfall a slightly-below-normal 3.45". Temperatures averaged a nearly-normal 69.1°, with 53% sunshine.

Few observers submitted nesting reports, so it is unclear how the drought affected the overall breeding season. Bob Yunick's impression is that the dryness, constant availability of insects and lack of cool, rainy periods in June at critical fledging times favored the nesting of some

species, notably Tree Swallow, although they were the recipients of extreme blowfly predation. The drought turned the pools at Vischer Ferry into dry weed patches, so nesting marsh birds completely disappeared. However, the less accessible areas remained fairly wet, so chances are that bitterns and rails could nest. Bald Eagle was well represented again with five nesting pairs. Four of these nests were successful and nine young were fledged, three from a single pair. **Merlin** nested on the shores of Lake George near Bolton Landing, marking the **first documented nesting of this species in Region 8**. Peregrine Falcon experienced another excellent year in the Region, with five active nests in the Lake George area fledging nine young. There were also three nesting pairs on the Hudson River bridges in Albany and Greene counties; two were successful, fledging at least four young. Shorebird habitat was limited because of the extreme dryness, but the usual 16 species were reported in small numbers. I made a late June trip to the Black Dome/Thomas Cole area and found Bicknell's Thrush singing on both peaks. I hiked up to the single campsite in the evening and was at the top of Thomas Cole (wearing my headlamp) as it started to get light. Henslow's Sparrow did not breed at the Saratoga National Historical Park and was reported only from Downmont Road east of Ft. Edward. Things seem to be shaping up for a winter finch incursion. Bob Yunick had a Red Crossbill at his feeder in Jenny Lake in late August, as well as a small number of Pine Siskins.

The rare bird highlight of the summer was a **Franklin's Gull**, which spent several days in July on the Mohawk River in the Cohoes area. Thanks to Walter Ellison for spotting the bird and for his excellent documentation of the sighting. This marks the third Regional record for this species.

Other unusual birds sighted included Brant, Glossy Ibis, Common Tern, Long-eared Owl, Hooded Warbler, Dickcissel and Red Crossbill. There were 184 species reported during the period, including 16 species of waterfowl, 12 hawks, 9 flycatchers, 7 thrushes, 23 warblers, 9 sparrows and 5 finches.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able, Sue Adair, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Beth Bidwell, Brad Bidwell (Bbi), Bob Boehm (Bbo), Joseph Brin, Paul M. Brown, Barbara Butler (Bbu), Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Amy Hanigan, Denise Hilton, Hudson

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area ALBA; CBBS - Crescent BBS, 13 Jun; CP - Carter Pond WASH; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward WASH; FtM - Fort Miller WASH; HR - Hudson River; hy - hatching year; JL - Jenny Lake SARA; LG - Lake George WARR; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore GREE; NRBBS - North River BBS, 24-25Jun; PB - Pine Bush Preserve ALBA; PI - Peebles Island SARA; SCA - Saratoga County Airport; SI - Simmons Island ALBA; SkW - Skidmore woods, Saratoga Springs; SL - Saratoga Lake SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TRd - Tower Road SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** 1 Jabe's Pd T Hague 20 Jun; 1 Efner L SARA 4 Jul thru; only reports.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** 1 FtM 5 Aug (JS), only report.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 64 Cohoes 21 Aug.  
**Am. Bittern:** 1 Smith's Flats Wetlands T Hague 26 Jun; 1 FtE 8 Jul; only reports.  
**Least Bittern:** 2 CP 2 Jun; 1 heard VF thru 9 Jun; only reports.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 20 HR Albany 7 Jul; 12 New St. Cohoes 20 Jul; no reports from local rookeries.  
**Great Egret:** max 6 NB 29 Jul.  
**Green Heron:** max 7 BCM 25 Jul.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 imm New St. Cohoes 14 Jul (SA), only report.  
**Glossy Ibis:** 1 NB 27 Jun (RG).  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 30 Colonie Landfill area 24 Jul.  
**Snow Goose:** 1 NRBBS (BBu).  
**Brant:** 1 MR PI 10 and 11 Jul (WE).

**Mute Swan:** no reports n of COLU.  
**Wood Duck:** no breeding reports received.  
**Gadwall:** max 6 VF 22 Aug.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 39 MR Cohoes 21 Aug.  
**Mallard:** max 380 MR Cohoes 21 Aug.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 13 MR Cohoes Commons 21 Aug.  
**N. Shoveler:** 1 SI 10 Jul.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 4 PI 31 Jul; 2 MR Cohoes Commons 21 Aug; only reports.  
**Bufflehead:** 1 FtM 7 and 23 Jul (JS).  
**Hooded Merganser:** 3 juv FtM 3 Jun (JS); 1 Coeymans 16 Jun; 1 Lens L WARR 23 Jun; 1 New St. Cohoes 22 Aug; 1 FR 28 Aug.  
**Com. Merganser:** 1 ad + 6 y Lens L WARR 23 Jun.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1 HR Albany 7 Jul (RG).

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 JL area thru (RY), may have bred; 1 North Creek area 16 Jun (BPur); 2 FtM 7 Jul; 1 HR Albany 7 Jul; 2 Catskill 24 Jul; 7 reports of singles in Aug.

**Bald Eagle:** 1 Round L SARA 6 Jun; 1 imm LG T Hague 9 Jun (LM); 1 ad 33 imm NB 20 Jun-26 Jul; 4 imm CISP (RG); 1 imm Coxsackie 7 Aug; 1 imm Spier Falls Rd 18 Aug; 2 ad 2 imm NB 27 Aug; nesting: 5 occupied nests in Region, 4 successful, 7 y fledged, 3 from 1 pair.

**N. Harrier:** 1 SNHP 5 Jun; 3 FtE 22 Jun and 8 Aug; 1 Canajoharie MONT 19 Jun; 1 Amsterdam 16 Aug; 1 Gansevoort 29 Aug; no nesting observed.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 13 reports of singles; bred Gallupville.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 9 reports of singles.

**N. Goshawk:** 1 CBBS; nested JL (RY); House Pd FULT (JB).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 SNHP 5 Jun; 1 Grafton Lakes SP 15 Jul; 1 Altamont 8 Aug; 1 Austerlitz 13 and 16 Aug; only reports.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 7 North Creek area 16 Jun; 5 JL 17 Jul; nested JL, Sassafra Nature Preserve, Amsterdam; 15 reports of singles.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 7 Coxsackie 7 Aug.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 6 Jefferson SCHO 3 Aug; 15 Cary Rd. FtE 8 Aug; pair Brookview RENS 15 Jun.

**Merlin:** nested T Bolton Landing; *1st Regional nesting record.*

**Peregrine Falcon:** 5 active nests LG area, 9 y fledged; 1 active nest Dunn Mem Br, 3 fledged; 1 active nest Castleton Railroad Br, at least 1 fledged; 1 active nest Rip Van Winkle Br Catskill, failed (all BL); 1 ad female FtE 20 Jun (WE); 1 2nd year female Cohoes 21 Aug (WE).

**Wild Turkey:** reported in good numbers throughout Region.

**Virginia Rail:** 1 CP 9 Jun; 2 Lens L WARR 23 Jun (PC); 1 ad + 3 y BCM 27 Jun.

**Sora:** no reports.

**Com. Moorhen:** 1 VF 6 Jun; 5 CP 25 Aug; only reports.

**Am. Coot:** 1 ad + 2 y Partridge Run WMA 24-25 Jun.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 New St Cohoes 22 Aug (FM), only report.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 10 Cohoes 21 Aug.

**Killdeer:** max 40 Cohoes 24 Jul; 56 NRP 7 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 PI 31 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 SI 10 Jul; 2 FTM 11 Jul; max 24 SI/Cohoes Commons 24 Jul.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 2 FtM 11 Jul.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 1 Cohoes 11 Jul; max 12 PI 31 Jul.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 18 FtE 12 Jun; 5 reports of singles.

**Sanderling:** 3 Tibbets Ave GI 21 Aug (WE).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 5 SI 24 Jul.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 2 SI 10 Jul; max 40 SI 24 Jul.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 1 New St Cohoes 3 Aug.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 Shaker's Creek T Colonie ALBA 2 Aug (WL).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1 juv SI 20 Jul (SA); 1 juv SI 21 Jul (WE), only reports.

**Am. Woodcock:** only 2 reports of singles.

**Franklin's Gull:** 1 2nd year 10-16 Jul SI (WE, NM, mob), 3rd Regional record.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 195 SI 10 Jul; 465 Cohoes 21 Aug (WE).

**Com. Tern:** 2 NB 29 Jun (RG); 1 Catskill 24 Jul (RG).

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 9 reports of singles.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 6 reports of singles.

**E. Screech-Owl:** only 6 reports of singles.

**Great Horned Owl:** 6 reports of singles; 3 juv NRP 7 Aug.

**Barred Owl:** 6 reports of singles.

**Long-eared Owl:** heard nightly Gallupville 18-24 Jun and 7 Aug (Bbo, KB).

**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 Rts 4/67

Mechanicville 14 Jun (WL); 1 Glens Falls 15 Jun; 3 Glens Falls 19 Jul (AV); 1

Saratoga; 2 Niskayuna 11 Aug (WL); 29 Albany 16 Aug (BEN); 1 Saratoga 16 Aug; 24 Guilderland 17 Aug; 5 Saratoga 17 Aug; 10 Saratoga 18 Aug; 36 Saratoga 19 Aug; 9 Guilderland 22 Aug; 13 Stuyvesant Plaza 22 Aug; 3 Saratoga 25 Aug (JG); 220 Guilderland 27 Aug (WE); 932 Saratoga 27 Aug (JG); 78 Guilderland 28 Aug; 8 Albany 28 Aug (SS).  
**Whip-poor-will:** 3 TRd 13 Jun (JG, AV); 1 New Hague Rd T Hague 21 and 24 Jun (LM); 1 Northville FULT 28 Jun (FM); 1 Warrensburg 3 Jul (B. Kirker); 1 Schodack 25 Aug (BEN).  
**Chimney Swift:** max 65 Cohoes 21 Aug (WE); 150-200 Saratoga 22 Aug (AH).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 57 banded JL thru (RY), record year.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 Plattecove BBS 12 Jun (RG).  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 1 ad + 2 fledglings NB 20 Jun (RG); 2 juvs VF 24 Jul; 12 reports of singles.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** nested JL; 3 pairs at nest holes NRBBBS (Bbu); 7 reports of singles.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 SNHP 3 Jun (BEN); 1 Powley-Pisceo Rd T Stratford FULT 28 Aug (JG).  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 9 SNHP 23 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 NB 25 Aug (RG), only report.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** max 4 SNHP 21 Jul.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** max 6 TRd 3 Jun (WL).  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 11 Hadley Mt 13 Jun.  
**E. Phoebe:** 22 y banded from 5 nests JL (RY).  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 7 CBBS; 6 CSR 27 Jun.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 8 SNHP 21 Jul.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 4 Deer Mt T Coeymans 16 Jun.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 6 Lens L 23 Jun (PC).  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 10 CBBS.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 11 Hadley Mt 13 Jun.

**Fish Crow:** pair SUNYA 8 Jul, only report.  
**Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region.  
**Horned Lark:** nested FtE, SCA.  
**Purple Martin:** 1 Ballston L outlet 15 Jul; SL colony not checked.  
**Tree Swallow:** 68 nestlings banded Palmer colony Amsterdam; 162 nestlings banded Veeder colony (RY).  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last 2 PI 21 Aug.  
**Bank Swallow:** nesting colony with 50-100 nest holes Rotterdam 23 Jun (WL); max 60 NRP 11 Jul; last 9 NRP 7 Aug.  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 37 T Gansevoort 7 Aug; last PISP 21 Aug.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 52 NRP 7 Aug; last 6 Slingerlands 18 Aug.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** 37 banded JL 22 Jul-31 Aug (RY); sizable irruption anticipated.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** bred again JL, rare in Adirondacks (RY).  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 62 banded JL thru (RY), 31-year record.  
**Carolina Wren:** only 4 reports of singles.  
**House Wren:** max 13 CBBS; 8 SNHP 18 Jun; 4 pairs nested Amsterdam, 32 y fledged (TP).  
**Winter Wren:** max 7 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun (JG).  
**Marsh Wren:** max 8 BCM 25 Jun.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 4 CBBS; 4 NRP 11 Jul; 4 VF 24 Jul.  
**E. Bluebird:** no nesting reports FR; max 8 Deer Mt T Coeymans 16 Jun.  
**Veery:** max 22 CSR 22 Jun.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 2 Thomas Cole 25 Jun; 2 Black Dome 25 Jun; 8 Hunter Jun.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** 1 Hadley Mt 13 Jun; 5+ Lens L WARR 23 Jun (PC); 6 Black Dome 25 Jun.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 14 NRBBBS.  
**Wood Thrush:** max 14 CBBS; 10 TRd 13 Jun.  
**Am. Robin:** week-old FL banded NB 24 Aug.  
**Gray Catbird:** max 38 CBBS.  
**Brown Thrasher:** reported throughout Region; max 4 Plattecove BBS 12 Jun.

Cedar Waxwing: max 13 Crescent BBS; 15 Camp Pinnacle 30 Aug.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 10 SNHP 21 Jun; 2 NB 25 Aug.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** no reports.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 SNHP 30 Jun (JG).  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 1 SNHP 3 Jun (BEN).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** 1 Ferry Rd 24 Jul (WE).  
**N. Parula:** 2 Hadley Mt 13 Jun; 4 NRBBS; 6 T Stratford FULT 18 Jun; 2 reports of singles.  
**Yellow Warbler:** max 21 CBBS.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 8 NRBBS.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 5 NRBBS; arr 4 VF 22 Aug; 5 reports of singles.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 10 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 8 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 13 Thomas Cole/Black Dome 25 Jun.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 15 reports of singles.  
**Pine Warbler:** max 6 CSR 22 Jun.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 3 SNHP 21 Jun; 6-8 TRd 3 Jun.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 20 Black Dome 25 Jun.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** no reports.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 10 NRBBS; 13 reports of singles.  
**Am. Redstart:** max 11 Black Dome 25 Jun.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1 T Coeymans 16 Jun (RG).  
**Ovenbird:** max 19 SkW 9 Jun; 27 NRBBS; 13 SNHP 23 Jun.  
**N. Waterthrush:** 2 CBBS, only report.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 2 Deer Mt T Coeymans 16 Jun; 2 ad + 1 y NRP 11 Jul; only reports.  
**Mourning Warbler:** 2 NRBBS, only report.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 15 CBBS; 12 BCM 27 Jun.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 1 banded T Altamont 6 Aug (RG).

**Wilson's Warbler:** no reports.

**Canada Warbler:** max 4-6 TRd 3 Jun; 7 NRBBS (Bbu); 2 NB 25 Aug.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 5 CSR 22 Jun; 31 reports of singles; numbers up.  
**E. Towhee:** max 6 PB 13 Jul; 10 NB 6 Aug; 9 SNHP 21 Jun.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 15 NRBBS; did well JL 10 y 3 ad banded (RY).  
**Field Sparrow:** max 10 SNHP 21 Jun; 8 PB 13 Jul.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 3 FtE 12 Jun; 1 singing SCA 17 Jun.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 64 FtE 12 Jun.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 5 FtE 12 Jun.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** 2 Dowmont Rd T Argyle 24 Jun; did not breed SNHP.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 9 BCM 27 Jun.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 10 NRBBS.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 17 banded JL Jun-Jul (RY).  
**Indigo Bunting:** max 6 SNHP 2 Jun; 6 NB 3 Jul; 16 reports of singles.  
**DICKCISSEL:** 1 singing male Durkeetown Rd FtE 12-15 Jun (AH, mob), first report since 1996, first summer report since 1974.  
**Bobolink:** reported in good numbers from FtE, SNHP.  
**E. Meadowlark:** good numbers SNHP.  
**Com. Grackle:** max 3000 Chatham 29 Aug (WE).  
**Orchard Oriole:** 1 Schodack 21 Jun (PC); 1 ad male 1 sub-ad male Amsterdam 16 Jun (TP).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** max 9 PI 10 Jul; 6 PB 13 Jul.  
**Purple Finch:** 83 banded (23 hy ) JL Jun-Aug (RY); reported in small numbers throughout Region.  
**Red Crossbill:** 1 *neogara* at thistle feeder JL (RY), only report.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** 53 banded JL thru.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** max 13 NRBBS; 12 banded (6 hy) JL (RY); 6 reports of singles.

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## REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The summer season was one of the driest on record. June had less than 1" of rain and July was under 0.5" for most parts of Region 9. The first half of August was dry as well. Heat waves with high temperatures in the high 90s occurred 7-9 June, 4-6 July, and a prolonged one, 23 July to 2 August. The average temperature for July was 4°F above normal.

**Osprey** successfully nested and raised two young at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye. This is the **first nesting in Westchester County since the 1890s.**

The Huckleberry Island Nesting Survey conducted on this island in Long Island Sound off New Rochelle, Westchester County on 21 May by David Kunstler found 565 Double-crested Cormorant nests, 25 Great Egret nests, 9 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, 18 adult Snowy Egrets, 1 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 2 pairs of American Oystercatchers, 107 adult Herring and 44 adult Great Black-backed gulls.

The first Sterling Forest (Orange County) Breeding Bird Survey on 12 June found 98 species, including 21 species of warblers. Highlights included Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue and Nashville warblers, both waterthrushes, Yellow-breasted Chat, Acadian Flycatcher and Purple Finch..

The Greenwich-Stamford (Connecticut) Summer Bird Count on 12 and 13 June yielded 128 species. Highlights of the areas covered in Westchester County included 5 Clapper Rails, 7 Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Marshlands Conservancy.

The Putnam County Summer Bird Count tallied 133 species including: 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Common Terns on the Hudson River, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Dark-eyed Junco and Orchard Oriole.

Six Sandhill Cranes were found in Parksville, Sullivan County on 31 July. Unfortunately, the birds were not countable for the many birders who traveled to see them. It was discovered that they are part of "Operation Migration." This experimental program trains cranes to follow ultralight aircraft in order to establish new migration routes. They were originally brought north in back of a truck.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were numerous and appeared to be on the move south during August. Orchard Oriole sightings continue to increase.

Other interesting sightings included out-of-season Red-necked Grebe in New Rochelle on 20 August and Evening Grosbeak in Katonah on 24 August.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP - Croton Point Park WEST; EGR - Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary WEST; GA - Galeville Airport ULST; GSSBC - Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count; JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society; KP - Kakiat Park ROCK; LHVBL - Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line; MC - Marshlands Conservancy WEST; MRG - Mianus River Gorge WEST; PCSBC - Putnam County Summer Bird Count; PP - Piermont Pier ROCK; RNC - Rye Nature Center WEST; RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club DUTC; SFBBS - Sterling Forest Breeding Bird Survey ORAN; THMUA - Taconic Hereford Multiple Use Area DUTC; WPR - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation WEST.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 MC 12 Jun.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 Glen I P, New Rochelle 20 Aug (TB).  
**Am. Bittern:** 1 Bashakill 22 Aug.  
**Least Bittern:** 2 CPP 12 Jun; 4 PCSBC Jun.  
**Great Egret:** 4 Hudson R, Kingston 28 Jul; 8 L Tappan 8 Aug.  
**Snowy Egret:** 1 Staatsburg 8 Aug; 1 Hillside L DUTC 17 Aug.  
**Little Blue Heron:** 1 EGR 12 Jun; 1 EGR 22 Aug.  
**Green Heron:** 1 nest Hudson R DUTC; 1 PP 1 Aug.

**Black Vulture:** 4 Sloatsburg 25 Aug; 1 Stonykill 31 Aug.  
**Mute Swan:** 170 Hudson R near Kingston 28 Jul; 200 River Rd DUTC Aug.  
**Greater Scaup:** 1 Rye first week of Jun.  
**Com. Merganser:** 2 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 2 Jun.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** successful nest, 2 y MC, *first for WEST since 1890s*.  
**Bald Eagle:** 1 ad Muscoot Res 1 Aug.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1 DUTC 22 Jul.  
**Cooper's hawk:** 4 GSSBC 12-13 Jun; 1



Pawling 30 Jun; 3 y Tymor P DUTC 13 Jul.  
**N. Goshawk:** 2 MRG 13 Jun; 4 PCSBC Jun.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 8 PCSBC Jun.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 1 albino WPR 17 Jun.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 Cortlandt 5 Jun; 6 Pond Gut DUTC 16 Jun; 1 Humeston DUTC 11 Jul.  
**Merlin:** 1 Rye 14 Aug.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 Newburgh/Beacon Bridge 20 Jun; 1 Bear Mt Bridge 1 Aug.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** hen with 3 y Myers Preserve 12 Jun.  
**N. Bobwhite:** 2 DUTC 3 Jun; 1 Buckout Rd, Harrison 12 Jun.  
**Clapper Rail:** 5 MC 12 Jun.  
**Virginia Rail:** 5 PCSBC Jun.  
**Sora:** 1 MC 10 Aug.  
**Com. Moorhen:** only reported from Bashakill.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 6 Parksville SULL 31 Jul, trucked into Region as part of "Operation Migration", *intro*.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 16 MC 25 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 24 MC 26 Jun; 1 PP 1 Aug; 10 L Tappan 8 Aug.  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** max 6 Rye 26 Jun.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 5 Bronx R Yonkers 12 Aug.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 1 PP 1 Aug; max 4 EGR 20 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 120 MC 26 Jun; 300 L Tappan 8 Aug; 22 Six-and-a-half Station Marsh 11 Aug.  
**Western Sandpiper:** 1 location omitted 30 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** few PP 1 Aug; 27 Bronx R Yonkers 29 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 MC 17 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1 L Tappan 8 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 4 MC 25 Aug.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 Hudson R near Rhinecliff DUTC 28 Jul (VF).  
**Com. Tern:** max 50 EGR 20 Aug.  
**Forster's Tern:** 1 MC 26 Jun; 1 EGR 20 and 22 Aug.  
**Least Tern:** 2 MC 30 Jun.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1 RNC 1 and 3 Jun; 1 KP 6 Jun; 1 WPR 7 Jun.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 300 Newburgh 22 Aug (LHVBL).  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 DUTC 16-30 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 2 PCSBC Jun; 1 Pawling Nature Preserve 30 Jun, 1 and 4 Aug.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 MC 7, 18 and 19 Aug.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** 1-2 DUTC (3 locations); 1 MRG 12 Jun.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** 1WPR 5 Jun; 4 Sharparoon 11 Jun; 2 Shaughnessy Rd DUTC 14 Jun; 3 PCSBC Jun.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 Nellie Hill DUTC 11 Jun, carrying food to nest (CP).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** absent at MRG (GSSBC); 10 PCSBC Jun; 3 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 10 Jul.  
**Com. Raven:** 6 DUTC 2 Jun; 11 PCSBC Jun.  
**Purple Martin:** 4 DUTC 2-17 Jun and Jul; 3 MC 22 Aug.  
**Bank Swallow:** 6 MC 3 Jul.  
**Cliff Swallow:** new colonies at CPP, Muscoot Farm.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** many reports from DUTC; scattered reports from elsewhere.  
**Brown Creeper:** 1 Nanahagan Rd WEST 12 Jun.  
**Winter Wren:** max 7 MRG 12 Jun.  
**Sedge Wren:** 1 WPR 25 Jul (LHVBL).  
**Marsh Wren:** max 17 MC 12 Jun.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 1 WPR 7 Jun; 1 Nanahagan Rd WEST 12 Jun.  
**Hermit Thrush:** 5 Pawling Nature Preserve 4 Aug.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** common this summer.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1 KP 6 Jun.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 Kent Cliffs PUTN 10 Aug (LHVBL).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 2 PCSBC Jun; 2 Pawling 30 Jun.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1 Mack Rd DUTC 9 Jun.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 7 and nest Deep Hollow Rd DUTC; 20 PCSBC Jun; 1 THMUA 26 Jun; 2 Pawling Nature Preserve, 1 feeding juv cowbird 4 Aug (CP).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 Pond Gut DUTC 16 Jun; 1 THMUA 26 Jun; 2 PCSBC Jun; 3 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 10 Jul; 1 Bashakill 22 Aug.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** 1 Pond Gut DUTC 16 Jun; 2 PCSBC Jun; 1 Pawling 30 Jun; usual numbers at Doodletown.  
**Kentucky Warbler:** 1 PCSBC Jun; 1 Rockefeller SP end of Jun.  
**Mourning Warbler:** 1 RNC 4 Jun.  
**Hooded Warbler:** good numbers from Doodletown; 1 Myer Preserve 12 Jun; 5 PCSBC Jun; 1 Tymor P DUTC 13 Jul; 3 DUTC 4 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** 1 Sharparoon DUTC 11 Jun; 3 PCSBC Jun; 2 Pawling Nature Preserve 4 Aug.

**TANAGERS - WEAVERS**  
**Savannah Sparrow:** nesting at CPP.  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 1 MC 12 Jun.  
**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** max 6 MC 30 Jun.  
**Seaside Sparrow:** 1 MC 2 Jun.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 4-5 Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 2 Jun and 10 Jul; 4 PCSBC Jun, breeding in 2 locations.  
**Bobolink:** nesting at CPP.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 1 Walden 6 Jun; 1 DUTC 14 Jun; many reports in the southern half of the Region; max 3 pairs Crestwood L Yonkers.  
**Purple Finch:** reported mainly from DUTC and PUTN; 1 MC 23 Aug.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 1 Katonah 24 Aug (LHVBL).

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## REGION 10 - MARINE

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The first two thirds of the season set some weather records that we probably could have done without. June was the second driest month on record with only 0.59" of rain. July followed as the driest month on record with only 0.44" of rain. The rain for August was normal for Central Park, the location of our weather statistics. However, when showers finally arrived on 11 August, only 0.03" fell in New York City, 0.15" fell at Montauk 120 miles to the east, and 4.37" at Upton in mid-Suffolk County. Late August showers brought over 3.0" to 6.0" of additional rain to Region 10 in a single day.

The summer was also hot. The June temperature was 1.6°F greater

than normal. July, in addition to being dry, became the hottest on record with a mean temperature of 81.4°, 4.6° greater than normal, with 17 days over 90°. August had normal temperatures.

To observe ocean seabirds when one lives on Long Island, it may not be necessary to brave an ocean voyage or go on a pelagic trip. Each summer, when the winds are right, a number of such species can be seen from the ocean beaches and various inlets of Long Island, if you are in the right place at the right time. A compilation of "pelagic" reports for the season follows, first those from land, Items 1-4, and then those from sea, Items 5-8.

1. At Shinnecock on Saturday 12 June, both Sooty and Greater shearwaters were present, as well as a small number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels. The latter species was still present in small numbers on Sunday evening, as was a Parasitic Jaeger cruising east about 500 yards off shore. At Montauk on 12 June, both Sooty Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels were in the tidal rip off the point.

2. On Sunday 13 June, Wilson's Storm-Petrels were present in small numbers from Democrat Point to Shinnecock and on the ocean off Sagg Pond. The total reached 40 later in the day. About eight Parasitic Jaegers, including one dark morph, and a small black-and-white shearwater, presumably a Manx, joined the Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Democrat Point. Two more Manx Shearwaters appeared in the evening at Sagg Pond in Bridgehampton. Another Parasitic Jaeger was seen off Shinnecock and one had been spotted off Montauk Point earlier on Sunday.

3. On 23 June, two Wilson's Storm-Petrels were feeding just east of the east jetty at Shinnecock.

4. On 15 August two Wilson's Storm-Petrels spent much of the day feeding in the ocean off Shinnecock Inlet and in the afternoon a Manx Shearwater was seen headed west.

5. On 8 June, 20 miles south of Montauk, in the area known as the Butterfish Hole, Cory's Shearwaters and Sooty Shearwaters were observed very close to the boat. Also observed were Wilson's Storm-Petrels.

6. On 26 June, a whale watching trip from Montauk Harbor reached the edge of Block Canyon some 25 miles southeast of Montauk Point. The trip produced 1 Manx Shearwater, 3 Cory's Shearwaters, 2 Greater Shearwaters, 1 shearwater sp (probably Manx), 46 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and 1 Parasitic Jaeger.

7. A Whale watching trip from Montauk on 3 July yielded 27 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and about 50 Greater Shearwaters.

8. On 10 July, approximately 15 miles SW of Montauk Point, there were 10 Greater Shearwaters, 3 Cory's Shearwaters, and 25+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels.

A pelagic trip on 28 August from Brielle, New Jersey traveled to Hudson Canyon, considered to be in New York waters, where exceptional views were had of a **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, which was followed for miles, allowing for prolonged observation. The bird was photographed and videotaped. Later, another **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, seen several miles from the previous bird, was believed to be a second individual. There are six previous records in the Region. Three Audubon's Shearwaters were also present out in the canyon area.

The numbers and movements of Brown Pelicans appearing in New York waters each summer tend to be highly unpredictable. On 3 July, this season's first birds showed up both on an island in Jamaica Bay and at Democrat Point, the western tip of Fire Island. Timing of these reports was not available and it is possible that the same birds were involved. The next report was of a group of four adults and a juvenile seen from the Ponquogue Bridge on 11 July. A fisherman was reported to have seen one in the area earlier, on 9 July. On 28 July seven were seen off Long Beach, then the next day, 29 July, nine were spotted on a bar in Shinnecock Bay northeast of the inlet. Five were still there in the afternoon. On 31 July, the last report of the season, only one bird from the previous group remained on the bars in the bay north of Shinnecock Inlet. Two Brown Pelicans were at Cuspsogue County Park, the prior day, on 30 July.

Henry Flamm reported that George Bouquio had seen a Black Vulture from the West Shore Expressway, Staten Island on 19 June. This species has been reported both north and west of the Region and in recent years on Staten Island. The expansion of both vultures into the northeast continues with increased sightings in our Region.

There have been only a few years when one or the other of our eider species has summered in the Region. This year we had one of each. First, a Common Eider and 12-14 Black Scoters were present at the Sore Thumb since June. Then, a molting, oiled female King Eider was found on the rocks behind the bait shop at the Jones Beach fishing piers (parking lot #10) from mid-August into October.

Henry Flamm reported on two raptor nests found on Staten Island. In both cases they represent breeding extensions from the Atlas period of 1980-1985. The first was an Osprey nest at a location just north of the Outerbridge on an abandoned pile driver in the Arthur Kill. There are now 8-10 or more nests in the area from the northernmost New Jersey shore to eastern Nassau County. The species does not appear to have nested in this part of the Eastern Seaboard historically. This is a range extension almost completely on man-made nesting sites and platforms. The second was the nest of a Cooper's Hawk that was found in High

Rock Park. The birds and nest were observed from mid-May to 7 July when a large single chick was observed and photographed. Per Flamm, this is the first nest on Staten Island since the 1950s. Although nesting occurred in our Region in the past per Bull in *Birds of the New York City Area*, the recent *Bull's Birds of New York State* does not indicate breeding. Historically, Cooper's Hawk has nested in Suffolk County at various times throughout the present century, with the latest occurrence in the Wertheim Preserve in 1993 (Salzman, pers. comm.).

On Monday, July 26th, a subadult **Mississippi Kite** visited Great Gull Island where it was seen being mobbed by gulls. This is the second record of this species for Great Gull.

An immature Bald Eagle was perched in a tree on Lookout Hill in Prospect Park, Brooklyn on 18 July, and a second immature Bald Eagle was seen at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge 15 August. Neither appeared to be birds of the year. Summer records have been unusual for many years.

Hugh McGuinness sent word of a sighting on 24 August by Brian Kane of what Kane believes was a **Yellow Rail**. The bird was seen at the "east end of Hook Pond, which actually has a small patch of decent looking habitat for Yellow Rail i.e., it is full of grasses and sedges. He was playing a Sora recording when the bird flew by him from one side of a small channel to the other, a distance of about 20 feet. He saw the bird as it flew across the channel and as it scurried into the phragmites. He saw a small brown bird that he believed to be a rail because of its dangling legs and fluttering flight. What was immediately obvious were two large white wing patches in the secondaries." A NYSARC report is being prepared. If accepted, this will represent the earliest fall record for the state.

Two **Black-necked Stilts** were at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 2-3 June; an American Avocet showed up on the East Pond on 22 July and stayed till the 25th. One appeared in Westhampton on 11-12 August and another at Jamaica Bay Refuge on 12 August. A Whimbrel spent most of the summer in the vicinity of Dune Road from 11 July to late August. On 4 June, a Marbled Godwit appeared on Staten Island at the Goethals Bridge Pond. Others appeared on Long Island.

There were a few summer reports of some uncommon gulls. On 18 June an immature Little Gull was spotted just inside Shinnecock Inlet, but it could not be relocated there over the weekend. Later in the season, an adult Little Gull was spotted flying east of the same inlet on the morning of 15 August. A Black-headed Gull was reported in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens on 24 July. On 19 June a first summer Lesser Black-Backed Gull appeared at Jones Beach West End Parking Field #2 and another in the same plumage was seen 12 August at the same place. Other sum-

mering birds of this species reported were either third year or adults at Jones Beach and an adult at Mecox on 10 Aug.

On 30 June a Caspian Tern flew over the pond in Prospect Park, an unlikely place for this species. On 13 June there were two **Arctic Terns** seen along the South Shore of Long Island. The first, an adult, was found at Sagg Pond in Bridgehampton. The second was seen by Shaibal Mitra in Fire Island Inlet. He first saw a suspicious looking tern (flying/feeding) in the inlet from the Sore Thumb side, then drove out to Democrat Point and found a *portlandica*-plumaged Arctic Tern sitting with some other terns. He suspects that this was the bird he saw originally, but was unwilling to 'call' it until he located it on the beach.

On 10 July a **White-winged Dove** was found by Al Ott roosting on a tree on the south side of the East Pond at Jamaica Bay.

Breeding in Prospect Park was reported this summer for both Warbling Vireo and White-eyed Vireo. The latter has been a confirmed breeder there the last two years. These represent a range extension since the Atlas period on the South Shore of Long Island.

After a winter and spring when Red-breasted Nuthatches were mostly nonexistent, they suddenly appeared early and in numbers from early August on. The phenomenon appears to be widespread throughout the Northeast and into Canada, where the pine cone crop has been reported to be sparse. Speculation as to the correlation of large early nuthatch movements to winter finches in the Northeast has already started. We shall see!

A Kentucky Warbler was found at Connetquot River State Park on 13 June. The species is rare in summer, although this area is not too far from where breeding occurred in the 1970s. We have no follow up to see if nesting occurred.

In the species account for **Blue Grosbeak** in *Bull's Birds of New York State*, Bob Paxton indicated that we should look for breeding on Long Island. This followed the report of a summering pair in Muttontown, Nassau County in 1995, although no breeding evidence was found. On 16 June, a pair was found near Riverhead. They were watched for breeding activity and a nest was found. It eventually contained five young, all of which appear to have fledged. **This is the first confirmed breeding for Long Island and the second for the state.** The only prior confirmed state nesting had occurred in our Region on Staten Island in 1982. For the full story see *Kingbird* 49 :186.

The unusual and early appearance of a **Le Conte's Sparrow** in a marsh in Quogue on 10 Aug was reported by Eric Salzman. Confirmation of this report will require a NYSARC report.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CB - Cedar Beach; CP - Central Park; CLP - Clove Lake Park SI; CM - Cow Meadow, Freeport; CUB - Cupsogue Beach County Park; DP - Democrat Pt FI; FI - Fire Island; GAP - Gabreski Airport, Westhampton; GKP - Great Kills Park SI; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; M - Montauk; MP - Montauk Point; LNI - Line Islands, south of Seaford; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PEL(x) - pelagic trips, (1) 20 miles S of MP, (2) 25 miles SE of MP, (3) whale watch, (4) 15 miles SW of MP, (5) Hudson Canyon; PL - Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; SHIN - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island; WSE - West Shore Expressway SI.

### LOONS - DUCKS

**N. Fulmar:** 2 18 miles S of MP 23 Jun.

**Cory's Shearwater:** 3 PEL(2) 26 Jun; 3 PEL(4) 10 Jul.

**Greater Shearwater:** SHIN 12 Jun; PEL(1) 8 Jun; 2 PEL(2) 26 Jun; 50 PEL(3) 3 Jul; 10 PEL(4) 10 Jul.

**Sooty Shearwater:** PEL(1) 8 Jun; SHIN 12 Jun; MP 12 Jun; off MP 23 Jun.

**Manx Shearwater:** 2 Sagg Pd 13 Jun; PEL(2) 26 Jun; SHIN 15 Aug.

**Audubon's Shearwater:** 3 PEL(5) 28 Aug.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** PEL(1) 8 Jun; SHIN 12 Jun; MP 12 Jun; DP 13 Jun; SHIN 13 Jun; 40 ocean off Sagg Pd 23 Jun; 46 PEL(2) 26 Jun; 27 PEL(3) 3 Jul;

25+ PEL(4) 10 Jul 2; SHIN 15 Aug.

**WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** 2 PEL(5) 28 Aug (AG, TB, SF, MB *et al.*).

**N. Gannet:** 9 DP 13 Jun; 20 RMSP 20 Jun; others.

**Brown Pelican:** JBWR 3 Jul; DP 3 Jul; SHIN 9 Jul; 5 inc 1 juv SHIN 11 Jul, 7 off Long Beach; 9 SHIN 29 Jul, then 5 in afternoon; 2 CUP 30 Jul; 1 SHIN 31 Jul.

**Cattle Egret:** farm fields between Sagaponack and Mecox 12-13 Jun; JBWR 3 Jul, then on and off to 22 Aug; WSE 8 Jul; Dune Rd 22 Aug.

**Black Vulture:** WSE 19 Jun (GB fide HFF).

**Turkey Vulture:** Howard Beach QUEE 1 Aug.

**Snow Goose:** 1 bird lingered into the summer JBWR.  
**King Eider:** on rocks behind bait shop JBCH Field #10 mid Aug on.  
**Com. Eider:** with Black Scoters Sore Thumb Jun on.  
**Black Scoter:** 12-14 Sore Thumb Jun thru; others during summer inc SI 6 Aug.  
**Oldsquaw:** Bailie Beach, Mattituck Jun and Jul.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** nest at Outerbridge on an abandoned pile driver in the Arthur Kill SI.  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Great Gull I 26 Jul; this is the second record for Great Gull (*vide* JD).  
**Bald Eagle:** PP 18 Jul; JBWR 15 Aug.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** nest found in High Rock P SI.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** PP 18 Jul, west of its usual territory on LI.  
**Com. Moorhen:** PP 20 Aug thru, unusual.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** only a few in fields at Riverhead mid Aug.  
**Black-necked Stilt:** 2 JBWR 2-3 Jun (BK, *et al*).  
**Am. Avocet:** JBWR 22-25 Jul; CUB 21 Aug; JBWR 21 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** probable nesting GAP.  
**Whimbrel:** from 7 Jul; 1 appeared on a lawn in Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn 19 Aug.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** LNI 24 and 31 Jul; CUB 14-21 Aug.  
**Marbled Godwit:** Goethals Bridge Pd SI 4 Jun; Dune Rd 17 Jul; 2 CUB 21, 24, 27 Aug; 1-2 mudflat at low tide opposite Oak Beach Inn or DP at high tide 20 Aug on.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** JBWR 30-31 Aug.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 alternate plumage JBWR 3 Jul (AnW, AG); increasing to 30 early Aug.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 2 n of Riverhead 14-15 Aug; Cutchogue 22-25 Aug.  
**Ruff:** JBWR 1 and 5 Aug (TB, *et al*); CM 19-22 Aug (EL, *et al*); Cutchogue 28-29 Aug (PG, *et al*).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2500 LNI 24 Jul.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** few JBWR mid-Jul thru.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR 2 Jun, 3, 4 and 23 Jul; 2 CM 31 Aug.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** SHIN 12 Jun; 8 DP 13 Jun; SHIN 13 Jun; MP 13 Jun; RMSP 20 Jun; PEL(2) 26 Jun.  
**Little Gull:** SHIN 18 Jun (AL) and 15 Aug (HM).  
**Black-headed Gull:** Flushing Meadow P QUEE 24 Jul (SW), rare in summer.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** JBWR 24 Jul; 2 SHIN 15 Aug.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** first summer JBWE 19 Jun and 12 Aug; FI 24 Jun; ad Mecox 10 Aug; 2nd winter JBWE 26 Aug.  
**Gull-billed Tern:** several pairs continue to nest on the bay island across from the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside.  
**Caspian Tern:** PP 30 Jun, unusual location; 2 DP 26 Aug.  
**Royal Tern:** GKP 13 Jun; SHIN 10-15 Jul; ad with a y begging for food DP 15 Jul; CUB 30-31 Jul; 15+ CUB 15 Aug; 2 DP 14 Aug on; 3 Robins Island 15 Aug; 15+ CUB 21 Aug; 2 DP 25 Aug.  
**Roseate Tern:** 15 DP 13 Jun; 10 DP 26 Aug; no longer nesting on JBCH strip and not generally seen west of CB; continue to breed in large numbers on Great Gull I.  
**ARCTIC TERN:** DP 13 Jun (SM, PL); Sagg Pd 13 Jun (AL); both sightings were by experienced birders; this summer saw a large number of Arctic Tern reports as far south as Cape May.  
**Black Tern:** CUB 8 Jul; SHIN 10 Jul; Breezy Pt 30 Jul; 6 JBWE 12 Aug; 14 DP 14 Aug; 2 SHIN 15 Aug; 10 SHIN 26 Aug; JBWR 15 Aug, 2 on 21 Aug.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** JBWR 10 Jul (AO).  
**Monk Parakeet:** 2 GKP 26 Jul.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** a group of rehabilitated birds had been released in CP and a pair is nesting in the vicinity.  
**Chuck-will's-widow:** at Cedar Beach and Riverhead as in prior years.



#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** PP 4 Jun; JBWR 22 Aug.

**White-eyed Vireo:** possible breeding in PP, this may be an extension of range since the Atlas period.

**Warbling Vireo:** breeding in PP, this is an extension of range since the Atlas period.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** after few reports last winter and spring a considerable movement was noted during Aug.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** CP 10 Aug.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** PP 20 Jun, late date.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** FI banding station 23 Jul; PP 14 Aug; CP 15 Aug.

**Kentucky Warbler:** Connetquot R SP 13 Jun, *intro*.

**Hooded Warbler:** CP 15 Aug; Quogue 25 Aug.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** PP 25 Aug; JBWE 30 Aug; RMSF 30 Aug.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Lark Sparrow:** 2 RMSF 21 Aug; 2 JBWE 30 Aug.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** probable nesting GAP.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** Quogue 10 Aug (ES), NYSARC report required.

**BLUE GROSBEAK:** pair found near Riverhead 16 Jun produced a nest with 5 FL, *this is the first confirmed breeding for LI and the second for the state.*

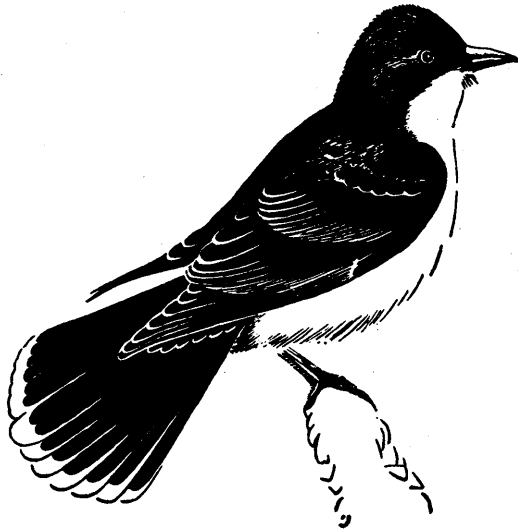
**Bobolink:** CP 5 Jul; migrants 15 Aug thru.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** backyard North Fork 13 Aug (BF).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** ad carrying nesting material River Rd SI 13 Jun (HF, fide HFF); the group at SHIN appears to be expanding.

**Orchard Oriole:** PP, last year was first confirmed breeding; one confirmed nest this year.

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