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The KINGBIRD

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*Editor- Emanuel Levine
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Regional Reports Proofreader-Berna Lincoln*

WOOD STORKS IN WAYNE COUNTY NEW YORK AUG – SEPT 2001

Dominic F. Sherony

51 Lambeth Loop Fairport, NY 14450

dsherony@frontiernet.net

Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) are rare fall vagrants in New York State with about 20 records. The coastal records have included several flocks ranging in size from 10 to 15. All inland records have been single birds (Levine 1998) so when 16 showed up in western New York this past summer, it was an unusual event that drew dozens of birders, both from this area and from all over the state.

Thirteen storks were first reported by Fay Sedore on 15 Aug 2001 in a small pond at the junction of Clyde-Hunts Corners Rd. and Daboll Rd, Clyde, Wayne County. Over the course of the next month, they were seen in varying numbers at four ponds in the Clyde area and once in Rochester, NY. The last sighting was by Kevin Scott and included 14 birds at a pond on the William Harper Farm on Welch Rd Extension in Clyde on 10 Sep 2001. According to reports, all the storks seen during this period were immatures.

Their behavior was carefully observed at the home of Sue and Jeff Dapolito who live in the town of Clyde. The Dapolito's have a large lot with a small pond in their backyard. When first observed at their pond, the birds would come daily arriving in the morning, as early as 7 am. They would remain at the pond from four to seven hours. When feeding, they would catch mostly bullheads, but also frogs. One stork was observed catching and eating a ten-inch bullhead but most prey fish were about four inches long.

In the Clyde area, they were seen at four small ponds (20 to 60 feet in diameter) surrounded by a muddy edge and lined at least on one side with trees or tall bushes. After feeding, they would roost on the pond edge or in a tree. Initially, they would come to the same pond daily, then after four to seven days, sporadically. It is most likely that as the fish population of the pond decreased, they looked for better locations. Wood Storks normally rely on dense populations of prey in seasonally drying wetland ponds and require about one pound of food per day (Wolkomir 2001).

The whereabouts of every bird could not be accounted for on a daily basis. The highest count of storks was 16, recorded on both 29 Aug and 1 Sep. There was speculation that the birds were using a large private nature reserve in the Clyde area as a place to feed and roost at night but there was no confirmation. Except for one account, there is no knowledge of where they spent the nights.

On the evening of 28 Aug, John Newhouse and Dave Tetlow saw three Wood Storks land in Cranberry Pond in Rochester, about 35 miles west of Clyde. The next morning, a number of birders saw these birds leave this pond at 9:30 am. The three storks were soaring and heading east over Badgerow Park in Rochester at 10:20 am. Cranberry Pond is just east of Braddock Bay and, by comparison, is very large and loaded with emergent vegetation and tall shrubs, a habitat unlike those the birds were typically using for feeding.

Late this summer, post-breeding storks were reported in Illinois, Ontario and in Pennsylvania. A single immature appeared in Lombard, Illinois and was being treated for dehydration, weight loss and parasites, this past August (Chase and Yates 2001) but this bird later died. Three Wood Storks were found on Pelee Island in Lake Erie on 9 Aug. They remained until 22 Sep. Two immature storks were found in Pennsylvania, one near Meadville, Pa. from 18 to 31 Aug, and the other near Littestown, Pa. from 19 Aug to 3 Sep.

The Wood Stork population has plummeted from about 60,000 in 1930 to about 10,000 today. The decline is attributed to poor reproduction due to lack of adequate food supply. The highest numbers bred in Florida but a five-year drought has caused the birds to breed further north in the cypress swamps of Georgia and South Carolina. Larry Bryan, chief Wood Stork researcher at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, monitors this species in the US. The US breeding population is confined to Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. He annually surveys 90 nesting colonies in Florida and counted 418 nests in 2001 compared with 7000 in 1999 (Slay and Bryan 2001). This large decrease is attributed to drought.

It is most likely that the juvenile Wood Storks seen in Clyde moved north in search of better feeding locations. During the past year there was a large influx of Wood Storks in Louisiana and Arkansas, believed to be birds of the Mexican population that came north for the same reason.

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Wood Storks in Clyde, NY 1 Sept. 2001 © Angus Wilson



Wood Stork, Clyde, NY 1 Sept. 2001 © Angus Wilson

NORTHERN PARULA RETURNS TO LONG ISLAND

Eric Salzman

Box 775, East Quogue, NY 11942

esalzman@aba.org

On 13 Jun 2000, Eric Miller observed a Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) feeding young in Alley Pond Park, Queens County (Schiff S. and A. Wollin 2000). On 7 Jul 2001, Joseph Giunta and I observed a female Northern Parula feeding a nestling in the canopy of an oak tree at Fresh Pond, Hither Hills State Park, in Easthampton Town, Suffolk, Long Island. These records, plus a number of added reports of singing males on Long Island, suggest the long-awaited return of this species to a substantial part of its former range.

Early in the last century, the Northern Parula was regarded as a locally common species in a number of parts of New York State and the Northeast. In New York, it bred mostly in wetland areas in the Adirondacks and in the Long Island pine-and-oak barrens. It nested almost exclusively in *Usnea*, a hanging lichen known as “beard moss” or “old man’s beard”. In the South, so-called Spanish Moss (a name popularly used in our locale for *Usnea* as well) serves the same function. With the mysterious disappearance of *Usnea* from Long Island and other coastal areas of the Northeast in the early part of the last century (air pollution and a diminution in sea fog have been offered as explanations), the species vanished as a breeding bird over a wide area from southern New England to the mid-Atlantic states. Ironically, one of the last recorded breeding sites on Long Island was Hither Hills in 1938 (Cruickshank 1942; Bull 1964). In the 1940s and 1950s, there were only two “Confirmed” and one “Possible” nesting record and then nothing after that. This crash was by no means confined to New York as coastal populations in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey similarly disappeared.

The presence of *Usnea* or Spanish Moss was long regarded as essential to parula nesting success and it has been evident that its return as a nester in our area was going to be dependent on either the return of the *Usnea*, or the historically recognized ability of the species to adapt to the use of other kinds of nesting substrates. That the latter could be the case was shown in the 1980s and 1990s, as the bird began to recolonize New Jersey, largely along the Delaware River in the northwestern part of the state, and also in swampy areas of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, the latter habitat being quite similar to its former Long Island home. The Delaware River birds often make their nests in the debris that forms in the crotches of the sycamore trees which are quite common on the river, and have been observed nesting as well in the drooping boughs of evergreens (Walsh et al. 1999).

In recent years there has been some indication that the Northern Parula might be attempting to return to Long Island, the best documented incident occurring in 1994 (Lindsay and Vezo 1995). A male No. Parula was seen in attendance at a Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) nest, visiting the nest with food, as well as heard singing nearby. However, there was no actual evidence to suggest

that hybridization had taken place, even though in my mind the possibilities were intriguing. Subsequently it became evident the nest contained a Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) chick and an apparent Cerulean Warbler fledgling.

In the spring of 2001, singing No. Parulas were noted at several eastern Long Island locations including the Little Peconic River near the Riverhead County Center, (where there are sycamores), Hunter's Gardens in the Manorville Hills between Eastport and Manorville, a persistent singing male in large old sycamores in Sebonac near North Sea, three singing males reported at Camp Hero, Montauk, another singing male at the Grace Estate, and a pair at Fresh Pond in the Hither Hills State, probably the same birds that succeeded in raising at least one chick. Other reports may turn up as Atlas 2000 information trickles in.

Do these breeding pairs and singing males represent a real return of a long-vanished breeding species or are they an artifact of increased coverage? I suspect that they represent a real and widespread return. Singing male Northern Parulas are hard to miss. The increased coverage during the last Atlas period in the early 1980s produced only two "Probables" and one "Possible" on Long Island in a six-year period suggesting that there was no comeback during that period. The current "explosion" of singing males with confirmed breeding in at least two cases, follows a typical pattern for the establishment or recolonization of breeding species. In the 1970's and 1980's the arrival of several southern woodland species on Long Island – Tufted Titmouse, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Red-bellied Woodpecker – was accomplished, not by a slow or gradual influx of breeding pairs, but by substantial invasions. Similarly, the Orchard Oriole, although in a slow process of recolonization on Long Island for a number of years, has increased most significantly as a breeder the last year or two in Nassau and Suffolk. If past colonizations of this sort are any indication, the No. Parula population may increase quickly and dramatically before leveling off. Since this coincides with Atlas 2000 we will likely have a good opportunity to document this new recolonization.

Thanks to Hugh McGuinness and Steve Walter for their help. Steve Biasetti, Paul A. Buckley, Joseph Giunta, Eric Miller, Shai Mitra and the author were the observers reporting singing males or breeding activity.

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ANALYZING BIRD COUNT DATA USING ADVANCE-DECLINE METRICS

Donald A. Windsor
PO Box 604, Norwich NY 13815

Abstract

Advance-decline metrics are applied to field bird count data. Examples are taken from Christmas Bird Counts, from the 75th count to the present. The Sherburne NY count is used as an example of many species from a single site. Here the total number of individuals of all species is increasing while the advance-decline line is decreasing. The House Finch is used as an example of how the advance-decline line can be used with a single species being reported from multiple sites. The use of advance-decline metrics is advocated for all field bird count data as a way to represent every species equally.

Introduction

As a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) compiler I am often asked how the birds are doing. I used to give the standard answer, that some species are increasing while others are decreasing. But, rather than utter such a noncommittal reply, I sought a better one.

After all, stock market transaction data are very similar to bird count data and market analysts seem to have no problems telling up from down. The stock of each company is analogous to a species of bird. The closing market price is analogous to the number of individual birds of a species. Published CBC lists look remarkably similar to the stock market results in the daily newspapers.

Investors have devised many ingenious techniques for monitoring stocks (Zweig 1986). Most are too cumbersome to be practical and others reflect investor behavior too much to be applied elsewhere. However, a few Wall Street methods are simple and useful.

The advance-decline metric (Zweig 1986, pages 83-85; Siegel et al. 2000, pages 28-32) deserves consideration by birders. It is the number of stocks that increased, decreased, or remained the same in price since the previous close. It is printed daily in the newspapers and serves as a measure of the direction of the overall market, as well as how broad, or how narrow, the breadth is. When advancers outnumber decliners, the market direction is positive. When decliners outnumber advancers, the market direction is negative. The greater the difference, the greater the participation in the movement. It is just a simple subtraction for each stock, advancers minus decliners. Sometimes the numbers of stocks making new highs and new lows are also given. Sometimes the differences are correlated with market indexes, such as the Dow Jones Industrials, or with market volume (numbers of shares traded). Sometimes the advancers over decliners is expressed as a ratio (Siegel et al. 2000, page32).

The advance-decline line is the cumulating sum of the daily advance-

decline numbers. Unchangers are ignored. The absolute value of the line is not important — its direction is. The advance-decline line enables investors to spot changes in the broad overall direction of the market. In its Business Day section, *The New York Times* prints the advance-decline line plot for the New York Stock Exchange, proclaiming it as a market gauge. The line is reset to zero on the first day of each year.

Methods

To use advance-decline metrics for bird counts, simply list the species followed by the number of individuals for each species. Place numbers for each count year in a separate column, forming a spreadsheet. The numbers in the rows for each species are then compared serially, each year to its previous, and designated as advancers, decliners, or unchangers. Then each of the three designations is tallied for each column. The differences are calculated as advancers minus decliners, retaining the signs. For example, $32 - 27 = 5$ and $22 - 28 = -6$. The unchangers are ignored. The differences are plotted on the ordinate (y axis) and the count years on the abscissa (x axis).

Because unchangers are ignored, advancing or declining is a binary phenomenon, like flipping coins. Therefore, up and down fluctuations in the advance-decline line are expected. Drastic or prolonged moves in one direction are tip-offs that important underlying changes are occurring. When the direction of the advance-decline line departs from other measures, a change in underlying fundamentals is suspected.

Results

The results are presented as examples of two different situations, many species at a single site and a single species at multiple sites.

Many Species at One Site

Figure 1 shows a plot of our Sherburne NY CBC from 1980 (81st count) to 2000 (101st count). The center of the Sherburne count is in the village of Sherburne in Chenango County. Both the advance-decline line and the total numbers of individual birds of all species are plotted. Note that even though the number of individual birds has been going up since the 90th count, the advance-decline line has recently been vacillating around a declining trend. The reason is that a few species have numbers way out of proportion to the others. A huge flock of Canada Geese is in, or partially in, our count circle, reaching a high of 3497 on the 100th count. We had a high of 1567 European Starlings on the 101st count. American Crows are another strong contributor.

The question may be posed as to why not just dissect out the few species responsible for the disproportionate increases in individual birds? To do so defeats the purpose of a count, which is to measure what is there — not to manipulate the data to suit biased notions. Here is where the advance-decline approach is valuable. It enables us to look at all the data objectively with all species being represented equally. So, when asked how our birds are doing, I can reply that over

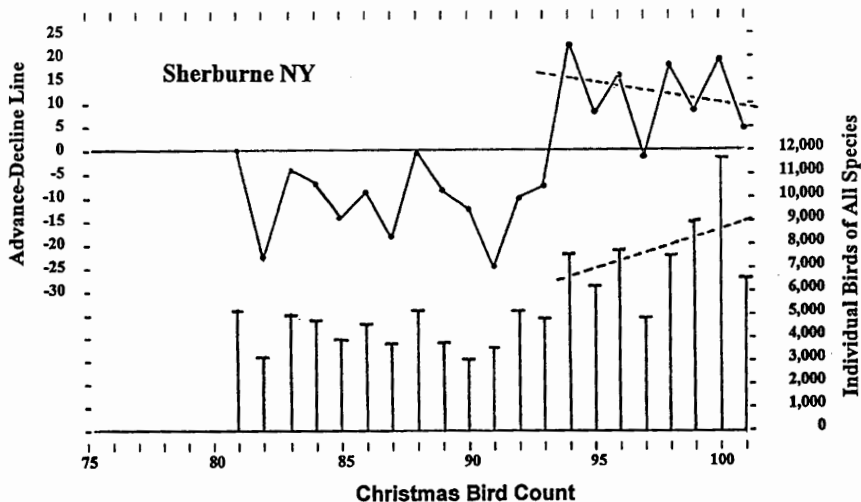


Figure 1. The Sherburne NY CBC. The upper graph (left axis) is the advance-decline line. The lower graph (right axis) is the total number of individual birds of all species. Note that for the past 8 counts (94th through 101st) the advance-decline line is declining while the numbers of individual birds is increasing. The dotted lines show the positive and negative regressions.

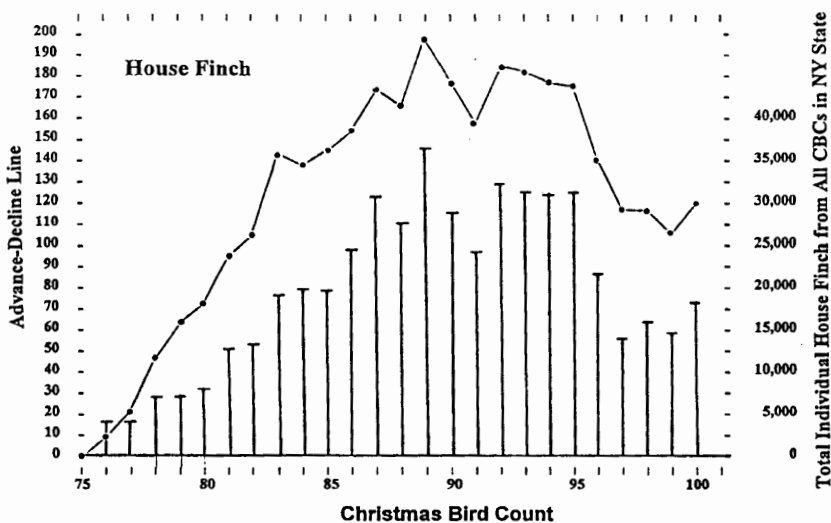


Figure 2. The House Finch in all CBCs in NY State. The upper graph (left axis) is the advance-decline line. The lower graph (right axis) is the total number of House Finch from all sites. Note how closely the two graphs resemble each other. This is because the advances and declines among the reporting sites were uniformly distributed.

the past 8 years they have been declining overall. For our most recent count, on 16 December 2000, we had 23 species advancing and 38 declining, so I can state that the birds have declined since last year, because decliners outnumbered advancers.

Note also that in counts 88 through 91, the direction of the advance-decline line was down. Something was going on, but we did not recognize it because we were looking at only the total numbers of individuals, which seemed to be fluctuating within a normal range. Had we been using advance-decline metrics back then, we could have sought an underlying cause. Now, we can only speculate.

One Species at Many Sites

The House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) was selected as an example because of its extraordinary rise (Windsor 1998) and its remarkable fall due to conjunctivitis (Hartup et al. 2000).

Figure 2 shows how well the advance-decline line tracks the total numbers of individual House Finches over the course of its invasion of New York State. Some CBC circles reported increases or decreases of hundreds of birds from one year to the next, while other circles reported small or no changes. Advance-decline metrics enabled each count circle to be equally represented. In the case of the House Finch, the changes among all the sites (approximately 60 count circles each year) were uniformly distributed.

Discussion

The inherent difficulty with bird field counts is that some species are seen in large numbers while many species appear in low numbers. Usually several species will be represented by only single individuals. Analyzing such disparate data is fraught with difficulties. Hundreds of European Starlings overwhelm a few Brown Creepers. Averages are useless and even misleading. The mean of 1500 starlings and 2 creepers is 751 birds. Even the median can be deceptive. The median of 900 Canada Geese, 2 Killdeers, and 1 Ring-billed Gull is 2 birds, a statistic of limited use. Whereas, the real concern is whether the birds seen are increasing or decreasing since the previous count. If last year the numbers were 1200 geese, 3 Killdeers, and no gulls, the advance-decline metric would be $(-1) + (-1) + (1) = -1$. That is, overall, the birds decreased since the last time.

The use of advance-decline metrics enables each species to be equally represented. A decrease in geese by 300 is given the same weight as a decrease in Killdeer by 1. This metric allows comparisons to be made when the species list includes high numbers of common species and low numbers of uncommon ones. The direction of change is being measured, not the magnitude.

The beauty of advance-decline metrics is that anyone can use them. No statistical knowledge is required; all it takes is simple arithmetic. However, for those who enjoy statistical rigor, there are the sign test, the signed-rank test, and various tests for runs (Dixon & Massey 1969).

Comparing one year's CBC with the previous year takes only a few min-

utes. The compiler can then confidently state that the count is up or down or unchanged from last year. Longer term trends can be readily spotted and, as with the stock market, predictions can be ventured.

Applicability

Advance-decline metrics can be used whenever there are widely disparate data from multiple sources. I have presented a use for many species from one CBC and for a single species from many CBCs. Other possible applications are for Breeding Bird Surveys, atlases, waterfowl counts, site specific surveys, migration counts, and even ordinary field trips.

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NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION WATERFOWL COUNT JANUARY 2001

Bryan L. Swift

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4750

Abstract

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs' annual midwinter waterfowl count (FWC) was held January 13-21, 2001 with the target date of Sunday, January 14. The FWC includes loons, grebes, cormorants and coot, in addition to true waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans). The entire state was covered by approximately 250 observers, with all Regions completing counts on time.

Weather conditions were generally favorable and a total of 397,764 birds (46 species) was documented. The total count was an all-time high, up 4% from 2000, and 48% above the 28-year (1973-2000) average. The top 10 species, accounting for 87% of the total, were: Canada Goose, Greater Scaup, Mallard, Canvasback, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, American Black Duck, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, and Bufflehead. High counts of many diving duck species contributed to the record total count.

The Weather

Official weather data for January 2001 were not readily available for all areas of the state. However, Regional compilers reported generally favorable conditions during the counts, with fair weather, temperatures in the 30s (colder up north, warmer on Long Island) and calm or light winds on most days. The count period was preceded by several weeks of relatively stable weather, with little precipitation and temperatures well below freezing at night. Snowfall during January was light in most areas, but snow cover from storms in December remained in many areas through the count period. As a result of this weather pattern, many smaller inland waters were frozen, whereas larger lakes and coastal bays remained open to waterfowl use.

The Count

A total of 397,764 birds, comprising 46 species, was counted in 2001 (Table 1). This established a new record high count since the FWC began in 1955. The 2001 total was 4% above 2000 and 48% above the 28-year (1973-2000) average of 268,763. In general, counts of geese were down from a year ago, counts of most dabbling ducks were similar, and counts of most diving duck species increased dramatically (Table 2). Record high counts were reported for Canvasback, Redhead, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead and Red-breasted Merganser.

Comparison of 2001 counts with 28-year (1973-2000) averages shows 10 of 13 major species or taxa above average, led by Mallard, various diving

ducks, and Canada Geese (Table 3). Brant, Black Duck and Common Merganser were all below average. Total waterfowl numbers in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were up 5% from 2000, and were 10% above the 10-year (1991-2000) average (Serie and Raftovich 2001). Flyway counts indicated that most species were within $\pm 10\%$ of their 10-year averages, except Bufflehead (+14%), scaup (-15%), eiders (-35%), scoters (-58%), Long-tailed Duck (-45%), mergansers (-14%) and Canada Goose (+45%). The unusually high counts of diving ducks in New York were not observed throughout the Atlantic Flyway, suggesting that high FWC counts were due in part to short-term distributional shifts rather than population increases.

Highlights of Regional reports included unprecedented numbers of Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Mergansers on the Niagara River and Lake Erie near Buffalo (Region 1), Barrow's Goldeneye on the Oneida River (Region 5) and on Long Island Sound near Oak Neck (Region 10), and two Harlequin Ducks near Staten Island (Region 10).

Future Counts

The FWC is especially important now that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has discontinued aerial surveys of waterfowl wintering in New York. DEC concluded that the FWC provides comparable or better data for monitoring long-term population trends (Swift and Hess 1999), so they now rely on the FWC as its standard survey. It is essential that member clubs and individuals maintain complete and consistent coverage of areas surveyed in the past to ensure that results are comparable from year-to-year and over the long-term.

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For more information about the FWC, visit the Federations's web site at:
http://www.birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/wfc_compilers.htm

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| <u>Region</u> | <u>Compiler</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Compiler</u> |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | William Burch | 6 | Jerry LeTendre |
| 2 | Greg Hartenstein | 7 | John M. C. Peterson |
| 3 | Eric Donohue | 8 | Bryan Swift |
| 4 | Les Belmont | 9 | Michael Usai |
| 5 | Marge Rusk | 10 | Ronald & Jean Bourque |

Table 1. Regional totals for January 2001 Federation Waterfowl Count.

| Species/Region | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Total |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Loon, Red-throated | | 2 | | | | | | | 14 | 174 | 190 |
| Common | 4 | | 1 | | 4 | | 9 | | 3 | 404 | 425 |
| Yellow-billed | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Grebe, Pied-billed | 7 | 2 | 22 | | 5 | | | | 1 | 41 | 78 |
| Horned | 28 | 283 | 7 | 1 | 20 | | 1 | | 12 | 387 | 739 |
| Red-necked | | | | | | | 1 | | | 3 | 4 |
| Eared | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Cormorant, D.-crested | 65 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | 168 | 237 |
| Great | | | | | | | | | 33 | 266 | 299 |
| Goose, White-fronted | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Snow | | | 6 | | | | | 1 | | 21 | 28 |
| Canada | 1,292 | 2,953 | 64,364 | 910 | 2,463 | 25 | 14 | 528 | 8,630 | 41,044 | 122,223 |
| Brant | | | | | | | | | 205 | 7,833 | 8,038 |
| Swan, Mute | 6 | 98 | 9 | 6 | 5 | | 2 | 99 | 350 | 1,109 | 1,684 |
| Trumpeter | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Tundra | 144 | 2 | 107 | | | | | | | | 253 |
| Wood Duck | 39 | 3 | 1 | | 6 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 19 | 72 |
| Gadwall | 38 | | 93 | | 13 | | 2 | 1 | 78 | 1,292 | 1,517 |
| Wigeon, Eurasian | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| American | 7 | 11 | 18 | | 1 | | | | 172 | 1,518 | 1,727 |
| Am. Black Duck | 178 | 272 | 2,286 | 89 | 332 | 74 | 314 | 226 | 871 | 12,714 | 17,356 |
| Mallard | 7,199 | 6,479 | 9,324 | 414 | 4,041 | 233 | 2,000 | 1,678 | 4,590 | 11,164 | 47,122 |
| Mallard X Black | | 6 | 6 | | 1 | | 2 | | 5 | 69 | 89 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Northern Shoveler | | | 12 | | | | | | 2 | 224 | 238 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Northern Pintail | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | | | | | 6 | 77 | 95 |
| Green-winged Teal | 3 | | 1 | | | | | | 6 | 318 | 328 |
| Canvasback | 22,612 | 56 | 270 | | | | | | 83 | 1,563 | 24,584 |
| Redhead | 1,056 | 2,086 | 15,979 | 4 | 681 | | | | | 109 | 19,915 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 5 | 8 | 106 | 1 | 17 | | | 9 | 10 | 52 | 359 |
| Tufted Duck | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Scaup, Greater | 20,957 | 2,261 | 734 | | 619 | 30 | | | 2 | 69 | 30,016 |
| Lesser | 76 | 80 | 27 | | 19 | 2 | | 2 | | 6 | 376 |
| not to species | | | 174 | | 220 | | | | | | 182 |
| Eider, King | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Common | | | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Harlequin Duck | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Scoter, Surf | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 13,748 |
| White-winged | 528 | 227 | | | 63 | | | | | | 15,777 |
| Black | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 290 |
| not to species | | | | | | | | | | | 117 |
| Long-tailed Duck | 5,692 | 971 | 5 | | 515 | 200 | | | | 33 | 744 |
| Bufflehead | 673 | 235 | 281 | | 168 | 14 | 141 | | | 444 | 8,069 |
| Goldeneye, Common | 3,129 | 4,435 | 1,924 | 4 | 2,828 | 1,232 | 3,105 | 186 | | 194 | 2,602 |
| Barrow's | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Merganser, Hooded | 46 | 6 | 26 | 5 | 43 | 14 | 45 | | | 105 | 1,134 |
| Common | 2,671 | 1,124 | 770 | 178 | 1,588 | 1,257 | 995 | 130 | | 587 | 164 |
| Red-breasted | 4,202 | 196 | 56 | | 135 | 2 | 1 | | | 121 | 3,345 |
| Ruddy Duck | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | 113 | 2,371 |
| American Coot | 136 | 134 | 1,924 | 35 | 9 | | | 2 | | 83 | 685 |
| Unidentified | 1,000 | 15 | | | | 10 | | | | | 44 |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE | 71,801 | 21,950 | 98,542 | 1,651 | 13,798 | 3,095 | 6,645 | 2,863 | 16,869 | 160,550 | 397,764 |

Table 2. Comparison of the January 2001 and January 2000 counts for selected waterfowl species.

| Species | 2000 | 2001 | % Change |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Snow Goose | 937 | 30 | -97% |
| Canada Goose | 163,000 | 122,223 | -25% |
| Brant | 10,687 | 8,038 | -25% |
| Mute Swan | 1,706 | 1,684 | -1% |
| Gadwall | 1,425 | 1,517 | 6% |
| American Wigeon | 1,667 | 1,727 | 4% |
| American Black Duck | 17,907 | 17,356 | -3% |
| Mallard | 49,514 | 47,122 | -5% |
| Canvasback | 11,414 | 24,584 | 115% |
| Redhead | 12,088 | 19,915 | 65% |
| Ring-necked Duck | 1,215 | 567 | -53% |
| Greater Scaup | 29,806 | 54,688 | 83% |
| scoters (all species) | 13,666 | 30,752 | 125% |
| Long-tailed Duck | 7,299 | 8,160 | 12% |
| Bufflehead | 8,580 | 10,025 | 17% |
| Common Goldeneye | 15,544 | 19,639 | 26% |
| Hooded Merganser | 1,812 | 1,424 | -21% |
| Common Merganser | 10,488 | 9,464 | -10% |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 5,121 | 8,058 | 57% |
| Ruddy Duck | 5,154 | 2,490 | -52% |
| American Coot | 3,703 | 3,008 | -19% |
| TOTAL of all species | 382,516 | 397,764 | 4% |



Table 3. Comparison of the January 2001 count with 1973-2000 average for all species averaging over 1,000 individuals annually.

| Species | Average | 2001 | % Change |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Canada Goose | 69,459 | 122,223 | 76% |
| Brant | 15,109 | 8,038 | -47% |
| American Black Duck | 19,826 | 17,356 | -12% |
| Mallard | 32,376 | 47,122 | 46% |
| Canvasback | 10,652 | 24,584 | 131% |
| Redhead | 7,437 | 19,915 | 168% |
| scaup (both species) | 50,222 | 55,852 | 11% |
| scoters (all species) | 12,373 | 30,752 | 149% |
| Long-tailed Duck | 4,386 | 8,160 | 86% |
| Bufflehead | 6,077 | 10,025 | 65% |
| Common Goldeneye | 12,292 | 19,639 | 60% |
| Common Merganser | 11,461 | 9,464 | -17% |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 4,282 | 8,058 | 88% |
| TOTAL of all species | 268,763 | 397,764 | 48% |



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Corrections to the 1999 bibliography.

With apologies to Richard Guthrie, the following two citations were attributed to the wrong author:

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This publication of the Bibliography of New York State Ornithology will be the last to appear in *The Kingbird*. The Bibliography Committee is investigating the possibility of making the bibliography available online. We hope to create a resource for multiple years, with searching available by species and location, as well as by author.

Please send any additions and corrections to the 2000 Bibliography to Phyllis Jones, Sullivan County Community College, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759, jonespr@sullivan.suny.edu.

They will be printed in *The Kingbird*.

POET'S CORNER

Scoters

They remember their milling waters off Montauk
the churning waters of December off Amagansett
off Shinnecock

Their nations have known
the great Long Island mussel beds
generation after generation

They are coming back
the White-wings flashing banners in flight
the Surf with head white fore and aft

They are coming
in flocks that are wedge-shaped
in lines that are wavering
in lines taut like freight trains

All down the flyway
Long Island beats in their blood

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

November 6, 2001

Dear Mr. Levine:

It is with some concern that I note in the last issue of *The Kingbird* (Vol 51 #3) the inclusion of a "Big Year" list.

In keeping with the mandate expressed on the introductory page of *The Kingbird* "to document the ornithology of the State"; non-vetted personal lists, in my opinion, fall short of maintaining the often shaky bridge which connects birdwatching and listing to ornithology.

Fortunately, we have a venue available in our newsletter, *New York Birders*, where such activities as county, state, year and life lists should be properly placed.

Very truly yours,

Anthony J. Lauro
8585 New Suffolk Ave.
Cutchogue, NY 11935

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Again I ask the readers to submit short notes on interesting field occurrences. If such a note is accompanied by a photograph all well and good, but a photo is not a necessity. I have been receiving sufficient feature material, but lack those little items that would make up a "Notes and Observations" section.

Also, I would welcome anyone who wishes to write creatively, i.e. material not necessarily specific to a particular species or seasonal phenomena, but on some philosophical or other aspect of birding.

The Editor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON 2001

Willie D'Anna

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Weather Effects

Drought is not a word that is used often in the northeastern U.S. However, away from the southeastern part of the state, that is the term that best characterized this summer. June started things off being considerably drier than normal and also warmer. The slight rains of June virtually evaporated the following month. July was the second driest on record at Plattsburgh in Region 7 and the driest in 68 years at Buffalo in Region 1. The drought started during the month and intensified by its end. There was only localized relief in parts of the state during August. A brief heat wave hit some areas culminating in a sweltering 103° F in Poughkeepsie (9 Aug) and New York City (8 Aug).

One might think that such extreme spells of weather would have a noticeable negative effect upon our breeding avifauna. Consider the relative lack of mosquitoes on the Lake Ontario Plain in Region 1. While delightful to the birder, this could make life difficult for songbirds trying to provide a protein-rich diet for their nestlings. Yet, negative comments from the Regional Editors were few and far between. Region 2's Kevin Griffith even speculated that there may have been fewer nesting failures due to the lack of inclement weather. Region 8 Editor Jane Graves agreed, suggesting it was "an excellent breeding season". However, Region 6's Mickey Scilingo noted that "aerial insects virtually disappeared in late June, which prompted an early departure of Purple Martins and other swallows at Holmes Point in Morristown, Lewis County". If nothing else, all this illustrates the difficulty in making broad generalizations about the effects of weather on breeding success.

Perhaps more noticeably affected by the drought were the waterbirds. Region 3 Editor Bill Ostrander suggested that low water levels in some areas may have been at least partially responsible for lower numbers of Green Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Wood Ducks, American Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teals, and Hooded Mergansers.

Atlas 2000

After only the second year of Atlas 2000, multitudes of birders in the field are already providing information of how the distribution of our breeding birds has changed since the first Atlas. As usual, it is easier to see when species are increasing. Species on the decline will be more noticeable at the completion of the Atlas when maps of both surveys can be compared. Still, some species seem noticeably down. In particular, the endangered Black Tern is really struggling with a statewide drop this season as well as a very poor year in its Region 6 stronghold. Bringing this species back is proving to be very difficult. Other species on the decline for several years include Blue-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Common Nighthawk (a species that has virtually disappeared as a breeder from

most areas of the state), and Golden-winged Warbler.

In Region 1, Purple Martin was one of the top ten most frequently encountered species during the first Atlas. From the observations of Regional Editor Morgante and myself, I would wager that it will have difficulty cracking the top 25 this time around.

Birds like Canada Goose and Mute Swan are now remarkably prolific in some areas of New York. Formerly endangered species Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon have shown a well-documented recovery, with new nesting sites being found every year. Common Raven was on the comeback trail during the first Atlas and it has since spread into many new areas. Merlin was not found during the first Atlas but it has been confirmed breeding since. This season, Merlin sightings in Regions 1, 2, & 3 were not really suspected breeders but those in Regions 5, 6, 7, & 8 were, with confirmations in three of those Regions.

Because the Atlas seeks to map the distribution of breeding species and not abundance, it may not show the dramatic increase in the number of crows that many birders have witnessed. Some believe that the increase of this opportunistic and omnivorous bird is causing the decline of other species. Rising (*The Prothonotary* 1991,57:89), drawing on a report from Joseph Thill, reported two observations of crows predated the young of roof-nesting Common Nighthawks in a Buffalo suburb. The historically rural crow has adapted extremely well to city life and this suggests it may be a major contributor to the virtual extirpation of roof-nesting Common Nighthawks.

Southern species continue to do well and I do not mean simply Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, and Northern Mockingbird. Hooded Warblers are showing up in new areas of Regions 1 & 2 and perhaps other Regions as well. Northern Parula returned as a Region 10 breeder after a 50-year absence, and in Region 1, the species appears to be consolidating its foothold around the Allegheny Reservoir, while in Region 2 it was found in two locations near Lake Ontario. Other southern species considered to be numerous or in new areas were Pine Warbler in Regions 1 & 6, Prairie Warbler in Regions 1, 5, & 8, Orchard Oriole in all but Region 7, and Boat-tailed Grackle in Region 10.

One has to wonder if the apparent increase in Northern Saw-whet Owls, found in five Regions this summer, is real or is the result of more knowledgeable birders making a greater effort to find them?

The status of Clay-colored Sparrow seems less in doubt. This former great rarity is spreading from Ontario with a new colony found in Region 1, another colony plus a new location in Region 6, and sightings in Regions 3 & 5. In Region 1 this species is normally found in Christmas tree plantations. Thus, the discovery of one in an overgrown field was surprising. Yet, this species is quite the habitat generalist, so as it increases in New York we should expect to find it in new situations.

I urge the reader to check out the many other interesting Atlas discoveries sprinkled throughout the Regional reports.

Rarities

With so many birders in the field Atlassing, it is not too surprising that many "good" birds were found. Considered possible breeders according to Atlas

criteria ,adult Golden Eagles in Regions 1 & 6 raised hopes that this species might return to nest in New York some day. Eared Grebes at opposite ends of the state are more frequently seen than in Regions in between. The same can be said for American Avocets which also showed up only in Regions 1 & 10.

After a plethora of spring reports, a cautiously reported ibis species in Region 1 and Glossys in Region 7 were the only inland sightings this summer. Inland Laughing Gulls included one each in Regions 1, 2, & 3 and a remarkable 7 in Region 8. Away from Region 10, a Barn Owl is always a rarity highlight. One in Region 1 was an Atlas highlight as well. In recent years, Region 2 has had a lock on King Rail sightings. That trend continued with another report this season. The presence of Loggerhead Shrikes in Regions 2, 5, & 7 at least provides a glimmer of hope that they may breed again in New York. Long-tailed Jaegers are reported with increasing frequency. Up to four individuals in Region 2 and one in Region 10 fit the usual pattern of timing for this species – late August/early September. One hopes, however, that this species is identified by field characters and not by the date of its appearance. The occurrence of up to three Pomarine Jaegers, reported in July on Lake Champlain in Region 7, does not fit the timing patterns for any of the three jaeger species. The Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 2 was a very rare summer sighting, probably even rarer at that season than the Mississippi Kite also reported there. This profundity is no doubt due to the knowledgeable and diligent Region 2 observers who spend time looking for this southern raptor in June. Cattle Egrets away from the coast and the Four Brothers Islands colony in Region 7 were limited to a pair in Region 6. A Great Cormorant and a Rough-legged Hawk were unseasonal finds in Region 8. A Yellow-throated Warbler there was the only one found away from Region 9's Delaware River breeding birds . Inland Laughing Gulls were not the only good gulls this season. A very unusual-for-summer Glaucous Gull and a rare-at-any-season Franklin's Gull showed up in Region 10. A White-winged Dove there continued the trend of more and more sightings in recent years.

Summer is the peak shorebird season and the drought exposed lots of mudflats. Among many shorebirds discovered, the most unusual sightings were Region 5's first Piping Plover in 17 years and a Whimbrel in Region 7.

South Polar Skuas are rare enough in the pelagic zone off of Long Island. In the surf just off shore they are nearly unprecedented. One can only envy the exceptional opportunity for study afforded the observers of just such a bird at Democrat Point on Long Island 23 Jun.

Finally, my choice for Bird of the Season goes to the Wood Storks found in Region 2. Possibly driven by rising water levels in the deep south and an inability to compete with older birds, numbers of juvenile Wood Storks turned up in northern states and provinces. A record 16 individuals of this compelling species showed up to feed in the drying ponds around Clyde, New York. See Dominic Sherony's article in this issue of *The Kingbird* for the complete details.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster NY 14086

June was warm and very dry in Western New York. After a five-day cool spell to start the month, the temperatures rose and featured three 90°F plus days, more than in all of the summer of 2000. The average temperature was 67°, 1.1° above average. Only 1.36" of rain fell in June, which was 2.19" below normal but proved helpful for many breeding species. The dry weather continued into July and the Region experienced a moderate drought. The average temperature was 69.8°, only 1.3° below normal. It was the driest July in 68 years at Buffalo. Precipitation was a mere 0.73", which is 2.35" below the average. August was also very warm and dry. The average temperature was 73°, a full 4° above normal. Rain continued to be scarce in the early part of the month. Some rain finally fell later in the month to bring the monthly total to 2.13", about 2" less than usual. Overall, it was the fifth driest summer on record for Buffalo. [Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service web site *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.]

The second summer of the Atlas 2000 project sent many of the Region's birders to new locations. Some good finds and interesting trends resulted.

The most notable discovery this summer was **Clay-colored Sparrows** in the Town of Yorkshire in Cattaraugus County. Kurt Fox saw and heard three singing males at a tree farm on 23 June. Brendan Klick and Don Harris followed up the next day and found six males and 13 individuals, including young in two nests. These sightings document the first confirmed breeding of the species in the county. Nearby, in Allegany County, Clay-colored were found again at several previously documented breeding locations. However, a single male in Clarence was very unexpected for its location (northern Erie County) and habitat (overgrown field).

An adult and fledgling **Northern Saw-whet Owl** were observed together in Alfred. According to Betsy Brooks, this is the second time breeding has been confirmed in Allegany County. There is suitable habitat for this species elsewhere in the Region, but summer reports are very infrequent. As with most nocturnal species, it is likely under-detected. It will be interesting to see how many more turn up during the remainder of the Atlas project.

Two years of Atlas sightings already show range expansions for several species, notably, Common Raven, Cliff Swallow and Pine Warbler. Common Ravens have traditionally been found in the higher terrain of Allegany and Cattaraugus counties only. They are now at multiple locations in Wyoming, southern Erie and Chautauqua counties. Cliff Swallows, like the raven, are most frequently seen in the Southern Tier of the Region. This summer, they were present and found nesting at several locations on the Buffalo waterfront. These sightings follow the species' recent colonization on the Grand Island Bridge over the Niagara River.

Pine Warblers have slowly been increasing in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties since the last Atlas. They have recently spread to several other locations throughout the Region and while not yet common, they should be looked for anywhere with suitable habitat.

Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren (three singing males) and Henslow's Sparrow were identified by staff at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. It is hoped that recent expansion and protection of grassland habitat at the refuge will result in continued and increased sightings of these threatened grassland species. The colony of Henslow's Sparrows discovered last year in Lancaster again held at least eight singing males.

Peregrine Falcons successfully nested again at both the Statler Tower site in downtown Buffalo and the gorge at Niagara Falls. Two fledglings were banded by NYSDEC personnel at the Buffalo nest and there was at least one fledgling at Niagara Falls.

There were some very interesting "possible" breeders observed this summer. Sean Phelan observed an adult **Golden Eagle** in the Town of Almond in Allegany County on 6 July. This bird will likely be dubbed an "unmated wandering bird" like the eagle observed in Region 1 in 1984 during the first Atlas project. One week later, also in Almond, Phelan observed a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. This bird could be an early southward bound migrant but the potential for breeding exists because the location is at an elevation of 2200' above mean sea level and the species reportedly breeds in adjacent areas of Pennsylvania. A **Kentucky Warbler** at the Allegany Indian Reservation was in a location of some rare previous sightings in June. Betsy Brooks observed **White-winged Crossbills** on two occasions in Allegany County this summer. This species has never been confirmed breeding in the Region.

There were some good records beyond the breeding species. Once again, an **Eared Grebe** was present at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, continuing the species' affinity for this location. An **ibis sp.** was reported once in June and again in August at Tiff Nature Preserve. The August bird was reported as a Glossy Ibis but was not confirmed. It is unknown if the sightings were of the same individual. A **Laughing Gull**, at Dunkirk Harbor, is always a good find for the Region. Three very early migrant reports included Merlin and Tennessee Warbler in July and an Evening Grosbeak photographed at a feeder in Lockport 22-25 August.

A **Gyr Falcon** sighted by Bill Watson and Paul Schnell in Somerset created a stir among local birders in July. Willie D'Anna thought the bird was an immature molting into adult plumage and his discovery of an apparent leg band while viewing video of the bird puts this sighting into the category of "probable escape."

Times Beach in Buffalo and Ischua Dam in Machias complemented the traditional shorebirding locations this summer. The season was not especially notable, but some good finds were made. For the second summer in a row, there were two **American Avocet** sightings from Chautauqua County. A Willet, two

separate Wilson's Phalaropes and a Red-necked Phalarope were also notable.

Other highlights for the season included: Canvasback, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler and Pine Siskin.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Paul Baglia, Allen Benton, Chris Benton, Elizabeth Brooks, Bill Burch, Willie D'Anna, Robert DeLeon, Michael DeSha, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Don Harris, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Steve Kahl, Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Paula Losito, Dick Miga, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Sean Phelan, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Fran Rew, Don Roberson, Richard Rosche, Gail Seamans, Paul Schnell, Thomas Scott, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Steve Taylor, Kirk Vanstrom, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

ASP – Allegany SP, CATT; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BRBA – Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; Carlton Hill MUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area, WYOM; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NR – Niagara River; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, East Aurora, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TB – Times Beach, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 2 imm Chautauqua L CHAU 27 Jun (DM); DH 16 Jul, 23 Aug (LH, BK); unusual in summer.
EARED GREBE: BWWTP 14 Jul thru (BK! WW! et al); second straight summer and nearly annual since mid 1990s at this location.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1132 BuSP 28 Aug (WW); high counts continue.
Am. Bittern: Tift NP 26 Jul, only report away from TWMA and INWR.
Least Bittern: INWR 3 Jun (PY); TWMA 5 Jun (PH); only reports.
Great Egret: 22 Motor I in NR 1-31 Jul (WW), continued successful nesting; SPNS 23 Jun (LH); Machias CATT 24, 28 Jul; max 24 INWR 31 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Como P ERIE 25 Aug; BWWTP 30 Aug; only reports away from NR.
IBIS sp: Tift NP 21 Jun (BK!), very rare in Jun; Tift NP 22 Aug, reported to BRBA as a Glossy.
Mute Swan: Olcott NIAG 16 Jul, near nesting area, only report.
Am. Wigeon: Bird I Pier NR ERIE 10 Jun; 2 ad + 2 yg Delaware P Buffalo 12 Jun; TB 2 Jul; only reports.
Am. Black Duck: no reports.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 7 BWWTP 11 Aug.
N. Shoveler: 1 ad + 1 yg BWWTP 8 Jul (GS!); rare breeding confirmation.
N. Pintail: INWR 15 Jul; 2 OOWMA 30 Aug; only reports.
Green-winged Teal: Lackawanna ERIE

25 Jun (RA, JL), unusual location; 5 BWWTP 14 Jul; Porter NIAG 5 Aug.
Canvasback: BWWTP 8 Jul thru 11 Aug (GS! WW!), rare in summer.
Ring-necked Duck: BWWTP 14 Jul (BK), occasional in summer at this location.
Lesser Scaup: TB 21 Jun thru; NF 25 Jun; 4 BWWTP 8 Jul; more locations than usual in summer.
Red-breasted Merganser: NF 9 Jun; Salamanca CATT 25 Jun; BeSP 2 Jul; unusual in summer.
Com. Merganser: NF 9 Jul; BWWTP 14 Jul; occasional in summer at these locations.
Ruddy Duck: INWR 3 Jun; DH 9, 16 Aug; max 51 BWWTP 11 Aug, continued higher summer counts at this location.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Eden ERIE 6 Jun; SPNS 28 Jun; multiple sightings near Allegheny Res CATT (several nests); 2 ad + 2 yg INWR; Como P ERIE 14 Aug.
Bald Eagle: 2 ad at nest INWR thru; ad + imm Zoar Valley CATT 17 Jun; imm WBSP 12 Jun (JL); subad Somerset NIAG 21, 22 Jun (PS); latter two locations unusual for summer; ad Findley L CHAU 24 Jun (ST); BWWTP 11 Aug (WW).
N. Goshawk: nest + 3 yg Wertz ALLE Jun (TS); ASP 6 Jun (BRBA); ad Concord ERIE 13 Jun (RR), interesting location; imm Great Valley CATT 16 Aug (JR).
GOLDEN EAGLE: ad Almond ALLE 6 Jul (SP), very unusual for season, date suggests possible breeder.
MERLIN: Wilson NIAG 31 Jul (BE), flying east along L Ontario, very early migrant.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 chicks Buffalo ERIE 5 Jun (BB); adults seen near downtown Buffalo thru; nested in Niagara Gorge NF with at least 1

fledgling (BB).
GYRFALCON: Somerset NIAG 15, 19 Jul (PS, WW!); probable escape, D'Anna noted leg band on videotape.
Ruffed Grouse: Porter NIAG 24 Jun (DR), rare in NIAG.
Sora: SPNS 9 Jun; Franklinville CATT 28 Jun (MD), good Atlas find.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr Dayton CATT 16 Aug.
AM. AVOCET: JAS 30 Jul - 4 Aug (DM); DH 28 Aug (DM); regular in recent summers in CHAU.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr TB 11 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Somerset NIAG 24 Jun; max 24 TB 23 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Sinclairville CHAU 9 Jul; 8 Machias CATT 9 Aug.
Willet: 2 DH 16 Aug (BK, DH), less than annual in summer.
Upland Sandpiper: 13 Java WYOM 7, 8 Jul (KF), impressive count; 2 Collins ERIE 14 Jun (RA); Somerset NIAG 16 Jun (WW); INWR 9 Jul (SK); Buffalo Airport ERIE 27 Aug (MM), migrant.
Ruddy Turnstone: 7 DH 23 Aug (BK, DH), only report.
Sanderling: arr 12 WoBSP 26 Jul; 3 DH 9 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Lakeside Beach SP 10 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr TB 30 Jun; max 42 INWR 24 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr TB 25 Jul; 2 WoBSP 26 Aug; DH 27 Aug; 2 BWWTP 30 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr OOWMA 15 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 TB 30 Jul; INWR 11 Aug; JAS 24 Aug; 2 TB 31 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Machias CATT 28 Jul (MD); TB 4 Aug; DH 16 Aug; WBSP 26 Aug.
Com. Snipe: 7, 4 Machias CATT 10, 31 Aug; only reports.
Wilson's Phalarope: TB 29, 30 Jul (BK, WW); Machias CATT 7 Aug (MD); good showing.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 BWWTP 30 Aug (WW); reported less than annually in summer.

LAUGHING GULL: DH 19 Jun (TM); rare at any time of year.

Caspian Tern: Buffalo NR 10 Jun; Motor I NR 3 Jul; Yates NIAG 6 Jul; slightly early summer records.

Black Tern: max 10 INWR 5 Jun (PH).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5 Somerset, Hartland NIAG 9 Jun (WD), good BBS count; Tift NP 21 Jun, unusual location; average number of reports for both cuckoo sp.

BARN OWL: Pomfret CHAU 5 Jul (AB, CB); rarely reported.

N. Saw-whet Owl: ASP 2 Jun (BK!); ad + yg Alfred ALLE 7, 8 Jun (EB!), second confirmed nesting in ALLE *vide* Brooks.

Com. Nighthawk: Buffalo ERIE 5 Jun (PY); decreased sightings even in downtown Buffalo; Lancaster ERIE 21 Jul (BK), probable migrant; max 9 Jamestown CHAU 25 Aug (KV).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 Como P ERIE thru Jul; imm OOWMA 22 Jul; 3 other reports where it occurs more frequently along L Erie.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3-4 Alden ERIE 9 Jun (MM, ST), good Atlas find for northern ERIE.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Almond ALLE 13 Jul (SP), very early migrant or possible breeder (location is at 2200')?

Acadian Flycatcher: reported in 7 locations during breeding season from ERIE, GENE, WYOM, CATT; max 4 Attica WYOM 10 Jun (KF).

Blue-headed Vireo: INWR 9 Jul (SK), location is further north than typical in breeding season.

Com. Raven: reported in 8 ALLE, CATT locations; Arcade WYOM 13 Jun (KF); Concord ERIE 13 Jun (RR); 2, 1 Carlton

Hill MUA 14, 24 Jun (KF!); 3 Sardinia ERIE 17 Jun (KF!); 2 Gerry CHAU (FR!); continues to increase in Region.

Cliff Swallow: 2, nest Lackawanna ERIE 14 Jun; 4 Alexander GENE 24 Jun; 2 Peace Bridge Buffalo ERIE 1 Jul (RA); 2 ad + 2 yg Tift NP 19 Jul (RA); 5 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 22 Jul; continues very recent spread to Buffalo Waterfront and NR locations.

Brown Creeper: reported from 5 locations in ERIE, ALLE.

Carolina Wren: reported from 10 locations in Reg; good showing.

SEDGE WREN: singing at 3 locations INWR 1-31 Jul (SK), encouraging; North Harmony CHAU 12, 17 Aug (PB); rarely recorded in Reg.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Buffalo ERIE 5 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: 3, 1 ASP 2, 28 Jun (BK,PH); Salamanca CATT 10 Jun (PY); breeds in few CATT, ALLE locations.

N. Mockingbird: 6 Lackawanna ERIE 12 Jul, high count for location.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Barre ORLE 3 Jun; ASP 28 Jun; GHSP 13 Aug, likely migrant.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Alexander GENE 9 Jun (KF); Yates ORLE 7 Jul (WW); Somerset NIAG 19 Jul (WW); equals summer reports of Golden-winged.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Yates ORLE 11 Jun (WW!); still very rare despite increase in hybrid types.

Tennessee Warbler: Collins ERIE 14 Jul (RA!), very early migrant.

Nashville Warbler: Amity ALLE 2 Jun (VP); Alfred ALLE 9 Jun (EB); arr GHSP 13 Aug.

N. Parula: 4 ASP 1-3 Jun (BK); reported in several Atlas blocks in and near ASP.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Krull P NIAG 16 Jul (WW); INWR 11 Aug (BK); unusual possible breeding locations.

Pine Warbler: ASP 2 Jun (BK!); Grove ALLE 19 Jun (EB); Pomfret CHAU 26 Jun (TM); 2 ad + 2 juv Bond L P NIAG 29 Jun (DR); Somerset NIAG 14 Jul (WW!); Gerry CHAU 15 Jul (FR!); increasing as breeder in Reg, recent advance into NIAG.

Prairie Warbler: reported from 11 ALLE, CATT locations where regular; Zoar Valley ERIE 2 Jun (WD!, BP); Sardinia ERIE 17 Jun (KF); newly documented breeding in ERIE.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 GI 24 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr GI 24 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: Yorkshire CATT 10, 16 Jun (BK); 2 Yates ORLE 19 Jun; Somerset NIAG 29 Jul (WW); good Atlas finds.

Prothonotary Warbler: TWMA 4 Jun (*fide* SK); reports decreased in recent years.

N. Waterthrush: SPNS 14 Jun (LH); 2 ad + 2 yg Ashford CATT 12 Jul (MD); good Atlas finds.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: Allegany Indian Reservation CATT 10 Jun (PY!), location of a few previous Jun finds.

Hooded Warbler: increasing as breeder in NIAG and elsewhere.

Canada Warbler: arr 2 locations 19 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 4, 13 Yorkshire CATT 23, 24 Jun (KF!, BK!), new colony found with 6 males, several

pairs and yg, very impressive count; Clarence ERIE 4-21 Jul (BK!, RD!, et al), single male, unusual location; 2 ad + 2 yg Andover ALLE 27 Jul (EB!), historical breeding area.

Vesper Sparrow: Collins ERIE 2 Jun, 1 Jul; Newfane NIAG 9 Jun; 3 Andover ALLE thru 17 Jul; 2 Wilson NIAG 1 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from 13 locations throughout Reg; good showing.

Henslow's Sparrow: Grove ALLE 19 Jun (EB); 8+ singing Lancaster ERIE Jun, Jul (MM), same location as in 2000; 3 singing INWR 1-31 Jul (SK).

Indigo Bunting: TB 30 Jul (BK), interesting location.

Orchard Oriole: 2 Collins ERIE 29 Jul (WD!, BP); 3-4 fledglings Yates ORLE 5 Jul (WW); also reported from Atlas blocks on Grand I ERIE and CHAU.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Ward ALLE 27 Jul (EB); 2 Palmer's Pd ALLE 12 Aug (EB); has never been documented breeding in Reg; very rare in summer.

PINE SISKIN: Amity L ALLE thru 16 Jul (VP!), max 14 on 3 Jun, 9 lingered into July; rare in summer, especially in such numbers.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Lockport NIAG 22-25 Aug (PL!), adult male at feeder, exceptionally early.

morgmmm@aol.com

REGION 2 – GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

Drought was a word that was often tossed around this season. The dry spell started in June with a paltry total of 1.84" of rainfall, which was 1.16" below normal. July continued the trend with even less precipitation, only 1.8". This was nearly 1.0" below the normal total. Thank goodness August bucked the trend a little. The beginning of the month continued dry, but rains predominated throughout the latter portion of the month so that the final total was 0.91" above normal at 4.31". Both June and July started out cool but finished with a flurry of warm days and produced warm averages. June's 66.7°F was 1.6° above normal, and July's 69.0° was 1.2° below normal. August was sultry with a record high of 95° on the 2nd. By the end of the month things had moderated a bit and temperatures were near normal. The final average of 72.2° was 4.2° above normal for the month.

The dry conditions seemed to have little effect on breeding success this season. Successes and failures could not be directly attributed to the weather conditions. If anything, the lack of consistent rainfall may have cut down on the number of failures due to inclement conditions. The insect populations appeared to be healthy enough to provide sufficient food for the passerines. There also seemed to be enough seed and fruit production to fill those particular needs.

Common Loons were once again reported throughout the season. Both Lake Ontario and Silver Lake had summering birds. Breeding has not been confirmed and speculation rests with the idea that they are simply summering nonbreeders.

Marsh birds did not seem to fare as well as some of the other species. Both bitterns seemed particularly low as did Common Moorhen. One observer has speculated that it may have been due to the condition of the marsh upon their arrival this spring. Much of the marsh vegetation was matted down due to the winter conditions and did not provide very acceptable nesting habitat. A King Rail in Mendon Ponds Park in June was a suspected nester, but not really relocated until this season and still with no proof of breeding. The Black Tern situation was dismal. Only one nest was observed for the whole season, and it was unsuccessful. We probably have seen the end of that species as a breeder in our Region.

Waterfowl were a mixed bag this year. Canada Goose and Mute Swan were once again prolific, much to the distaste of the birding community. Their success accompanies the continued decline of such breeders as American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal. Mallard and Wood Duck seemed typical. Bill Symonds manned the lakewatch into early June and recorded the usual late divers from that location. Hamlin Beach also played host to Red-breasted Mergansers for the summer. Breeding was not suspected. The lakewatch subsequently produced Surf Scoters in August.

Hawks seemed little affected by the drought conditions. Good totals of Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel were noted. A highlight was a Mississippi Kite observed at Braddock Bay by Dave Tetlow on 30 June. Osprey were reported late into June on the lakeshore and breeding at several sites in Wayne County. Bald Eagles were observed throughout the season. A young Golden Eagle in June was a surprise. A June Merlin was reported in the Albion area by Bruce Duncan on the 16th, but subsequent searches could not relocate the bird. The Peregrine Falcons nested successfully on the Kodak Tower in downtown Rochester again with four young fledged.

Two Sandhill Cranes in the Town of Butler, Wayne County, in July once again raised the interesting possibility of that species breeding in our Region.

The shorebird picture was somewhat baffling. The late spring push into June was lacking, but the arrivals of summer and early fall were fairly promising. The picture was clouded by the dry conditions and a good number of the reports were flybys at Hamlin Beach. Mudflats in Cuylerville did produce some of the fall arrivals. Whimbrel reports were especially good this year.

The recent trend of Long-tailed Jaeger reports continued this year. There were three report days for a total of four individuals from the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach in August. An adult seen by Bill Symonds on the 29th was a real highlight. The only gull highlight was an adult Laughing Gull at Hamlin Beach State Park.

The only owl of interest was Northern Saw-whet Owl with a bird in Penfield in August and two Atlas reports from the hills to the south of Rochester. These sightings continue to provide supporting evidence that there is much wider spread nesting than just at the traditional Bergen Swamp haunts. The Loggerhead Shrike found in Geneseo by Jim Kimball in July was interesting. This species has disappeared from the Region as a breeder and is only sporadically found during migration. Fish Crow and Common Raven were both reported during the season, although neither has yet been confirmed as a breeder.

The passerine picture presented the usual highs and lows. Observers reported that Great Crested Flycatcher and Northern Mockingbird seemed to have good seasons. Blue-winged Warbler numbers were good, but Golden-winged continued to be hard to find. Atlas blocks along the lakeshore also seemed to support more Hooded Warblers than has been the case in recent years. A Kentucky Warbler at Braddock Bay in August was a puzzler. A Yellow-breasted Chat in Leroy was a plus for this scarce Regional breeder. Both Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows seemed down a bit. The Yellow-headed Blackbird in Perinton in June was an unexpected highlight. Orchard Oriole reports were up, as were reports of Baltimore Orioles. Pine Siskins in June and July at Hamlin Beach were unusual. That was also true of single male Evening Grosbeaks spotted in Honeoye Falls in July and at two different locations in Greece in August.

The birds of the season were undoubtedly the **Wood Storks** discovered in Clyde, Wayne County. As many as 16 were seen frequenting a series of ponds in that area. The first date, to the best that has been determined, was 10 August, with birds being reported into September. Many observers were able to see them, as they

were most cooperative and reasonably predictable. To top that off, up to three more were seen in the Braddock Bay area on the 28th and 29th of the month.

CONTRIBUTORS

Matt Belanger, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids, Robert Dobson, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Bruce Duncan, Jim & Marian Edson, Jeannine & Kurt Fox, Kevin Griffith, Chris & Helen Haller, Jim Kimball, Robert Marcotte, Chita & Robert McKinney, John Newhouse, Richard O'Hara, John Pachuta, Ray Robinson, Ed Scheidlower, Fay Sedore, Dominic Sherony, Robert & Susan Spahn, Jeff Spindler, Paul Spindler, Dave & Grace Strong, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Ann & Joe Watson.

ABBREVIATIONS

B – Butler, WAYN; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; C – Charlotte (Ontario Beach), MONR; CU – Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – Greece, MONR; H – Town of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HF – Honeoye Falls, LIVI; M – Manitou, MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds, MONR; P – Perinton, MONR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: max 19 HB 2 Jun.
WOOD STORK: 6-16 Clyde 10-31 Aug and later (FS, mob, ph, NYSARC); 3 BB 28-29 Aug (JN, mob).
Brant: C 7 Jun, uncommon.
Blue-winged Teal: max 34 HB 31 Aug.
Greater Scaup: HB 5 Jun.
Lesser Scaup: HB 5 Jun.
Surf Scoter: arr HB 26 Aug (WS, ST), record early.
White-winged Scoter: HB 5 Jun.
Long-tailed Duck: 2 HB 2 Jun.
Com. Merganser: G 1-8 Jun.
Red-breasted Merganser: 1-6 HB 1-31 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: subad BB 30 Jun (DT).
Osprey: max 5 BB 19 Jun, good total for that late; 2 ad + 1 imm Butler WAYN 25-28 Jul, nest.
Bald Eagle: 6 imm BB 23 Jun.
N. Goshawk: BB 19 Jun; BB 17, 26

Aug, banded.
Broad-winged Hawk: *dark morph* Parma 14 Jun.
Golden Eagle: imm Greece 1 Jun (KG).
Merlin: Albion 16 Jun (BD).
KING RAIL: MP 16 Jun (DT, MD).
Black-bellied Plover: arr BB 3 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1-2 H, HB 19 Aug; max 60 HB 31 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last HB BB 19 Jun; arr HB 19 Jul
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 CU 7 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: P 22 Jun.
Willet: BB 17 Aug (DT).
Upland Sandpiper: max 8 Monroe Co. Airport 16 Aug (CC).
Whimbrel: HB 3 Jun; BB 24 Jul; HB 1 Aug; 5 BB 2 Aug; BB 25 Aug; 29 in 2 flocks HB 26 Aug (WS, ST); HB 30 Aug; 2 H 31 Aug; Kendall & DE 31 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 28 Jul.
Red Knot: arr 5 HB 19 Aug.
Sanderling: arr 3 C 27 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr 7 HB & 10 CU 1 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 12 P 5 Jun, good total.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr HB 15 Aug; ad HB 31 Aug (DT), very late for an ad.

Dunlin: C 7 Jun.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr HB 3 Jul.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: BB 26 Aug (WS, ST); 2 HB 27 Aug (DT, MD); ad HB 29 Aug (WS).

Laughing Gull: ad HB 3 Jun (WS, DT, MD).

Black Tern: 2 Salmon Creek 19 Jul, few reports; last 1 ad BB 26 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Penfield 27 Aug; fl yg Honeoye L Area, ONTA Jul; fl yg LIVI Jul.

Com. Nighthawk: Lyons 3 Jun, only report.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Webster 2 Jun;

G 14 Aug; Clyde 30 Aug

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr M 11 Aug, banded.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Geneseo 24 Jul (JK).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr M 21 Aug, banded.

Fish Crow: DE 31 Aug (DT), first for year.

Com. Raven: 2 H.H. Spencer State Rec. Area ONTA 14 Jul (R&SS!).

Swainson's Thrush: arr M 11 Aug,

banded.

Am. Pipit: arr H 31 Aug.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 2, 1, 1 Butler 7, 18, 28 Jul.

N. Parula: DE 5 Jun; G 10 Jul, unusual for date and location.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr G 17 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr G 24 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: arr BB 31 Aug (DT).

Wilson's Warbler: Island Cottage Woods 20 Jun; MP 30 Jun; late; arr M 18 Aug, banded; 1 G 18 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Leroy 10 Jun (DT, KF).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 29 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: M 5 Jun, late; arr M 21 Aug, banded, early.

White-crowned Sparrow: M 4 Jun, late.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: P 7 Jun (MB)

Orchard Oriole: HF 2, 13, 14, 18 Aug (ES), new location.

Pine Siskin: 3, 1 HB 9, 26 Jun; 2 HB 15 Jul.

Evening Grosbeak: ad male HF 9 Jul (ES); imm male M, G 30 Aug.

ckgrif@localnet.com

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira NY 14905

Summer 2001 was generally quite nice for people and probably also for many bird species. June was a little warmer than normal, July a little cooler than normal and August quite a bit warmer than normal (by 3.7°F). The thermometer barely reached 90° on four occasions in June and July, but exceeded that mark on four consecutive days, 7–10 August. Precipitation varied greatly across the Region. Ithaca received above average rainfall every month while Elmira totaled less than half the normal amount for the summer season.

As you read the following, keep in mind not only the above weather factors, but also some significant alterations in the norms of Finger Lakes Region birding activity. Large contributions to summer data in each of the last several years have come from the Ithaca June Count. Up until last year, that count, like a Christmas Bird Count, was entirely conducted on one calendar day. Last year, because many of the usual participants had conflicts with the scheduled date, the format was changed to allow participants an entire week to cover their assigned areas. Although one would expect the result to be better coverage, and therefore more birds, this was not the case. Warbler numbers on the count were actually down last year. Participants may have been better prepared for the new format this year. As a result, they recorded the highest numbers ever for many species.

This year was also the second year for Atlas 2000, which kept birders in the field through the summer. One effect of the project is that the Region's (and state's) birders are more evenly distributed, and this distribution changes each year of the project. Favored birding areas are likely to only receive the concentrated effort of one volunteer in only one of the five years of the project.

The following account includes comparisons of reported bird populations in the Region between summer 2001 and summer 2000, with occasional reference to a species' status in previous summers. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($\chi^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report that appeared in the December 1999 issue of *The Kingbird*. Of the 238 species reported the last four summers in the Region, 147 species showed no significant change in populations between summer 2000 and summer 2001. Sixty-four species increased and 27 species decreased.

The controversial Double-crested Cormorant control program in Lake Ontario may finally be demonstrating the desired effect of the program's proponents. The number of cormorants in Region 3 was down 42% from last year when numbers were exceedingly high. Another colonial nester, Great Blue Heron, was the only species whose summer numbers increased for the third consecutive year. Hopefully, this is a sign of improving water quality and food supply. Green Herons

and Black-crowned Night-Herons both decreased substantially. Low water levels in wetlands in drought-ridden parts of the Region may be partially responsible. Less intense Atlas coverage of the spottily distributed wetland habitats may also account for a large part of the decline. Dave Russell and Geo Kloppel spent much less time in wetlands this year.

Turkey Vultures were up this year. For the same reasons stated above, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard (second consecutive decline), Blue-winged Teal and Hooded Merganser all demonstrated declines. Some of these species also must contend with the aggressive and larger Canada Goose for space. Canada Geese were up another 56% from last year. On a more positive note, the river-dwelling Common Mergansers increased with the decrease in water levels. Slower, clearer waters with interspersed exposed shoals favor this fish-eating species. A few Ring-necked Ducks lingered into the summer, with a male lingering well into June, last seen with a female in the marsh at The Center at Horseheads. These and the Ruddy Duck found by John and Sue Gregoire in a farm pond in Horseheads both constituted first summer records for Chemung County. Most unusual were the two sightings of a White-winged Scoter, once in June and once in July, at the north end of Seneca Lake.

While summer raptor numbers are usually stable, three species showed increases this year. A high count of Red-shouldered Hawks and a full nest in the Town of Orange gave this species an increase. A migratory movement of a half-dozen Northern Goshawks and 100 Broad-winged Hawks in one day at Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory was responsible for the increased numbers in these species.

Wild Turkeys, benefiting from a relatively easy winter and last autumn's good mast crop, increased. Rails didn't seem to change numbers much, although American Coots decreased. Bob Guthrie and Carol and Joe Slattery found a Sandhill Crane in the Town of Jerusalem.

Shorebirds produced a mixed picture. Least and Pectoral sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers all declined for the second year in a row. American Golden-Plover, Killdeer, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, and Spotted and Semipalmated sandpipers all increased. Jeff Gerbracht and Ken Rosenberg turned up the only Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Gary Chapin found the only Red-necked Phalarope.

Among gulls, Ring-billed decreased slightly and Herring Gull nearly doubled last year's numbers. Bob Fogg discovered the season's only Laughing Gull on a visit to Myers Point. Single Bonaparte's Gulls appeared in Elmira and at Montezuma. Perhaps as a side effect of the cormorant control program, Caspian Terns were up in numbers. Gil Weakland estimated at least 100 flying high over Eldridge Park in Elmira. The single Forster's Tern found on the Ithaca June Count was very unusual both in being the only summer report and in its occurrence in mid-June rather than in the latter half of the season.

Owls made some lasting impressions this summer. The Ithaca June Counters located 16 Barred Owls. Calling fledglings were also discovered in the Towns of Erin and Addison. Kevin McGowan and Arthur Smith, Jr. both enjoyed observing

foraging families of Long-eared Owls in the Towns of Ledyard and Big Flats, respectively. A colony of Short-eared Owls, first observed by several members of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society in March, continued to occupy a grassland slope on the Chemung and Schuyler county border through at least early July. As many as seven birds were observed. Surprisingly, Roger Sleeper observed yet another Short-eared Owl on several occasions in the Town of Veteran.

Although not reported then, two Whip-poor-wills were singing in the Town of Addison last year, and both returned to serenade Jodi and Mike Crane this year. Meanwhile, Ken and Liz Smith also enjoyed the now rare song of the Whip-poor-will in the Town of Groton. In spite of a decrease in the number of accessible chimneys, Chimney Swift numbers were up thanks to a couple of large late summer flocks.

As it did with most woodland species, the Ithaca June Count turned up all-time highs for five woodpecker species. When combined with other reports, the only three that showed significant increases were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker (more than double last year's number) and Northern Flicker. Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, and Warbling and Red-eyed vireos all increased. Warbling and Yellow-throated vireos and other riverine tree nesters faced a special challenge this year. Birds that chose American Sycamores as nest sites found their nests quite exposed by the defoliation that the trees experienced this spring. Horned Lark was reported in smaller numbers. Purple Martins and Bank Swallows both decreased. Tree Swallows increased.

West Nile Virus didn't get much local publicity this year and, if present in the Region's corvid populations, produced inconsistent effects. American and Fish crows were down. Blue Jays and Common Ravens were up.

Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice and Red-breasted Nuthatches increased. Carolina Wrens were up, but House Wrens went down for the second straight year, Marsh Wrens decreased and Sedge Wren numbers dropped to zero. All of the locally breeding thrush species were up in numbers. Chris Tessaglia-Hymes heard calls of one or more night-migrating Swainson's Thrushes in late August. An increase in Gray Catbirds was the only mimid change. Perhaps the best bird found on the monthly bird count in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex was the American Pipit on the June count.

Yellow Warbler was up but other riverine warblers, Cerulean Warbler and Northern Waterthrush, were down. Conifer-dwelling Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian warblers all increased. The more deciduously associated Ovenbird was also up. Perhaps the drier weather in the Southern Tier may have caused greater nesting activity by these species, making them easier to find. Two shrub-loving species, Mourning Warbler and Common Yellowthroat, also increased. Among the more exciting warbler finds were Joan Scrocarelli's and Anne Thurber's Northern Parula in Southport in June, Don Marks's Yellow-breasted Chat at Tanglewood Forest and Jay McGowan's migrating Golden-winged Warbler.

Bolstered by the high number on Ithaca's June Count, Scarlet Tanagers

increased. Among sparrows, Eastern Towhee and Savannah, Grasshopper and Song sparrows were all up. Unfortunately, the rare Henslow's Sparrow was down. Pete Hosner and Charlie Smith reported three singing Clay-colored Sparrows in Lodi. Among icterids, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle increased. Brown-headed Cowbird decreased. Indigo Bunting, House Finch and American Goldfinch all increased. Finally, all of the European exotics changed significantly from last year. Rock Doves and European Starlings both increased. House Sparrows, perhaps in response to the recovering House Finch population, declined.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sylvia Anglin, Jeanne & Joel Baines, Jai Balakrishnan, Eric Banford, Nicholas Barbarin, Susan Barnett, Susan Bennett, Fred Bertram, Gladys Birdsall, Michele Brown, Cayuga Bird Club, Cornell Campus Club Bird Study Group, Gary Chapin, Dick & Joan Clements, Dianne & Steve Cooper, Jodi & Mike Crane, Nancy & Tom Cusumano, Donna Jean Darling, Greg & Susan Delisle, John Dennis, Nancy Dickinson, Vern Durkee, Eaton Bird Club, Karen Edelstein, Bill Evans, Steve & Susan Fast, Finger Lakes Land Trust, Martha Fischer, Maureen Fisher, Bob Fogg, Tom Fredericks, Jeff Gerbracht, Aaron Greene, John Greenly, John & Sue Gregoire, Bob Guthrie, Meena Haribal, Ellen Hibbard, Wesley Hochachka, Julie Horton, Pete Hosner, Larry & Sara Jane Hymes, Lyn Jacobs, Anne Marie Johnson, Sam & Steve & Taylor Kelling, Nancy Kelly, Elizabeth King, Geo Kloppel, Paul Larrabee, Jim Leet, Ellen Luce, Don Marks, Ann Mathieson, Bill Mauck, Bill & Shirley McAneny, Jay & Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matt Medler, Nari Mistry, Ann Mitchell, MNWR Staff & Volunteers & Visitors, Montezuma Once-A-Month Count Volunteers, Bobbie Morse, Michael Murphy, Tom Nix, Dave Nutter, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Gerard Phillips, Sandy Podulka, Bard Prentiss, Stefan Rayer, Marie Read, Ronda Roaring, Bill Roberts, Ken Rosenberg, Dave Russell, Matt Sarver, Stanley Scharf, Joan Scrocarelli, Julie Siler, Carol & Joe Slattery, Roger Sleeper, Arthur Smith Jr, Charlie Smith, Ken & Liz Smith, Karen Steffy, Laura Stenzler, Miranda Strichartz, Carl & Kathy Strickland, Ben Taft, Regi Teasley, Chris & Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Julian Thomas, Anne Thurber, Bruce Tracey, Melanie Uhlir, Matt Victoria, Gil & Lynne Weakland, Page & Watt Webb, Allison & Jeff Wells, Mary Wilcox, Matt Williams, Caissa Willmer, Carl & June Wood, Richard Wood, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

CayL – Cayuga L; CVT – Catharine Valley Trail SCHU; ElmD – Elmira Dam; FGSP – Fillmore Glen SP; Hors – Horseheads; IJC – Ithaca June Count; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt; SRBP – Seybolt Rd Bait Ponds; TF – Tanglewood Forest.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: Long Pt SP 5 Jun; CayL Aug.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 23 MNWR 1 Jul.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 50 MWC 4 Aug; 35 MNWR 5 Jun.
Am. Bittern: Queen Catharine's Marsh SCHU 10 Jun; MNWR 13 Aug.
Least Bittern: Queen Catharine's Marsh SCHU 5 Jun; MNWR 30 Aug.
Great Blue Heron: max 219 MWC 13 Aug (EBC, LJ), high; 200 MNWR 14 Aug.
Great Egret: arr MNWR 22 Jul; max 38 MNWR 13 Aug, high.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr MNWR 27 Jul; max 6 MNWR 15 Aug.
Turkey Vulture: max 66 IJC 16 Jun, high; 21 Cameron 19 Jul.
Canada Goose: 110 MNWR 3 Jun; max 481 IJC 16 Jun, high.
Mute Swan: max 2 MWC 3 Jun; IJC 16 Jun.
Gadwall: max 3 MNWR 3 Jun; last MNWR 5 Jun.
Am. Wigeon: 2 MNWR 15 Aug (JGe, GP), only report.
Mallard: 128 MWC 3 Jun; max 160 IJC 16 Jun, low.
N. Shoveler: 2 MNWR 2 Jun (KR), only report.
Redhead: 3 MNWR 3 Jun (MOCV), only report.
RING-NECKED DUCK: MNWR 2 Jun (JaB); last & max 2 Hors thru 24 Jun (DR), first CHEM summer record.
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Seneca L SP 7 Jun (JGe, StK) and 21 Jul (BG).
Com. Merganser: 40 ElmD 17 Jul; max 49 Elmira 2 Aug (B&JO).
Ruddy Duck: max 9 MWC 3 Jun (MOCV), high; Hors 10 Jun (J&SGr), first CHEM summer record.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 10 MNWR 3 Jun.
Bald Eagle: max 4 MNWR 3 Jun.
N. Harrier: max 4 Catlin 20 Jun.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 4 Danby 18 Jul; 3 Dryden 31 Jul.

Cooper's Hawk: max 8 IJC 16 Jun, high; 4 Erin 13 Jul.
N. Goshawk: IJC 16 Jun; max 6 KH 22 Aug (J&SGr), high.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 7 IJC 16 Jun, high; 4 Luce Property 25 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: 8 IJC 16 Jun; max 100 KH 22 Aug (J&SGr), high.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 36 IJC 16 Jun, high; 5 Cameron 30 Jun.
Merlin: arr Ithaca 20 Jul (MH), early; Ithaca 29 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: arr MNWR 27 Aug (MNWRSVV); MNWR 29 Aug (BF).
SANDHILL CRANE: Jerusalem 31 Aug (BG, C&JS), only report.
Black-bellied Plover: arr MNWR 14 Aug; max 4 MNWR 24 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 20 Aug; max 14 MNWR 25 Aug (GC), high.
Semipalmated Plover: last MyPt 9 Jun; arr MNWR 4 Aug; 6 MWC 10 Aug; max 20 MNWR 30 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr ElmD 22 Jun; max 22 SRBP 29 Jul; 20 MNWR 30 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Elmira 6 Jul; 10 SRBP 13 Aug; max 150 MNWR 30 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Dryden L Trail TOMP 4 Jul; max 13 MNWR 25 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: max 3 Empire Farm SENE 7 Jun; Hors 13 Jun.
Ruddy Turnstone: last MyPt 11 Jun; arr Geneva 5 Aug.
Sanderling: MyPt 25 Jul (MMe, MSa, MatW), only report.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MyPt 11 Jun; arr 4 SRBP 29 Jul; max 100 MNWR 30 Aug (JGe, KR), high.
Least Sandpiper: arr MyPt 2 Jul; 15 SRBP 13 Aug; max 20 MNWR 30 Aug, low.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last MyPt 11 Jun (BF, MSa, MatW), late; arr MNWR 15 Aug; max 3 MNWR 30 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 Aug; max 3 MNWR 27 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 7 Aug; max 7 SRBP 13 Aug; 2 MNWR 15 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 SRBP 13 Aug; max 4 MNWR 15 Aug; 4 SRBP 15 Aug.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: MNWR 30 Aug (JGe, KR), only report.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 15 Aug, late; max 3 MNWR 30 Aug, low.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr SRBP 4 Aug (JaB), early; max 2 MNWR 25 Aug.

Com. Snipe: arr & max 3 MWC 10 Aug; MNWR 15 Aug.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: MNWR 24 Aug (GC), only report.

LAUGHING GULL: MyPt 9 Jun (BF), only report.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: arr Elmira 11 Jul (BO), early; MNWR 21 Aug.

Great Black-backed Gull: last MyPt 24 Jun (CWi), late; arr & max 2 Stewart P TOMP 19 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 31 MyPt 5 Aug; max 100 Eldridge P CHEM 19 Aug (G&LW), high.

Com. Tern: 2 MNWR 5 Jun; max 4 MyPt 9 Jun.

FORSTER'S TERN: IJC 16 Jun (CBC), only report.

Black Tern: max 10 SRBP 13 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 276 IJC 16 Jun, high; 200 Corning 21 Jul.

Mourning Dove: max 484 IJC 16 Jun, high; 75 Elmira 29 Aug.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 7 IJC 16 Jun; 2 Dryden 24 Jun.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 4 IJC 16 Jun; 3 ChR 21 Jul.

E. Screech-Owl: max 4 IJC 16 Jun, high; 3 Ludlowville 29 Jul.

Great Horned Owl: max 3 Lettie Cook Memorial Forest CAYU 7 Jun (BF), high; 3 IJC 16 Jun.

Barred Owl: max 15 IJC 16 Jun, high; 3 Erin 21 Jun.

LONG-EARED OWL: Ledyard 10 Jun (C&KS); 2 Ledyard 11 Jun; max 4 Big Flats 15 Jun (AS).

SHORT-EARED OWL: Veteran 15 Jun (RS); max 7 Catlin and Dix 22 Jun

(D&SCo, B&JO), high; last 2 Catlin and Dix 3 Jul (J&SGr); first CHEM summer records.

Com. Nighthawk: arr MNWR 14 Aug; max 300 Dryden 22 Aug (MH), high; 61 Pine City 27 Aug.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: max 2 Addison 2 Jun (J&MCr), high; Groton 20 Jun (K&LSm).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 53 IJC 16 Jun, high; 22 KH 27 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: max 33 IJC 16 Jun, high; 4 ChR 21 Jul.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 Brooktondale 3 Aug (SP), high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 110 IJC 16 Jun, high; 5 FGSP 4 Jul.

Downy Woodpecker: max 133 IJC 16 Jun, high; 8 KH 5 Jul.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 70 IJC 16 Jun, high; 5 Erin 4 Jul.

N. Flicker: max 109 IJC 16 Jun, high; 8 ChR 21 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Dix 5 Jun (MarF, KR), late; arr Cayuta 25 Aug.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 185 IJC 16 Jun, high; 10 ChR 21 Jul.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Ford Hill TOMP 2 Jun; arr KH 25 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 6 FGSP 4 Jul.

Willow Flycatcher: 5 Dryden L 3 Jun; max 114 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 103 IJC 16 Jun, high.

E. Kingbird: max 65 IJC 16 Jun, high; 16 Cornell U 10 Aug.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 CVT 8 Jun; max 24 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Blue-headed Vireo: 4 Catherine Creek Gorge STEU 9 Jun; max 59 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Warbling Vireo: max 93 IJC 16 Jun, high; 10 ChR 21 Jul.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 987 IJC 16 Jun, high; 16 ChR 21 Jul.

Blue Jay: max 312 IJC 16 Jun, high; 18

ChR 21 Jul.

Fish Crow: max 2 IJC 16 Jun; Heller Creek Flood Control Dam CHEM 2 Aug.

Com. Raven: 7 Cameron Cemetery STEU 16 Jun; max 8 Elmira 2 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 4 Hors 13 Jun; 4 Newfield 30 Jun.

Purple Martin: max 10 CayL 22 Jul & 1 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: 6 IJC 16 Jun; max 7 ElmD 26 Jun.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 735 IJC 16 Jun, high; 16 CVT 29 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 27 IJC 16 Jun, high; 10 Danby 1 Jul.

Carolina Wren: max 12 IJC 16 Jun, high; 8 Hors 29 Jun.

E. Bluebird: 10 Erwin WMA STEU 7 Jun; max 62 IJC 16 Jun, high.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Dryden 29 Aug (CT-H), only report.

Gray Catbird: max 719 IJC 16 Jun, high; 19 CVT 29 Jun.

N. Mockingbird: 3 Hors 5 Jun; max 26 IJC 16 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: 2 MyPt 13 Jun; max 14 IJC 16 Jun.

AM. PIPIT: MNWR 3 Jun (MOCV), only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 495 IJC 16 Jun, high; 37 ChR 21 Jul.

WARBLERS

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Beam Hill TOMP 29 Aug (JM), only report.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Dryden 27 Jul (KR), early; Stewart P TOMP 23 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 2 Summerhill 6 Jun; Beam Hill TOMP 29 Aug.

N. PARULA: Southport 2 Jun (JSc, AT), only report.

Yellow Warbler: 30 MNWR 3 Jun; max 916 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 5 CVT 8 Jun; max 129 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 8 Veteran 13 Jun; max 74 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 10 FGSP

6 Jun; max 154 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 49 IJC 16 Jun, high; 5 Cameron 16 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr KH 8 Aug (J&SGr), early.

Cerulean Warbler: max 5 Tyre 7 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: max 4 Danby 6 Jun.

Ovenbird: 14 TF 15 Jun; max 461 IJC 16 Jun, high.

N. Waterthrush: 6 IJC 16 Jun; max 7 ChR 21 Jul, low.

Mourning Warbler: max 17 IJC 16 Jun; Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 1 Jul.

Com. Yellowthroat: 63 MNWR 3 Jun; max 892 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Hooded Warbler: max 35 IJC 16 Jun, high; 2 Beech Hill Rd W Danby 6 Jul.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: TF 15 Jun (DM), only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 10 FGSP 6 Jun; max 154 IJC 16 Jun, high.

E. Towhee: 3 TF 15 Jun; max 184 IJC 16 Jun, high.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: max 3 Lodi 7 Jun (PH, CS), high.

Vesper Sparrow: Southport 2 Jun; Mt Pleasant TOMP 3 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 12 Hors 13 Jun; 8 IJC 16 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: Ledyard 10 Jun; Hors 13 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 11 Summerhill SF CAYU 6 Jun (Jsi, MY), high; 2 Danby SF TOMP 6 Jul.

Indigo Bunting: max 227 IJC 16 Jun, high; 23 KH 27 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: 6 Ledyard 5 Jun; max 123 IJC 16 Jun, high.

Com. Grackle: max 504 IJC 16 Jun; 300 MNWR 13 Aug.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 245 IJC 16 Jun; 25 Hors 26 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: max 2 MyPt 6 Jun (JGy), high; IJC 16 Jun.

Purple Finch: max 46 IJC 16 Jun, high; 8

KH 11 Jul.

House Finch: max 223 IJC 16 Jun, high;
12 Elmira 7 Jul.

PINE SISKIN: 2 KH 4 Jun (J&SGr); last
and max 2 Newfield 24 Jun.

Am. Goldfinch: max 980 IJC 16 Jun, high;
60 Mt Pleasant TOMP 24 Jun.

brown_creeper@sg23.com

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

No report received.

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

The season was warmer than usual, with nearly normal rainfall recorded at the Syracuse airport, but many areas, especially to the south of the airport, suffered through a much drier season. In those areas, leaves wilted in August and fruit and seed production were adversely affected. Otherwise, various weed seed production seemed ample, but most trees and shrubs produced a low quantity of fruits and nuts. Wild apples were an exception. Cone production was very low this year, as expected after last year's bumper crop.

June had an average temperature of 67.2°F, which was 1.9° above normal, and 3.58" of rain, 0.2" below normal. July was 1° cooler than usual, with an average temperature of 69.4°, and the 2.08" of rain was 1.73" below the average. August was very warm, with an average of 73.7°, 5.3° above normal, and had 4.84" of rain, 1.33" above normal. However, some areas saw little rain from mid-July until the last few days of August.

Stillwater Reservoir was lowered for dam repairs. There were few, if any, Common Loons nesting there where many usually nest. Gary Lee did report loons nesting on ten other lakes in Herkimer County, including at least one new site, but some nests were lost after heavy June rains. A heronry in Oswego County lost most of its nests before the herons returned, as trees containing the nests fell over. This may become an increasing problem as other beaver flows age. Black-crowned Night-Heron was again found late in the season in the area around the north end of Onondaga Lake, where there is potential for breeding. Unfortunately, the area receives little coverage in June and July.

Canada Geese nesting at the east end of Stillwater Reservoir were thought to be a first by local residents. The species has now just about saturated the Region as a breeder. Snow Goose, Gadwall and Common Goldeneye were unusual waterfowl for the season, but Northern Pintail and American Wigeon were not reported.

Bald Eagles are now known to be nesting at four sites outside of the Adirondacks, and there are probably others, although some reports are of summering birds. Two Merlin nests were found in the Adirondacks and a single bird was seen at a third location. Other breeding raptors reported in good numbers in this Atlas year were Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk.

The early June shorebird migration was little noted this year and the southbound birds attracted little attention until late July as most observers were busy with Atlas work. The Delta Lake draw down began in the first week of August but it was felt that shorebird numbers did not meet expectations. There also seemed to be fewer Merlins and Peregrine Falcons at the lake. Marge Rusk found an adult **Piping Plover** at Sandy Pond that remained for two days. It was the first Regional sighting since 1984. Phalaropes and Stilt Sandpiper were missed this season, and it was felt that breeding Common Snipe numbers were negatively affected by the lowering of Stillwater Reservoir.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported in good numbers, helped by Atlas work in places that normally get little attention. Northern Saw-whet Owl juveniles were found at three locations, all in or near the yards of experienced birders. A family of Long-eared Owls was also reported. The August Common Nighthawk migration, as monitored by Gene Huggins from Slocum Heights in Syracuse, was one of the poorest recorded in the nine years of the project. Possibly, the mild weather held the birds back into September this year. One of the best Whip-poor-will nest sites was disturbed, as the woods around a sand pit in Constantia were bulldozed in an apparent effort to expand the quarry. Barbara Herrgesell and Joe Brin found Red-headed Woodpeckers at several new sites at or near beaver impoundments that had not been checked in the past.

Late spring migrants peaked on 3 June with nine species of warblers at the Energy Information Center, including the highest Blackpoll count for spring migration. Low numbers were the rule for the fall passerine migration, with few reports for vireos, swallows and warblers.

A Loggerhead Shrike was seen briefly in New Hartford, but it was never relocated. Reports of Acadian Flycatchers in northern Cayuga and western Oswego counties indicate that mature lowland woods in the area might hold more of the species. Northern Mockingbird reports from southern Onondaga County suggest expansion into upland areas. The Carolina Wren population has benefited from two somewhat mild winters. Sightings from northern Herkimer County included: Philadelphia Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Boreal Chickadee, Lincoln's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird, but Gray Jay and Black-backed Woodpecker were missed.

A Prairie Warbler fledgling in Tully provided the first breeding confirmation for the Region, although the species has been found in suitable habitat for several years.

Prothonotary Warbler nested in Big Bay Swamp on the northeast shore of Oneida Lake for the first Regional breeding record since 1984. Since the area has not been visited much in recent years, the species may have been present for some time. Orchard Orioles continue to be found at lower elevations in Onondaga and Madison counties and a check of the lands along the old Erie Canal might turn up more of them. White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins lingered well into the summer, with a few reports of fledglings. Evening Grosbeak has become scarce over the past few years, but a pair with young was found near Boonville.

The season's total of 199 species and two hybrids was better than most summers. Highlights included: Bald Eagle, Merlin, **Piping Plover**, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Long-eared Owl, **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, Prairie Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and White-winged Crossbill. The biggest misses were Sedge Wren and Henslow's Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ginny Alfano, Brenda Best, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Natalia Garcia, Donna Gilmore, Barbara Herrgesell, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koenke, Gary Lee, Kevin McGann, John Moore, David Nash, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Sheila Smith, Maureen Staloff, David Wheeler, Matt Williams, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

Adk – Adirondacks; BRS – Beaver River Station, northern HERK; Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DL – Delta L; EIC – Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, northeastern MADI; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pd; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; UM – Utica Marsh.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: nest with 2 y First L Old Forge, new site; heavy rain 22-23 Jun flooded several Adk nests.

Double-crested Cormorant: nesting interference by NYSDEC continues on most Oneida L islands.

Am. Bittern: Sullivan 3 Jun; Little Safford L 7 Jul.

Least Bittern: 2 UM 2 Jun; GSC 15 Jun.

Great Blue Heron: most Mallory nests gone as dead trees fall.

Great Egret: arr DL 30 Jul; max 6 DL 13 Aug; GSC 30 Aug.

Green Heron: max 11 GSC 30 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: OnonL outlet 31 Aug.

Snow Goose: Ira 1 Jun; OnonL 28 Jun.

Gadwall: SVB 22 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: 7 y Nicks L 23 Jul.

Blue-winged Teal: breeding GSC; arr DL 20 Aug; max 25 DL 27 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 30 GSC 30 Aug.

Com. Goldeneye: OnonL 28 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: max 4 GSC 30 Aug.

Com. Merganser: 3 ad and 25 y

Redfield 4 Aug; probable reduced breeding at Stillwater Res.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: new nest site near Bridgeport; Fulton nest fledged y before storm damaged nest; imm Durhamville 4 Jun; up to 9 at one pool Stillwater Res, feeding on trapped fish.

N. Harrier: adults carrying food GSC mid Jun; 2 Sullivan 12 Jun; nesting pair Verona 11 Jul; Middleville 18 Jun; feeding y Litchfield 26 Jun.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: nest Old Forge 9 Aug.

Cooper's Hawk: 3 FL Bville late Jul.

N. Goshawk: 2 ad defending site SVB 1 Jun; nest Westernville 23 Jul; FL at 2 sites Georgetown 27 Jul; CM 15 Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: pair in display Rome Sand Plains 3 Jun; calling in most Tug Hill areas surveyed.

Broad-winged Hawk: confirmed breeding in 5 Atlas blocks Williamstown-Redfield.

Merlin: nesting Old Forge (GL) and BRS (TS); also reported at Third L.

Peregrine Falcon: Derby Hill 1 Jun, late migrant; Syr 28 Jul.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 imm SFWS 4 Aug; a few adults survive to breed.

Ruffed Grouse: only 5 broods reported.

Virginia Rail: 2 Sullivan 3 Jun; ad & 4 y Bville 29 Jul.

Sora: reports from UM, Mexico, Palermo.

Com. Moorhen: 2 sites Palermo, unexpected; 4 pairs W Monroe.

Black-bellied Plover: last 4 Sullivan 6 Jun; arr SPd 11 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 15 DL 19 Aug.

PIPING PLOVER: SPd 10-11 Aug (MR, mob, NYSARC), first record since 1984.

Killdeer: max 50

Oriskany/Westmoreland 12 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 DL 19 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 DL 19 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 5 Sullivan 24 Jun, presumably southbound; max 16 W Monroe 5 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 9 SPd 21 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: most reports from ONEI at Verona, Steuben, Remsen, Griffiss AFB; also from Fenner and Mexico.

Ruddy Turnstone: SPd 18 Aug; DL 19 Aug.

Sanderling: max 60 SPd 29 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 40 SPd 25 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: max 50 DL 19 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: SPd 25 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: max 3 SPd 11 Aug; SPd 18, 25 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12 DL 18 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: SPd 29 Jul; 1-3 DL after 6 Aug.

Com. Snipe: at BRS early in season only, probably affected by low water; 2 displaying Steuben 14 Jun; max 11 DL 14 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: DL 23 Jul; max 30 SPd 29 Jul.

Little Gull: ad SPd 11 Aug (BP).

Caspian Tern: max 42 SPd 29 Jul.

Com. Tern: max 27 SPd 10 Aug.

Black Tern: max 7 SPd 25 Jul.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 3 GSC 15 Jun; 20+ reports, with several carrying food.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 4 GSC 15 Jun; 10 other reports.

E. Screech-Owl: family group Otisco mid Jul; many reports of calling birds in Aug.

Great Horned Owl: Sullivan 6 Jun; ad & 2 imm Kirkland 12 Jun.

Barred Owl: y begging Beaver L early Jun; pair Whiskey Hollow; juv Old Forge late Jun.

Long-eared Owl: 2 FL & ad Otisco 17 Jul (DG).

N. Saw-whet Owl: juv Bvll 30 Jun (JB); 2 juv Boonville 14 Jul (GA, ph); 3 juv Tully 26 Jul (NG); calling Dewitt and Williamstown into Jul.

Com. Nighthawk: EIC 3 Jun; max 56 Syr 22 Aug; total 228 Syr 12-31 Aug, lower than most years; other reports all Aug migrants.

Whip-poor-will: 2 Trenton 7 Jul; nesting habitat disturbed Constantia in sand quarry expansion but 3 calling into Jul.

Chimney Swift: max 130 Syr 25 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 7 CM 13 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 pairs Ira 5 Aug (BH); FL Cicero 4 Aug; FL Granby 22 Aug; Bvll 27 Aug (JB).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: FL Verona 27 Jul; Granby 12 Aug, edge of range.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Labrador Hollow 2 Jun; 2 Lennon Pds HERK 4 Jul; Wheeler Pd 7 Jul; FL begging BRS 14 Jul; arr Westdale 26 Aug.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 12 SPd 18 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last EIC 2 Jun; arr SFWS 26 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: nesting Whiskey Hollow, Martville; present Granby.

E. Kingbird: max 12 SPd 30 Jul.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: New Hartford 2 Jun (SS!), did not persist.

Blue-headed Vireo: 3 Cicero Swamp 11 Jul, unusual location.

Philadelphia Vireo: male singing BRS 15 Jul (TS); arr Verona 23 Aug.

Fish Crow: reports from Syr, OnonL, and Oriskany where it was found in late 1980s.

Com. Raven: nesting Florence; heard throughout Tug Hill.

Horned Lark: 3 Sullivan 8 Jul, only report.

Tree Swallow: 2 nests with y 25-27 Jul ONEI, late (BB).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: nest sites included stone foot bridge OnonL 20 Jun

and under storage trailer N Syr 7 Jul.

Bank Swallow: nesting Old Forge sand pit.

Cliff Swallow: 10 nests Cicero site in Jun, rare breeder ONON now.

Barn Swallow: max 538 CM 11 Aug.

Boreal Chickadee: Third L Creek trail 25 Aug (MR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: little evidence of late summer migration.

Carolina Wren: doing well in ONEI, 2 Clinton, 1 Kirkland, 1 New Hartford, 1 UM; also usual sites south side Syr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BRS 14 Jun, 15 Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: SPd 29 Jul.

Swainson's Thrush: T Annsville 30 Jun, southern edge of breeding range.

Hermit Thrush: nest on step of ladder hanging on outbuilding BRS in Jun.

N. Mockingbird: sites in Tully and Fabius new upland areas; max 9 Clay 10 Jun; ONEI reports New Hartford 24 Jun, T Annsville 29 Jun, Rome 18 Aug.

WARBLERS

“Brewster's” Warbler: Oriskany 8 Jun; FL Mexico 24 Jul.

“Lawrence's” Warbler: Rome 8 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: arr W Monroe 28 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 5 Rome Pitch Pine Bog 4 Jun.

N. Parula: reported Old Forge area; not heard BRS where common in 2000.

Yellow Warbler: max 50 SPd 29 Jul.

Magnolia Warbler: EIC 3 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 EIC 3 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Clay 10 Jun; Cicero Swamp 27 Jun, unusual.

Blackburnian Warbler: last EIC 3 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: FL Otisco 7 Jul, first confirmed breeding in Region (NG); male singing Hastings last half of Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: EIC 3 Jun; arr SFWS 30 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 30 EIC 3 Jun; Carter Station 30 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: Wheeler Pd 9 Jul; none found Otisco L causeway, former breeding location.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: pair WM 1 Jun (BP), feeding y 14 Jul (JM), first recorded nesting in Region since 1984.

Hooded Warbler: male W Winfield 5 Jul (KZ), first for area.

Wilson's Warbler: 2 EIC 3 Jun; arr SFWS 28 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Ava 2 Jul (MSc).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Clay 24 Jun; Griffiss AFB Jun & Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: common BRS thru.

White-crowned Sparrow: last EIC 2 Jun.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 2400 CM 11 Aug.

Rusty Blackbird: N Branch Moose R in Jul.

Com. Grackle: 1250 CM 11 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: Herkimer 14 Jun; ad & imm male GSC 15 Jun; ad pair and imm male Cross L 20 Jun.

White-winged Crossbill: Wheeler Pd 9 Jul; L Julia 7 June; 3 Moss L 28 Jun; 2 FL Boylston 4 Apr.

Pine Siskin: FY Woodhull L 15 Jun; Ava 25 Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: pair feeding y Boonville 14 Jul; several around Old Forge thru.

CORRIGENDA: *The Kingbird* 51(2):

Black Scoter: pg 620 – “3 LOL 7 thru season” should read “3 LOL 7 Jan thru”.

GYRFALCON: pg 621 add: 1 imm FH 4 Feb (MAK, BP, KM, mob, NYSARC), remained thru month.

Song Sparrow: pg 622 – “max 5 Pumpkin Hollow 30...” add “Dec”.

wpurcell@twcny.rr.com
315-668-2871

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

Mickey Scilingo
PO Box 2106, Liverpool NY 13089

June was warm and sunny, with the average temperature 1° to 2°F above normal, with the exception of the St. Lawrence River valley, which was 3° above normal. Rainfall in June was 1" to 2" below normal throughout the area. Hot and dry conditions continued into July, and by the middle of the month the entire Region was declared to be in drought condition. The Adirondack and Tug Hill areas were in moderate drought conditions, the Lake Ontario Plain was in a severe drought, and the St. Lawrence River valley was in a profound drought. Temperatures reached the nineties during the last week of July and first week of August, culminating in a temperature-humidity index of 100 on 9 August in Ogdensburg. Thereafter, weather conditions changed from blocking high pressure areas along the Atlantic Coast to a more normal movement of low pressure areas from the west bringing much needed rain. Those August rainfalls were not enough

though, and at the end of the season the Region was still running a deficit from its average precipitation total.

Water levels on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario were at normal seasonal levels on 15 June due to the large run-off from the snowpack in the Adirondacks. Creeks in St. Lawrence County were noticeably low at the end of June and many were dry by the end of August. Water levels on Lake Ontario dropped dramatically in late July, leaving a large mud flat at El Dorado Beach, which created a welcome site for shorebirds in August.

Due to a warm April and May, many species had begun nesting in late May and had young in late June. Aerial insects virtually disappeared in late June, which prompted an early departure of Purple Martins and other swallows at Holmes Point in Morristown, Lewis County. Vegetation was lush and fully developed in June, but by the end of July many trees and shrubs had dropped their leaves and berries dried up on the vines.

Double-crested Cormorant control measures were continued on Little Galloo Island, Jefferson County, this summer, with more egg-oiling by NYSDEC staff. A record 5440 nests were oiled in this third year of a five-year management plan to reduce the eastern Lake Ontario population. These actions resulted in only 50 chicks counted, instead of the usual 3000–4000 that would be expected. In addition, 21 cormorant nests were removed from Gull Island, Jefferson County. The NYSDEC is encouraged with the results of its egg-oiling campaign, but its overall effect on the cormorant population in eastern Lake Ontario will be hard to quantify since there are no control measures being pursued in Canada. On the St. Lawrence River, two new nesting locations for cormorants were discovered, each with only a few nests.

The Great Blue Heron rookery on Ironsides Island in the St. Lawrence River, Alexandria, Jefferson County, had no nesting for the second year. The adults have dispersed and no other major rookeries have been found in the area. However, a survey of nests in Upper and Lower Lakes WMA in St. Lawrence County revealed 182 chicks in approximately 90 nests. This is now the largest known rookery in the Region.

For the first time in seven years, the pair of Trumpeter Swans was not reported from the Perch River WMA. Redheads successfully bred again at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA in St. Lawrence County, where five broods were reported on 14 July. Despite low water and drying swamps, Wood Ducks, Mallards and Blue-winged and Green-winged teal were able to fledge young.

There are now four active Bald Eagle nests in the Region and all were successful this summer. There have also been numerous sightings of eagles throughout the area, involving both adult and immature birds. The future certainly looks bright for our national symbol in Region 6. A single adult Golden Eagle was reported from Otter Lake in Lewis County in mid July, and a pair of Merlins with two young were at Cranberry Lake State Park in St. Lawrence County in early August.

Black Tern surveys were conducted statewide by the NYSDEC to monitor the breeding success of this NYS endangered species. The results showed a tremendous drop in breeding pairs of over 50% from last year, with a 66% drop within Region 6. The colony size at Perch River WMA was estimated to be 21 pairs, with 24 nests found. Twenty of those nests were monitored and ten were believed to be successful; one of the nests failed and the fate of the other nine was unknown. At Dexter Marsh WMA in Jefferson County, the population estimate was 17 breeding pairs. Eight nests were found there, with two considered successful and six with results unknown. At Lakeview WMA in southern Jefferson County, only one pair was found. This historic nesting ground is undergoing some dramatic changes, with vegetation density continuing to increase due to the lack of extreme water fluctuations and the continued presence of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). On the positive side, some rather high counts of Black Terns came from Upper and Lower Lake WMA in St. Lawrence County and three nests were found there in late June.

The grassland areas of Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties continue to provide needed habitat for grassland birds. Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl were again confirmed nesting in the open rangelands on Fort Drum. Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's Sparrow and Bobolink were all reported in good numbers, while Sedge Wren continued its almost annual occurrence. Some interesting breeding reports included the first confirmed breeding of Clay-colored Sparrow in St. Lawrence County, confirmed breeding of "Brewster's" Warbler on Fort Drum and the capture at the MAPS banding station on Fort Drum of a male Tennessee Warbler and a second -year male Orchard Oriole, both with enlarged cloacal protuberances.

Several of the "winter" finches were reported this summer, including both crossbills and Pine Siskins on Fort Drum and Evening Grosbeaks in St. Lawrence and Lewis counties.

A total of 170 species was reported for the Region, including 12 waterfowl, 12 raptors, 13 shorebirds, five owls, nine flycatchers, 22 warblers and one hybrid, nine sparrows and seven finches. Highlights include Least Bittern, Great Egret, Redhead, Golden Eagle, Long-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, Tennessee Warbler and Orchard Oriole. Lowlights include no reports for Cooper's Hawk, Horned Lark, Winter Wren, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow or Dark-eyed Junco, all of which should be found somewhere in the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

Harry Armistead, Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Sheila Cerwonka, David Diaz, Steve Guy, Andy Heineman, Jeff Holbrook, Nick Leone, Jerry Letendre, Robert Long, Irene Mazzochi, North Country Bird Club, Mickey Scilingo, Gerry Smith, Neil Stewart, Judy Sullivan, Dan Wells.

ABBREVIATIONS

CL – Cranberry Lake, T Clifton, STLA; CV – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ED – El Dorado Beach, T Henderson, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum; HP – Holmes Pt, St. Lawrence Ri 1 mi east of JCSP; JCSP – Jacques Cartier SP; PRWMA – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; PvCo – Parishville/Colton area, STLA; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; TLou – T Louisville, STLA; TMas – T Massena, STLA; TTher – T Theresa, JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, STLA; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA, STLA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 2 WHWMA 10 Jul; 3 pairs ULLWMA 28 Jun, at least 1 bred; 15 CL area Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: Hunneyman Rd T Alexandria JEFF 7 Jun; Rt 420 STLA 26 Jun; max 8 ULLWMA 14 Jul; breeding reports from FD, ULLWMA.

Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*; 2 new nesting locations on SLR at Cross-Over I T Hammond STLA and Blanket I T Alexandria JEFF; 6 ULLWMA 14 Jul.

Am. Bittern: 9 FD 10 Jun; 16 ULLWMA 21 Aug; many reports.

LEAST BITTERN: FD 10, 28 Jun.

Great Blue Heron: 15 TMas 2 Jun; 182 y in nests at a rookery STLA 28 Jun.

Great Egret: Beaver Meadows T Watertown JEFF 14 Aug; PRWMA 27 Aug.

CATTLE EGRET: migrant pair Beaver Meadows T Watertown JEFF 14 Aug.

Green Heron: pair TMas 10 Jul; pair ULLWMA 20 Jun; increased numbers from 2000.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 report ULLWMA 21 Aug.

Turkey Vulture: 2 TMas 2 Jun; 3 STLA 4 Aug; fewer reports than in recent years.

Wood Duck: 2 broods Massena 16 Jul; 6 ULLWMA 5 Jun.

Redhead: 5 broods ULLWMA 14 Jul.

Ring-necked Duck: only reports from ULLWMA where bred.

Com. Merganser: family group in S Colton STLA.

Ruddy Duck: ad m PRWMA 14 Jun.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Raquette Ri Potsdam; TMas 30 Jun; 2 ULLWMA 14 Jul; 2 y in nest ULLWMA 13 Jun.

Bald Eagle: nests with y Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF, PRWMA, Black L T Hammond STLA, and on Raquette Ri T Piercefield STLA; Blake Falls Res T Parishville STLA; imm TMas 3 Jun; imm ULLWMA 20 Jun; near full ad and 2nd yr Cranberry L STLA Aug.

N. Harrier: fem TTher 20 Jun; fem and 2 m TMas 2 Jun; FY 3 Atlas blocks on FD; common in right habitat.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: TMas 20 Jun; carrying food ULLWMA 14 Jul.

N. Goshawk: ad TTher 30 Jun; pr with 2 fledglings FD; imm chasing crows HP 20-23 Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: TTher 8 Jun; 3 PvCo 13 Jun.

Broad-winged Hawk: daily PvCo.

GOLDEN EAGLE: ad flying over Little Otter L T Greig LEWI 16 Jul (NS).

Am. Kestrel: FL TMas.

MERLIN: pr with y CL Campground STLA 4 Aug (DD), ad Black Ri T Greig LEWI 16 Aug, migrant.

Ruffed Grouse: 6 STLA 2 Jun; ad fem with 7 y ULLWMA 14 Jul.

Wild Turkey: 6 STLA 2 Jun.

N. Bobwhite: No. 6 Rd TTher 12 Jun, certainly an escape or released bird.

Virginia Rail: FD 10 Jun; ad with imm TMas 20 Aug.

Sora: FD 10 Jun; ULLWMA 5 Jun.

Com. Moorhen: 6 FD 10 Jun; family

group FD 28 Jun; 2 Rt 420 STLA 26 Jun.
Am. Coot: 2 Rt 420 STLA 26 Jun.
Black-bellied Plover: PRWMA 25 Aug; only report.
Killdeer: reduced numbers from last year; max 12 STLA 24 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: 5 PtPen 25 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr TTher 31 Jul.
Spotted Sandpiper: pr TMas 3 Jun; ULLWMA 5 Jun.
Upland Sandpiper: pr TMas 3 Jun; 2 Rt 26 TTher 5 Jun; Rt 26 near Ore Bed Rd T Philadelphia JEFF 5 Jun; 2 Joachim & Hall Rd TTher 20 Jun.
Ruddy Turnstone: 3 ULLWMA 5 Jun.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 50 per day ED mid-Aug.
Least Sandpiper: ULLWMA 5 Jun; 30 PtPen 19 Aug; 150 per day ED mid-Aug, high counts.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr PtPen 23 Aug; 5 PtPen 25 Aug.
Com. Snipe: Rt 56 STLA 2 Jun; 2 winnowing ULLWMA 14 Jul.
Am. Woodcock: max 8 TLou 2 Jun.
Caspian Tern: ULLWMA 12 Jun.
Com. Tern: possible courtship behavior ULLWMA 13 Jun; 33 ULLWMA 14 Jul; 20+ TMas 16 Jul.
Black Tern: *intro*; 42 ULLWMA 5 Jun; 38 ULLWMA 12 Jun; 32 ULLWMA 19 Jun; 3 nests ULLWMA 28 Jun; 2 ad and 4 y were seen flying away from ULLWMA 21 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: ULLWMA 14 Jul.
Great Horned Owl: TLou 1 Jun.
Barred Owl: 2 TLou 1 Jun; 3-4 PvCo Jun.
Long-eared Owl: calling over 5 day period Chases L T Greig LEWI 20 May (NS).
Short-eared Owl: FD 12 Jun; FY 6 Jul FD; CV 30 Jul.
N. Saw-whet Owl: FD 29 Jun, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: 2 breeding reports

FD; Higley Flow SP STLA Jun.
Whip-poor-will: TLou 2 Jun; ULLWMA 19 Jun; Hopkinton STLA Jun; many throughout FD.
Chimney Swift: max 10, some FL, STLA 24 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 3 STLA 1 Jun; Kirk Rd T Lewis LEWI 24 Jun; 2 STLA 14 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: confirmed breeding in 2 Atlas blocks FD; 2 imm at suet feeder CV 16 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 ULLWMA 14 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: near Slough Rd Parishville STLA 13 Jun; Hopkinton STLA Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Clear Pd STLA 12 Jun.
Alder Flycatcher: 6 TLou 1 Jun; 10 TMas 9 Jun; 6 ULLWMA 14 Jul; other reports LEWI.
Willow Flycatcher: 3 TMas 9 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: 3 TMas 9 Jun; TLou 20 Aug.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 8 TLou 1 Jun; TMas 30 Aug.
E. Kingbird: 8 TLou 2 Jun; 2 FY ULLWMA 14 Jul.
Red-eyed Vireo: 12 TLou 1 Jun; 10 TMas 10 Jul; 13 ULLWMA 14 Jul.
Blue Jay: interesting report of several hunting smaller songbirds as a group near CL.
Com. Raven: pr S Colton; T Alexandria JEFF 7 Jun.
Purple Martin: max 10 TMas 2 Jun; FY TMas 10 Jul.
Bank Swallow: FY TMas 9-10 Jun; 4 TLou 10 Jun.
Cliff Swallow: FY TMas 2 Jun; 40 TMas 3 Jun, greatest number reported at one location since 1997; 12 Rt 56 STLA 4 Jun.
Barn Swallow: 6 TMas 2 Jun; 10 TLou 5 Jun; FY TMas 10 Jul.

Tufted Titmouse: TMas 1 Jun, only report.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: pr Massena-Louisville area 2 Jun, only report.
Carolina Wren: TTher 31 Jul; ad singing HP 21 Aug, migrant.
House Wren: FY TMas 12 Jul; 2 FL TLou 16 Jul.
Sedge Wren: TTher 22 Jun; 2 m singing McCormick Rd T Oswegatchie STLA 18 Aug.
Marsh Wren: TLou 10 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nesting FD.
E. Bluebird: 3 pr TLou 1 Jun; FY TMas 9 Jun.
Veery: 12 TLou 1 Jun; 8 TMas 17 Jul; other reports LEWI.
Swainson's Thrush: singing males French Hill Rd and Trimm Rd T Colton STLA 26 Jun.
Hermit Thrush: Kirk Rd T Lewis LEWI 24 Jun, only report.
Wood Thrush: max 21 TLou 1 Jun; 10 TMas 16 Jul.
Gray Catbird: 8 TMas 1 Jun; 22 ULLWMA 14 Jul; max 28 Massena-Louisville area 29 Aug.
N. Mockingbird: a few pairs STLA.
Brown Thrasher: Browning Rd TLou 2 Jun; Crary Mills STLA 22 Jun.
Cedar Waxwing: 100 TLou 2 Jun; smaller numbers throughout Reg.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: increased numbers from last year on FD.
Golden-winged Warbler: increased numbers from last year on FD; south of Canton STLA Jun.
"Brewster's" Warbler: confirmed breeding FD (JB); singing song of Blue-winged Warbler Richville STLA Jun(DW).
Tennessee Warbler: ULLWMA 14 Jul; ad m with enlarged cloacal protuberance captured at FD banding station 19 Jul.
Nashville Warbler: plentiful in proper habitat.

Yellow Warbler: max 60 TMas 10 Jul.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 TMas 9 Jun; 4 ULLWMA 14 Jul; numerous PvCo.
Magnolia Warbler: few Kirk Rd T Lewis LEWI 24 Jun, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: TMas 1 Jun; numerous PvCo.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: numerous PvCo.
Black-throated Green Warbler: numerous PvCo.
Blackburnian Warbler: numerous PvCo.
Pine Warbler: 2 TMas 2 Jun; TLou 3 Jun; numerous PvCo.
Prairie Warbler: FY FD (JB).
Blackpoll Warbler: 2 TTher 4 Jun, migrants.
Cerulean Warbler: Red L Rd TTher 4 Jun; Honey Hill Rd TTher 8 Jun; 6 Lonesome Bay SF T Hammond STLA 12 Jun; 3 T Richville STLA Jun.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 14 TMas 9 Jun; few reports.
Am. Redstart: max 12 TLou 1 Jun; 10 TMas 2 Jun.
Ovenbird: max 30 TMas 16 Jul.
N. Waterthrush: Rt 56 STLA 1 Jun; several West Leyden LEWI 24 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: Rt 37 TLou 1 Jun; Kirk Rd T Lewis LEWI 24 Jun; numerous PvCo.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 22 TLou 2 Jun; plentiful.
Hooded Warbler: singing males Chases L T Greig LEWI 25 May; Camp Oswegatchie T Croghan LEWI 25 Jun; both inside Blue Line of Adirondack Park.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 5 (3m, 2fem) TLou 1 Jun.
E. Towhee: 2 breeding reports STLA.
Chipping Sparrow: 2 FY TMas 2 Jun; 100 Massena-Louisville area 3 Jun; 120 same areas 10 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: pr with 2 FL FD (JB); 6-8 FD, fewer than past years; pr FY near Rts 72 & 58 west of Parishville 22 Jun, first breeding record for STLA (DW).

Savannah Sparrow: 15 TLou 1 Jun; 7 TMas 2 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 ULLWMA 14 Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: 9 heard during night survey TTher 14 Jun; also usual reports from FD.

White-throated Sparrow: max 15 TMas 16 Jul.

N. Cardinal: pr TMas 3 Jun; 2 FL STLA 10 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: several breeding reports in STLA.

Indigo Bunting: Kirk Rd T Lewis LEWI 24 Jun; few PvCo.

Bobolink: 23 Browning Rd TLou 1 Jun; 20 Rt 37 TLou 1 Jun; 100+ Massena-Louisville area 9 Jun, good numbers.

E. Meadowlark: 6 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun.

Brown-headed Cowbird: pr STLA 2 Jun, only report.

Orchard Oriole: 2nd yr m in breeding condition with enlarged cloacal protuberance captured at banding station FD 13 Jun, not seen again after release (JB).

Baltimore Oriole: a few reports.

Red Crossbill: 2 flocks flying over FD 13, 17 Jul.

White-winged Crossbill: FD 21 Jun; daily PvCo Jun.

Pine Siskin: few around FD Jun; daily PvCo Jun; Kirk Rd T Lewis LEWI 24 Jun; Pictin I SLR T Clayton JEFF 25 Jul; CV 18 Aug.

Purple Finch: 10 including FL TMas 26 Jul.

House Finch: 28 TLou 1 Jun; 6 TMas 3 Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: daily PvCo Jun; pr Higley Flow SP T Colton STLA 21 Jun; pr Barnes Corners LEWI 2 Aug.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown NY 12932

In contrast to last year's wet weather, this summer was extremely hot and dry, with conditions rivaling the drought of '99. Although the western Adirondacks saw sporadic rainfall and a few downpours, most of the Champlain Valley and Adirondack transition on the eastern slopes of the High Peaks remained parched. A 12-14 June hot spell was followed by another from 25 June that saw Plattsburgh reach 90°F for the first time on the 27th. Inlet touched a low of 38° on 2 July, and, while 6" of rain fell there between 22 and 23 July, Plattsburgh was contrastingly sunny and in the 80's on the 22nd, climbing into the 90's the following day. In that city it was the 2nd driest July on record, with just 0.77" of rain (normal July rainfall in Plattsburgh is 3.52"). Early August continued sunny and hot, with thermometers reaching 93° at Plattsburgh on the 2nd and a sweltering 97° at Inlet the same day. Spectacular lightning storms, but little rain, moved across on the evening of 7 August, following a day that reached 95°. On 9 August Plattsburgh reached a

record 99°, the tenth day of the summer in the nineties. In spite of isolated light showers on the 16th, by 17 August most of the Region had seen no rain for 38 days and annual rainfall was running 7.37" below normal. Finally, at season's end, much of the area received a brief drenching from passing thunderstorms on the 28th. Champlain stood just above the 94' level, exposing many mudflats. Perhaps the most notable natural event, undoubtedly a by-product of the bumper mast crop in Fall 2000, was the *Peromyscus* rodent invasion of rural homes. A resultant invasion by winter raptors would be most welcome.

The new Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program conducted a census on 130 Adirondack lakes and ponds (not all in Region 7) on 21 July, counting 392 Common Loons (306 adults, 6 immatures, 59 chicks, 21 flying overhead). Contaminant sampling and banding was conducted in August, with 26 of the 30 captured receiving bands (four chicks were too small to band). Of the 126 Adirondack loons now color-banded since 1998, 42 returned this year, most on the territories where originally captured, but some on other bodies of water in the Park.

A record *nine* species of colonial waterbirds nested on Four Brothers. Since High Peaks Audubon assumed management in 1982, the original four species (Black-crowned Night-Heron and three gulls) have been joined by Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, **Great Egret**, Cattle Egret and **Glossy Ibis**. A total of 1220 birds was banded on 9 June: 47 Double-crested Cormorants, 40 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1100 Ring-billed Gulls (1000 chicks + 100 color-banded adults) and 33 Herring Gulls. The 2001 census counted 2437 cormorant nests, up significantly from 1346 last summer and 1372 the previous year. One of the adults was apparently banded on Young Island, Vermont, suggesting that control operations there may simply be forcing birds to relocate over into NYS waters.

Six eaglets fledged from the eight known Bald Eagle nest sites. In Franklin County, one Brighton nest was apparently unoccupied and another there failed; Franklin fledged two young; no birds were on two nests in Harrietstown, but a third fledged two eagles. The Santa Clara nest also failed. In Hamilton County, a nest in the Town of Long Lake fledged two more.

Peregrine Falcons enjoyed an even more productive season. The 17 active eyries, now in three counties, fledged a total of 20 birds and tied the record set in 1999, also a drought year. In Clinton County, one Black Brook nest fledged two, another nest one, while the Champlain site had a single adult. In Essex County, 13 eyries produced 17 young: two Chesterfield sites (pair at one, two fledged at the other), two Elizabethtown sites (one fledged, single adult at the other), Jay (three fledged), three Keene sites (three and two chicks fledged, adult at the third), Moriah (two fledged), North Elba (one fledged), two Westport sites (two fledged, territorial pair at the other) and Willsboro (one fledged). The Crown Point and Wilmington sites were inactive. In Franklin County, the sole site had only a single adult.

Rare transients included a **Greater Scaup** on Lake Algonquin 23 July, a **Whimbrel** at the Ausable River delta 7 August, single **White-rumped Sandpipers** at the Chazy riverlands 9 June and – most surprisingly – on a man-made pond at Inlet 29 July and three southbound **Pomarine Jaegers** passing Point au Roche 13

and 15 July. With only a sampling of Atlas reports available at season's end, noteworthy breeding birds included an Essex County **Sedge Wren** at Bloomingdale Bog, St. Armand, 2-18 June and an adult male second-generation backcross "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** found along the Trout River, Town of Moira, Franklin County, on 5 July.

By summer's close, a total of 187 species plus a hybrid had been reported, an improvement over 182 species the previous summer (and well above the 165 in 1999, just prior to the Atlas). The goal, of course, is to at least match the 202 *breeding* birds (179 Confirmed) recorded in Region 7 during the 1980-1985 Atlas project. But we're getting there, thanks to a great team.

CONTRIBUTORS

Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program, Sheila Arthur, William Barber, Bernard Carr, Joan Collins, Daniel Crane, Charlcie Delehanty, John D. Delehanty, Susan Delehanty, Elizabeth Fitts, Peter Galvani, Kim Goodspeed, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candy Hess, David Hoag, Mary Humiston, Selma Isil, Suzy Johnson, Mark Kantrowitz, Laura Kearns, Bill Krueger, Gary Lee, William Lee, Nancy Olsen, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Matthew Medler, Charles Mitchell, Dan Peters, John & Susan Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Bill Purcell, Dana Rohleder, Nina Schoch, Marilyn Smith, Sally Smith, Susan Stewart, John & Patricia Thaxton, Robert Weeds, Gary Worthington.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferd's Bog; FBI – Four Brothers Islands; LA – Lake Alice WMA; NP – Noblewood Park; PARC – former Plattsburgh AFB; PtR – Point au Roche SP; SLB – Silver Lake Bog; SPB – Spring Pond Bog; TL – Tupper Lake.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 392 on 130 Adirondack Park lakes & pds 21 Jul (ACLP), included 306 ads, 6 imm, 59 chicks, 21 flyovers; 42 previously color-banded ads returned, most where originally captured; *NB:* includes records from outside Reg 7. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 2437 nests (457 ground nests I "C") FBI 9 Jun, 47 banded.

Am. Bittern: 9 Atlas Notable Species Forms filed.

Least Bittern: 2 Black Bk North Hudson 12 Jun (AP), excellent Atlas find.

Great Blue Heron: 7 nests FBI "D" 9

Jun; 11 nests Murphy L HAMI heronry 20 Jun (DC, LK); 47 nests Moriah ESSE heronry 27 Jul (AP).

GREAT EGRET: ad FBI "B" 9 Jun; Trout Ri Moira FRAN 5 Jul (DN, JP).

Cattle Egret: 7 ads FBI "B" 9 Jun.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 40 banded FBI "B" & "D" 9 Jun; fratricide noted.

GLOSSY IBIS: ad FBI "B" 9 Jun; ad CR 7 Jul (BK, CM).

Turkey Vulture: 1 *hawking insects* TL municipal park 24 Jul (CD), "making great sweeping arcs close to the ground."

Canada Goose: gosling FBI "B" 9 Jun;

26 headed n. Keene 4 Jun (J&PT); many Atlas reports.

N. Shoveler: LA 18 Jul (NO), excellent Atlas find.

GREATER SCAUP: L Algonquin Wells 23 Jul (DC, LS), rare summer transient.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 6 FL from 3 of 8 known FRAN & HAMI nests (5 active); imm Westville 3 Jul (DN, JP), headed n. into Québec; 1-2 TL (SD).

N. Harrier: 10 Atlas Notable Species Forms filed.

Merlin: Keene 16 Jun (J&PT); nest with yg Elizabethtown 5 Jul (KG), nested Golden Beach campground; Sagamore (GL); Keeseville 6 Aug (DR); Champlain 9 Aug (SA).

Peregrine Falcon: 20 FL (3 CLIN, 17 ESSE) from 17 active eyries; The Gulf CLIN 1 Jun (J&RH); Plattsburgh Jul (NS); encouraging.

Ring-necked Pheasant: chicks Chateaugay 22 Jun (MH); male escorting ~15 yg Peru 30 Jun (EF); rare breeder here, although stocked annually.

Spruce Grouse: SPB 2 Jun (GL) & 9 Jul (WL); only reports received.

Wild Turkey: droppings Rondeau's Cold R hermitage (*fide* WB); 5 TL feeder (CD), now tame.

Virginia Rail: chicks Crown Pt 4 Jul (AP), Ticonderoga 29 Jul (SS), LA 3 Aug (NO), with other records from CLIN, ESSE, FRAN, a strong Atlas advance.

Am. Coot: CR 24 Jun (SJ, BK), a good Atlas find here.

Black-bellied Plover: CR 16 Jun (BK, CM), late CLIN.

Semipalmated Plover: last 7 CR 9 Jun (BK, CM); arr NP 23 Aug (MM).

Greater Yellowlegs: last 9 CR 9 Jun; arr 2 CR 7 Jul (BK, CM); NP 24 Aug (MM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 9 CR 7 Jul; max 15 CR 16 Jul (BK, CM).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Burke &

Westville FRAN 3 Jul (DN, JP); Shanty Bk marsh HAMI 20 Jul (DC, LK); Mud Pd Outlet HAMI 9 Aug (SI, JP); a good showing from obscure areas.

Upland Sandpiper: Champlain 24 Jun (SA, RW), *only* report.

WHIMBREL: Ausable R delta 7 Aug (J&RH), an excellent accidental here.

Ruddy Turnstone: Wilcox Dock Plattsburgh 28 Jul (J&RH); NP 24 Aug (MM).

Sanderling: arr NP 23 Aug; max 3 there 24 Aug (MM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 4 Westville 5 Jul (DN, JP); max 10 NP 21 Aug (MM).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: CR 9 Jun (BK, CM), late CLIN; Inlet 29 Jul (GL), 1st HAMI record; excellent finds.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 3 NP 21 Aug; NP 23 Aug (MM); scarce transient here.

POMARINE JAEGER: It phase PtR 13 Jul; 2 PtR 15 Jul (DH), southbound on L Champlain.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 9 midlake CLIN 15-16 Jul (DH); max 230 NP 21 Aug (MM).

Ring-billed Gull: 1000 chicks banded, 100 ads color-banded FBI 9 Jun.

Herring Gull: 33 chicks banded FBI 9 Jun.

Caspian Tern: CR 16 Jun (BK, CM), a good sighting.

Com. Tern: family group 2 ads, 2 imm CR 7 Jul; 5 ads, 3 imm there 10 Jul (BK, CM); max 12 NP 21 Aug, new ESSE record; 8 there 23 Aug (MM).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: Banker Rd 28 Jul (BK, CM), late CLIN; other Atlas reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 reports The Gulf & Moriah noteworthy.

E. Screech-Owl: 1-2 calling TL 10 Aug (JD), unexpected locale.

N. Saw-whet Owl: juv Furnace Bk CLIN (EF).

Com. Nighthawk: Peru 20 Jun (EF); TL 13 Jun-19 Jul (CD); only reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 in hot pursuit of male N. Cardinal Westport 25 Aug (SS).

Black-backed Woodpecker: nest with yg L Colden Jun (J&PT), plus other Atlas records.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: BB, Elk Pass, Giant, Scott Pd, SPB, many other Atlas locales.

Willow Flycatcher: FY Banker Rd 25 Jul (BK), first confirmed CLIN breeding.

Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Long L HAMI 21 Jul (JC!), NYSARC report submitted.

Yellow-throated Vireo: singing Crown Pt 23 May-18 Jun (AP); LA 6 Jul (NO), scarce here.

Philadelphia Vireo: Lewis Jul (DN); Saranac L Jul (TM), good observations.

Gray Jay: BB, FB, Madawaska, SPB, other Atlas areas, some ads with yg.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: nest in shale crevices FBI “A” 9 Jun.

Barn Swallow: 4 nests on shale ledges FBI “A” 9 Jun.

Boreal Chickadee: BB, FB, Helldiver Pd, Hurricane Mt, other Atlas areas.

SEDGE WREN: singing male BB St. Armand ESSE 2 Jun (WL) to 18 Jun (BM), rare here.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CR 12 Jun (BK), only report.

Bicknell’s Thrush: defending territory ~2900’ Scott Pd trail 14 Jul (J&PT), near-record low altitude; also reports from the Dixes, Jay Mt, Lyon Mt, Macomb, other peaks.

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh 7 Jul (NO); Peru 17 Jul (CH); PARC 11 Aug (NO), all CLIN.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: The Gulf 8 Jun (J&RH), should be more.

“BREWSTER’S” WARBLER: ad male

Trout Ri Moira FRAN 5 Jul (DN, JP), a lovely bird.

Tennessee Warbler: Sabattis 20 Jun (BP); “numerous” SLB 12 Aug (DR); 4 CLIN Atlas blocks (J&RH), only hint at what should be found.

Cape May Warbler: male Upper Works trail to L Jenny 16 Jun (J&PT); L Lila 24 Jun (JC); Elizabethtown 5 Jul (KG); good finds but still not confirmed breeding.

“Yellow” Palm Warbler: SPB 2 Jun (GL), feeding yg, only report.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Clinton SF 25 Jul (GW), apparently 3rd NYS Jul migrant.

Blackpoll Warbler: singing male 1600’ Jay Mt beaver dam 8 Jul (DN), near-record low altitude; Jay Mt summit, Dix, Giant, Whiteface mts, trail to Lost Pds, HAMI, and other high-elevation sites.

Louisiana Waterthrush: singing male Doyle Bk & N Branch Boquet R ESSE 7 Jun (JP, AP); 2 pr Dry Mill Cr CLIN 10 Jun (BK, CM, GW); Black Bk N Hudson ESSE 26 Jun (AP); an excellent showing.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Miner CLIN 30 Jun (NO, MS); Jay ESSE Jul (MK); n. FRAN Atlas blocks.

Red Crossbill: Peru 6 Jun (EF), only report.

White-winged Crossbill: 3 ESSE Atlas blocks 18-28 Jun (AP), only reports.

Pine Siskin: pr & FL Trout Pd Rd ESSE 7 Jun (JP, AP), feeding on hemlock; begging FL Elizabethtown 13 Jun (JP); 5 other ESSE Atlas blocks (AP).

Evening Grosbeak: 5 Atlas blocks ESSE Jun (AP); TL 15 Jun (CD); Inlet mid-late Aug (GL), feeding on wild cherries.

ADDENDUM

Blue-winged Warbler: Willsboro 20 May 2001 (MM), 5th ESSE record and 1st away from Crown Pt State Historic Site.

jmcp7@juno.com

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

Jane Denker Graves

133 York Avenue, Saratoga Springs NY 12866

As reported from the Albany International Airport, the weather in June was warm, with precipitation of 3.78", 0.16" above normal. Temperatures averaged 68.4°F, 1.5° above normal, with 77% sunshine. July was relatively cool, with precipitation totaling 3.59", 0.41" above normal. Temperatures averaged 68.9°, 2.9° below normal, with 65% sunshine. The weather turned hot and dry in August, with rainfall of only 2.10", 1.37" below normal. Temperatures averaged 73.7°, 4.1° above normal, with 64% sunshine. August was the 10th warmest on record.

All reports indicate an excellent breeding season. Bob Yunick reported record banding results for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with 116 captures, Tree Swallow, with 476 individuals banded at the five colonies he monitors, and Pine Siskin, with 117 banded, 110 of which were hatching year birds.

Common Loons nesting at Garnet Lake had their young eaten by a Bald Eagle. Bald Eagle was well-represented again with seven breeding pairs, up from six in 2000. Five of the nests were successful and eight young were fledged. Peregrine Falcon experienced another excellent year in the Region with five active nests in the Lake George area fledging 12 young. There were again three nesting pairs on the Hudson River bridges in Albany and Greene counties; two were successful, fledging seven young. Shorebird habitat was limited as usual to the Cohoes and Vischer Ferry areas, with only 12 species found. Atlasers found Sedge Wren in two blocks in Fulton County, although none were present in the Ft. Edward area. Henslow's Sparrow was reported only from Dowmont Road east of Ft. Edward, where there were at least seven singing males present. Some of the "southern" species that were present last breeding season continued to be reported. Although neither Acadian Flycatcher nor White-eyed Vireo put in an appearance this year, Worm-eating Warbler was reported from five locations in Columbia County and Hooded Warbler was found in three separate locations, two in Albany County and one in Taconic State Park, Columbia County, where three singing males were observed in late July.

Other unusual birds sighted included Great Cormorant, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Rough-legged Hawk, Sanderling, Long-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker and Sedge Wren. One hundred ninety species were reported during the period, up from last year's 178. They included 13 species of waterfowl, 13 hawks, six owls, nine flycatchers, seven thrushes, 26 warblers, ten sparrows and five finches.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Adair, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, William P. Brown, Robert Budliger, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Jane Graves, Evelyn Greene, Rich Guthrie, David Harrison, Hudson Mohawk Bird

Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Ruth & Sandy Lamb, William Lee, Barbara Loucks, Nancy Martin, Andy Mason, Frank Murphy, Peter Nye, Tom Palmer, Bill Purcell, Barbara Putnam, David Russell, Laura Sommers, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh State WMA, ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, T Saratoga, SARA; CDWMA – Capital Districe WMA, RENS; FtE – Ft Edward, WASH; FtM – Ft Miller, WASH; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L, SARA; LG – L George, WARR; L7 – Lock 7 Mohawk Ri; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; SCA – Saratoga County Airport; SI – Simmons I, ALBA; SkW – Skidmore woods, Saratoga Springs; SL – Saratoga L, SARA; SNHP – Saratoga-Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TRd – Tower Road, SARA; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: Jenny/Efner L SARA thru; nested Garnet L, Loon L; Ireland Vly 9 Jun; Thirteenth L WARR 25 Jun; Lens L WARR 14 Jul; Second Pd T Johnsbury WARR 15 Jul; only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: Lily Pd. T Gallatin 22 Jun; 1 ad 2 yg State Wetland #113 Schenectady 24 Jun; FL Schroon Ri T Horicon 17 Jul; VF 29 Jul; only reports.

Great Cormorant: 3 Cocksackie 11 Jun (RG).

Double-crested Cormorant: nested HR Germantown (BC).

Am. Bittern: only 6 reports of singles.

Least Bittern: T Ancram 4 Jun; Chrysler Pd T Copake 6 Jun; T Hillsdale 16 Jun; T Ft Ann 29 Jun.

Great Blue Heron: max 18 Cohoes 25 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: imm FR 2 Aug (JG, AV, RY), first report since 1997.

Great Egret: max 9 WR 8 Aug.

Snowy Egret: Peebles I SP 26 Aug (JG, AV).

Green Heron: max 6 Schodack 23 Aug; 27 reports of singles.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad HR Coeymans 27 Jul, only report.

Turkey Vulture: max 20 Copake 16 Jul.

Snow Goose: HR COLU 24 Jun.

Brant: several flocks over NB 1st wk Jun; Coeymans Ldg 12 Jun.

Mute Swan: max 21 Germantown 30 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 16 Ancram 4 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: max 8 New St Cohoes 25 Aug.

Hooded Merganser: max 7 Ancram 20 Jun.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: nested Glen L WARR; Cocksackie 27 Jun; reports 7 Jul, 7 Aug.

Bald Eagle: Garnet L thru; 1 ad 4 imm NB 7 Jun; Alcove Res. 8 Jun; 13 Coeymans Ldg 12 Jun; Greenport 19 Jun; ad near Spring L RENS 12 Jul; 3 Rogers I 28 Jul; 1 ad 1 imm Coeymans 29 Jul; 3 imm Cocksackie 5 Aug; 1 ad 1 2nd yr Schodack Ldg 11, 26 Aug; nesting: 7 occupied nests in Reg, 7 breeding pairs, 2 successful nests COLU, 2 yg, 1 successful nest GREE, 3 yg, 2 successful nests SCHO.

N. Harrier: 2 Dowmont Rd FtE 10 Jun; T Charleston 28 Jun; Gansevoort 15 Jun; Frederick Rd Guilderland mid-late Jul;

nested SNHP; no other reports.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 26 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 34 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: JL 17 Jun; near Edwards Hill Rd WARR 3 Jul; only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 23 reports of singles.
Broad-winged Hawk: 39 reports of singles; nested Delmar, Dunham Res T Grafton.
Rough-legged Hawk: Gansevoort 9 Jun (BP).
Am. Kestrel: max 9 Cary Rd FtE 18 Aug.
Merlin: Schroon River Rd T Chester 18 Jul (B. Purcell), only report.
Peregrine Falcon: 5 active nests LG area, 12 yg fledged; 1 active nest Dunn Mem Br, 4 fledged; 1 active nest Castleton Br, failed; 1 active nest Rip Van Winkle Br Catskill, 3 fledged (all BL).
Wild Turkey: reported in good numbers throughout Reg.
Virginia Rail: 2 NB 5 Jun; 3 Copake 16 Jul; only reports.
Black-bellied Plover: New St Cohoes 25 Aug, only report.
Greater Yellowlegs: New St Cohoes 18 Aug; 2 VF 25 Aug; NB 28 Aug; only reports.
Lesser Yellowlegs: New St Cohoes 13, 25 Aug; only reports.
Solitary Sandpiper: 4 MR 26 Jul; New St Cohoes 13 Aug; VF 25 Aug; only reports.
Spotted Sandpiper: 25 reports of singles.
Upland Sandpiper: nested T Johnstown FULT; 2 ad 1 imm FtE 14 Jun; only reports.
Sanderling: Coeymans 19 Aug, first report since 1994.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: no reports.
Least Sandpiper: max 4 MR Schenectady 26 Jul; 4 Greenport 19 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 New St Cohoes

25 Aug, only report.
Laughing Gull: 7 ad L7 25 Jul (RY!).
Bonaparte's Gull: 5 NB 13 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 19 reports of singles.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 8 reports of singles.
E. Screech-Owl: 14 reports of singles.
Great Horned Owl: 9 reports of singles.
Barred Owl: 12 reports of singles.
Long-eared Owl: s. of Franklinton Vly T Broome 20 Jun; Gallupville 16 Jul; CDWMA 27 Jul.
Com. Nighthawk: North Creek 4 Jun; 2 Schenectady 18 Jul; 35 Albany 18 Aug; 99 Saratoga Springs 19 Aug; 42 Guilderland 21 Aug; 6 Albany 22 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: Garnet L Rd 10 Jun; Warrensburg 19 Jun; only reports.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 83 banded plus 33 returns JL thru (RY), record numbers.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 33 reports of singles.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Austerlitz 12 Jun (ADBC).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 38 reports of singles; reported nesting in 14 Atlas blocks.
Pileated Woodpecker: 63 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Fox Hill Rd 2 Jun; TRd 3 Jun; 4 Garnet L area 9 Jun; 5 WARR reports of singles.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 9 SNHP 21 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Copake 5 Jun, only report.
Alder Flycatcher: max 9 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun; 4 BMT 18 Jul.
Willow Flycatcher: max 5 Germantown 12 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 15 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.
E. Phoebe: max 9 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 Olana 6 Jun; 6 Gallatin 1 Jul.

E. Kingbird: max 15 SNHP 27 Jul.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Schodack Ldg 25 Jun.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 5 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun.

Warbling Vireo: max 13 Ancram 4 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Copake 7 Aug (BC).

Red-eyed Vireo: max 45 Warrensburg BBS 9 Jun.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.

Horned Lark: nested SCA, only report.

Purple Martin: nested SL, Broadalbin area; Schodack 3 Jun; only reports.

Tree Swallow: max 200 Taghkanic 21 Aug; 41 ad, 25 juv banded Veeder colony N. Broadalbin FULT (RY).

Bank Swallow: max 200+ Papscaanee Creek 22 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 6 Clark Rd T Moreau 18 Aug; last Papscaanee Creek 20 Aug.

Carolina Wren: 14 reports of singles.

House Wren: max 11 SNHP 27 Jul; 10 Germantown 18 Jun.

Winter Wren: 29 reports of singles.

Sedge Wren: McKay Rd T Perth FULT 28 Jun (TP); Stairs Corners Rd T Perth FULT 5 Aug (DH).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Taghkanic 30 Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 5 Gallatin 22 Jun; 4 BMT 15 Jul.

Veery: max 9 BMT 15 Jul.

Bicknell's Thrush: nested Hunter Mt.

Swainson's Thrush: 12 reports of singles.

Hermit Thrush: max 5 Rheinstrom Hill Wildlife Sanctuary T Copake 11 Aug.

Wood Thrush: max 16 Cobleskill BBS 24 Jun.

Gray Catbird: max 38 Greenport 1 Aug; 24 Claverack 19 Jul.

N. Mockingbird: 9 reports of singles; max 8 Germantown 18 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: 21 reports of singles;

confirmed nesting in 6 Atlas blocks.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 Gallatin 7 Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: T Cairo 4 Jul (WPB).

"Lawrence's" Warbler: FL T Catskill 5 Jul (WPB).

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Taghkanic 16 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 13 reports of singles; first migrant SNHP 15 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: max 13 Copake 5 Jun; 13 Germantown 12 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 13 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun.

Magnolia Warbler: 27 reports of singles.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1st migrants SNHP 18 Aug.

Yellow-throated Warbler: imm Millbrook Rd T Claverack 25 Aug (BC).

Blackburnian Warbler: 30 reports of singles; 1st migrant SNHP 18 Aug.

Pine Warbler: only 6 reports of singles.

Prairie Warbler: max 6 Gallatin 7 Jun; 16 reports of singles.

Blackpoll Warbler: 3 Blackhead Mt 24 Jun, only report.

Cerulean Warbler: no reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.

Am. Redstart: max 7 Hillsdale 16 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: Ancram 20 Jun; Taghkanic 24 Jun, 8 Aug, 16 Aug; 2 L Taghkanic 17 Jul; 2 Taconic SP 23 Jul; Gallatin 23 Aug.

Ovenbird: max 30 Warrensburg BBS 19 Jun; 21 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: 11 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 14 reports of singles.

Mourning Warbler: 8 reports of singles.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 32 S. Berne BBS 18 Jun; 30 Medusa BBS 10 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: Guilderland 4, 19 Jun (WE, NM); 2 Holt Preserve 6 Jun (WL);

3 Taconic SP 23 Jul (BC).
Wilson's Warbler: 2 Claverack 25 Aug; SNHP 30 Aug.
Canada Warbler: max 3 Taghkanic 16 Aug; 13 reports of singles; 1st migrant SNHP 17 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Greenport 21 Jul; 53 reports of singles; numbers up.
E. Towhee: max 12 Claverack 19 Jul; 10 SNHP 27 Jul.
Chipping Sparrow: max 22 Medusa BBS 10 Jun; 31 Cobleskill BBS 24 Jun.
Field Sparrow: max 7 Taghkanic 16 Aug.
Vesper Sparrow: 4 Brookview Rd 14 Jun-28 Jul; Castleton 15 Jul; 1-2 singing m Stephentown 10-29 Jul; nested SCA.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Feura Bush 2, 4 Jun; FY Swamp Rd FtE 7 Jun; 2 T Ancram 13 Jun; 2-3 Stephentown 24 Jun; 2 T Taghkanic 24 Jun, 18 Aug; McKay Rd T Perth FULT 28 Jun.
Henslow's Sparrow: 7 Dowmont Rd T Argyle 27 Jul, only report.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Mud Pds T

Johnsburg WARR.
Swamp Sparrow: max 6 Ancram 4 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: max 12 Warrensburg BBS.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Ancram 2 Aug.
Indigo Bunting: 51 reports of singles.
Orchard Oriole: 10 reports of singles; nested Canajoharie, Linlithgo T Livingston.
Baltimore Oriole: max 12 Taghkanic 29 Jun.
Purple Finch: 70 banded JL Jun-Aug (RY); reported in small numbers throughout Reg.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 Cherry Plain SP 4 Jun.
Pine Siskin: max 21 Garnet L 9 Jun; 117 banded JL thru.
Am. Goldfinch: max 50 Taghkanic 24 Jun; 62 banded JL thru.
Evening Grosbeak: 17 banded JL (RY); pr Cossayuna 21 Jun; reported from many locations in WARR.

jgraves@skidmore.edu

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik
86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

June temperatures were just above average. Heavy rains on 17 June from the remnants of Tropical Storm Allison dumped nearly 3" at Westchester County Airport and 2.5" in Liberty. This brought rainfall for June above average with over 6" in most areas; typically, the normal average is 4–4.5". The heavy rains did not produce any unusual bird sightings. July was dry and a couple of degrees cooler than normal with no heat waves. That was saved for August. July's rain was 2.5", about half of what's normally expected. A heat wave arrived on the first day of August. Temperatures peaked on the 9th when Poughkeepsie hit 103°F and White Plains 101°. As expected, the average temperature for the month was 4.5° above normal. Precipitation averages varied, with the northern half of the Region

continuing below normal, whereas the southern sections were above normal mainly due to nearly 3" of rain falling on 20 August.

Least Bitterns were found at the Bashakill Marsh, Piermont Pier Marsh and on the Putnam June Count.

A pair of Great Black-backed Gulls again nested and raised four young at the Yonkers Sewage Treatment Plant.

A Sedge Wren was found by Brian Kane and seen by Barbara Butler near State Line Road and Rudd Pond Road, Millerton, Dutchess County, on 9 and 29 June.

A Northern Parula appeared in Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers, 13 June. This bird is your typical, out of place, summer floater since this is an urban park that lacks any breeding habitat for N. Parula. Up to four Yellow-throated Warblers returned to the same site near the Delaware River on the Sullivan/Orange County border. Reports were received from 10 and 27 June.

A Henslow's Sparrow was observed in Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge (formerly Galeville Airport) on 5 June by Seldon Spencer and others while conducting a Grassland Bird Survey. Unfortunately, it could not be relocated on the other days of the count: 9, 19 and 23 June.

A belated report received from Huckleberry Island on 15 May included 455 Double-crested Cormorant nests, 22 Great Egret nests, 40 adult Snowy Egrets, 78 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, 2 pairs of American Oystercatchers, 71 adult Herring Gulls and 51 adult Great Black-Backed Gulls. The most unusual sighting of the day was that of a Herring Gull defending a nest containing one Herring Gull and 3 Canada Goose eggs.

CONTRIBUTORS

Beth Barker, Trudy Battaly, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Lysle Brinker, Barbara Butler, Binnie Chase, Kris Conklin, William Cook, Rosa Corbeels, Jeff Daley, Renee Davis, Ron Ellard, Valerie Freer, Richard Gershon, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Rob Jett, Brian Kane, Al Merritt, Barbara Merritt, Allan Michelin, Barbara Michelin, Drew Panko, Alan Peterson, Jan Peterson, Eleanor Pink, Carena Pooth, Bob Schiber, Kathy Scullion, Diane Sheridan, Seldon Spencer, Frank Suits, Joe Weise, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells, Della Wells, Mary Yrizary.

ABBREVIATIONS

MC – Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert, PJC – Putnam June Count, PP – Piermont Pier, SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR (formerly Galeville Airport).

LOONS – DUCKS

Least Bittern: 2 PJC Jun; PP 28 Jul (CW); Bashakill 31 Jul (WC).
Great Blue Heron: 6 nests Rt 55 and

292 DUTC Jun.

Great Egret: PJC Jun.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS).

Black Vulture: North Clove 6 Jun; 3 Millertown 4 Jun.
Brant: 50 DUTC 1 Jun.
Green-winged Teal: 3 Forest L Harrison (DP, TB).
Hooded Merganser: Wurtsboro 15 Jun.
Com. Merganser: DUTC 2-6 Jun; ad, 6 yg Neversink Ri 19 Jun.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: Poughquag DUTC 8 Jun; PJC; West Park 16 Jul; Esopus Lighthouse 5 Aug.
N. Goshawk: 4 PJC; T Milan 27 Jun; 1 ad, 1 FL Horseshoe L 30 Jun.
Virginia Rail: 4 ad, 1 juv Harlem Valley Rail Trail 3 Aug.
Com. Moorhen: low numbers at Bashakill.
Am. Golden-Plover: 15 Pine I 29 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 8 (1 nest with eggs) islands off and including Hen I Rye 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS).
Solitary Sandpiper: Cary Arboretum 14 Jul; Buttercup Sanctuary 14 Jul.
Spotted Sandpiper: Round Pd DUTC 9 Jun; Tamarack Preserve 18 Jul; 6 Swan L 6-8 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 5 SGNWR 5 Jun (SS); 5 SGNWR 17 Jun (NYRBA); 8 SGNWR 19 Jun (SS).
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 Scotch Caps 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS).
Least Sandpiper: Stanfordville 9 Jun.
Laughing Gull: 9 Rye 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS).
Least Tern: 9 Rye 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: many reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6 Sterling Forest 3 Jun (RE, RJ); good numbers everywhere.
Long-eared Owl: Unionvale DUTC 15 Jun (BBu).
Whip-poor-will: 1-2 Dover 15, 27 Jun (CP); PJC.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Verbank 4 Jun; Harris 12 Jun.
Acadian Flycatcher: Cape Pd 12 Jun; 5 Deep Hollow Rd Lithgow 13 Jun; 2 Pawling Nature Reserve 15, 29 Jun; PJC; 3 Pawling Nature Reserve 6 Jul; Bog Hollow 7 Jul; 2 Tamarack Preserve 18 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: 3 Sharparoon 1 Jun; Lagrangeville 1 Jun; Pawling 9 Jun; Hurds Corner 19 Jun; 3 PJC.
Blue-headed Vireo: 2-3 Pawling Nature Reserve 5, 14, 20 Jun; 2 PJC; Bashakill 31 Jul; Sharparoon 16 Aug; 4 Pond Gut 8 Aug.
Fish Crow: 6 New Paltz 28 Jul.
Com. Raven: well reported except for WEST.
Purple Martin: nesting Verbank Village Jun, Jul.
Bank Swallow: 2 Marsh Sanctuary Bedford 16 Jun; small colony Verbank Jun; 40 Pine Plains Jun.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Meyer Preserve 16 Jun; 15 PJC; Verbank 31 Jul; Sharparoon 31 Jul; Bashakill 14 Aug.
Brown Creeper: Rye L 16 Jun; 10 PJC.
Marsh Wren: 17 MC 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS).
SEDGE WREN: State Line Rd Millerton 9, 29 Jun (BK, BBu).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Wurtsboro 14 Jun; PJC.
Nashville Warbler: 3 PJC; Bashakill 31 Jul.
N. Parula: Mack Rd North Clove 6 Jun; Tibbetts Brook Park Yonkers 13 Jun. This urban park lacks any habitat for breeding, typical summer floater (MB).
Magnolia Warbler: several reports at Cape Pd, Livingston Manor, Tusten, Beaverkill SULL Jun to mid Jul; PJC; 3 Nellie Hill DUTC 25 Jul.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 PJC; 4 Pawling Nature Reserve 20, 29 Jun; other

reports from DUTC; at feeder Hunter L 11 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 Mack Rd North Clove 6 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Lenoir Nature Preserve Yonkers 14 Jun late migrant (MB); 7 PJC; 3 Tamarack Preserve 18 Jul.

Blackburnian Warbler: Mack Rd North Clove 6 Jun; PJC; 2 with y Mongaup Pd Campground 12 Jul; Dover 19 Jul; Sharparoon 31 Jul.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 2-4 Delaware Ri at SULL/ORAN border 10, 27 Jun (VF, RD).

Cerulean Warbler: usual numbers at Doodletown; Pawling Nature Reserve 6 Jul.

Kentucky Warbler: Vasser Farm 14 Jun (AM, BM).

Com. Yellowthroat: 30 SGNWR 5 Jun; 23 Bashakill 14 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: plentiful Doodletown Rd; 3 Mack Rd North Clove 6 Jun; 10 Dover/Pawling area Jun; 4 Pawling Nature Reserve 20 Jun; 6-8 Pawling Nature Reserve 30 Jul, 2 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: 2 Wolf Brook 3 Jun; 2 Doodletown 9 Jun, late (NYRBA).

Canada Warbler: 2 Crystal L 22 Jun; Sharparoon 12 Jul.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Field Sparrow: 20 SGNWR 5 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: SGNWR 5 Jun (SS).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1-3 SGNWR 5,

6, 10, 19 Jun (MY, AM, BM, RC, SS).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: SGNWR 5 Jun (SS).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 16 islands off Rye 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS); 4 MC 16 Jun (AG, LB, BS).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Horseshoe L Rd 16 Aug.

White-crowned Sparrow: PJC, late.

Dark-eyed Junco: 1 ad, 2 FL Neversink Gorge 2 Jun; Mack Rd North Clove 6 Jun; 2 Lithgow 13 Jun; PJC; 5 Tamarack Preserve 18 Jul.

Bobolink: 45 SGNWR 5 Jun (SS).

E. Meadowlark: 32 SGNWR 5 Jun (SS).

Orchard Oriole: many reports; 3 DUTC Jun.

Pine Siskin: Horseshoe L Rd 9 Jul (KC).

Evening Grosbeak: 5 Claryville 1, 3 Jul.

ADDENDUM

all Huckleberry I 15 May

Double-crested Cormorant: 455 nests.

Great Egret: 22 nests.

Snowy Egret: 40 ad.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 78 nests.

American Oystercatcher: 2 pr.

Herring Gull: 71 ad; ad defending a nest containing 1 Herring Gull and 3 Canada Goose eggs.

Great Black Back Gull: 51 ad.

BochnikM@cs.com
914-785-3840 (work)
914-237-9331 (home)

REGION 10 – MARINE

Seymour Schiff

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead NY 11550

Alvin Wollin

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

The month of June started out warmer and much wetter than normal, although without any significant daily deviations from the norm. This was followed by a cool dry July. Taking the two months together, the rainfall approached normal, with the temperature for the two months 2.4° below normal. This all changed in August. After a summer with only four days over 90°F, there was an August heat wave. Eight of the first ten days were over 90°, and Central Park reached a new high of 103° on 8 August. The heat was finally broken by a sharp line of showers lasting from the 10th to the 14th. Still, only two-thirds of the normal rain fell during the month, almost none outside of this mid-month period.

The summer season is mostly about late spring migrants, interesting breeding records (helped this year by Atlas 2000), and the usual unusual early fall migrants. Some of the less common breeders seen in our area this season (not all confirmed) included Ruffed Grouse, Yellow-throated Vireo, Northern Parula, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lark Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Bobolink.

Seabirds occur in our waters from late June on. Since these diverse groups are not readily accessible and occur together, it is best to report them together, presented here in chronological order. We begin with reports of pelagic species seen close to shore, followed by off-shore reports. The earliest and by far the best of the reports starts with this note from Patricia Lindsay: “On 23 June, Shai Mitra and I had a **South Polar Skua** sitting in the surf about 200 feet off the beach with a couple of Greater Shearwaters [at Democrat Point]. Eventually it flew off and we had great looks at it flying as well. We got John and Gerta Fritz on the cell phone and they came down. [The skua was gone by the time they arrived]. We ended up with a total of 60 shearwaters, mostly Greater and some Cory's. Also three Wilson's Storm-Petrels and one Northern Gannet. Neat stuff for the June doldrums!” We couldn't agree more!

On 24 June, a seawatch from Parking Field 2 at Robert Moses State Park on Fire Island produced two Cory's Shearwaters, eight Greater Shearwaters, ten Wilson's Storm-Petrels, ten plus immature Northern Gannets, one Pomarine Jaeger and two Parasitic Jaegers.

Also on 24 June, Dan Heglund reported from Montauk: “Never saw so many Wilson's Storm-Petrels so close to the Point. Usually while chumming for sharks well offshore, these birds are seen in great numbers. The highlight of the day was a Greater Shearwater that landed 20 feet off the back of the boat at least a half dozen times. These birds were all less than a half mile from the Point.”

On 30 June, a Sooty Shearwater found at Robert Moses State Park was brought to a rehabilitator, but the bird died. On 4 August, a seawatch off Robert Moses

State Park reported seeing 19 Wilson's Storm-Petrels moving offshore; three were seen at Shinnecock the same day. On 6 August, a small number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen off Jones Beach Parking Field 6 and Robert Moses Parking Field 2. On 15 August, there were eight to ten Wilson's Storm-Petrels feeding off Shinnecock Inlet, most moving east to west late in the morning. On 17 August, two Cory's Shearwaters and two Black Terns were seen from Democrat Point and a Parasitic Jaeger was found at Democrat Point 19 August.

Offshore reports start with a trip 40 miles south of Shinnecock. On 10 June, Anthony Graves (*vide* Hugh McGuinness) saw five Cory's Shearwaters, six Greater Shearwaters and 50 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. On 25 June, Orhan Birol, on a fishing trip 16 miles southeast of Shinnecock, saw very few shearwaters, mostly Greater, and a few Wilson's Storm-Petrels. On 12 July, 20 miles south of Montauk Point, Steven Biasetti saw two Manx Shearwaters and 12 Wilson's Storm-Petrels.

On 24 August, an alternate-plumaged **Eared Grebe** was found at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The previous earliest date for this species was 6 September, with only two prior summer records of 24 July and 4 August. The bird remained into the next season.

On 16 July, there were more than 300 Brown Pelicans reported from Barnegat Bay in New Jersey (about two-thirds adults). One would have expected to see an influx of some of these birds into New York waters, but our reports consisted of a single bird seen sitting on a sandbar north of Shinnecock Inlet on 16 July, six flying east at Fort Tilden on 28 July, a bird off Robert Moses State Park on 4 August, and two on the bar at the Jones Beach West End Coast Guard Station on 5 August.

Doug Futuyma reported on a cormorant colony: "The nesting colony of Double-crested Cormorants at the mill pond in Stony Brook is dwindling. It had more than 75 nests for the past several years and early this season looked as if it might again have that many. However, a pedestrian path has been built along the rear side of the pond, below the nest trees, and there appear now to be only about three active nests." Dave Künstler reported that the colony present for several years on an island in Argyle Lake on the west side of Babylon contained 39 nests. This site is mostly inaccessible.

A possible Little Egret was reported 18 July by a single observer in Port Washington Bay near the entrance to Leeds Pond Preserve. In spite of an extensive search, the bird could not be relocated. There are periodic reports of this species, but to date there has not been sufficient documentation to NYSARC in the form of photographs or multiple-observer verification reports to allow the species to be accepted for the state list.

When one thinks of raptors, one usually thinks of wilderness and wide-open places. Not so! Robert DeCandido supplied us with a summary of probable and confirmed raptors nesting within the borders of New York City this season. This preliminary listing is to be confirmed by Atlas 2000 reports. By county:

Bronx: Osprey (possible), Cooper's Hawk (**first in NYC since 1955**), Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel (probable), Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl.

Kings: American Kestrel, two Peregrine Falcons and Barn Owl (probable).

New York: Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, **seven** Peregrine Falcons and Eastern Screech-Owl.

Queens: Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel (probable), Peregrine Falcon, Barn Owl and Great Horned Owl (probable).

Richmond: Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, two Peregrine Falcons, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl.

In addition, Peregrine Falcons have nested on the Nassau University Medical Center in Nassau County every year since 1997. This building is one of the highest in the county and represents the first known breeding site on Long Island. Several water towers in the Town of Hempstead and the Jones Beach water tower have been active winter roosting spots for some years now. They may become additional future Long Island breeding sites.

The usual shorebird trek started at the beginning of July. By mid August, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Reserve hosted, along with the more usual species, American Avocet, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Reeve and Wilson's Phalarope.

On 25 July, Paul Maldonado found a first winter Glaucous Gull at Bergen Point in Babylon. Then, on 5 August, Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay found a bird in first winter plumage at Shinnecock. Although usually seen only in winter, this species has been found in our Region in every month. It is rare in summer and both sightings are presumed to be of the same bird.

On 5 August, a **Franklin's Gull**, appearing to be an adult approaching winter plumage, was spotted resting with Laughing Gulls on the island just off the Jones Beach West End Coast Guard Station by Al Wollin. The gull sat on the island for a while, but could not be relocated later.

The program to protect the Piping Plover is having a positive effect on Least Terns, which are nesting again in several small colonies on Jones Beach West End.

On 10 June, a **White-winged Dove** was found along a dune ridge in Flanders by Andy Baldelli.

A Barred Owl was confirmed as a breeder on Fishers Island, the only one confirmed in the Region so far in Atlas 2000 field work. Fishers Island held the only confirmed breeding in the Region during the last Atlas as well.

Peter Dorosh reported from Prospect Park that 19 species of warblers were seen on 25 August, including Kentucky, Worm-eating and Yellow-breasted Chat. Two Olive-sided Flycatchers were also seen. This date was the first significant migration day of the fall season.

Confirmed breeding of Northern Parula had not occurred for half a century in our Region. Three Atlas blocks recorded possible breeding and two are shown as probable in the last Atlas period, 1980–1985. Then, last year, at the start of Atlas 2000, Eric Miller confirmed the species in Alley Pond Park. On 7 July, Joe Giunta and Eric Salzman saw a female Northern Parula feeding a fledgling at Fresh Pond, Hither Hills. This is the first recent confirmed breeding record for Eastern Long Island. In addition, there were reports out east of at least half a dozen singing, territorial males.

An adult **Lark Sparrow** was found on the north side of Gabreski Airport, Westhampton, on 19 July, then relocated 24 July. The species is very rare in summer; there are only a handful of prior July records.

On 28 May, Glenn Quinn saw two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the marsh at Sands Point. The species is a late migrant and this is not an indication of possible breeding south of the normal range.

Boat-tailed Grackles are now found in Staten Island, Jamaica Bay, Plum Beach (Brooklyn), the Five Towns area, Oceanside, Freeport, Jones Beach fishing piers, Cedar Beach, Oak Beach Marsh, Napeague Harbor and Shinnecock. This species continues to expand in our area, nesting primarily on the bay islands behind the South Shore barrier beaches.

Ken Feustel, this Region's Atlas 2000 Coordinator, supplied us with (along with a summary of interesting breeding confirmations, shown under the species accounts) an evaluation of Red Fox versus colonial nesting bird successes in the Region. The fox population has increased dramatically to the detriment of tern and heron colonies. Meanwhile, considerable effort and expense has been expended at Jones Beach West End to protect Piping Plovers. At the same time, an active fox den exists just to the west of that area. Evidently, the authorities are loathe to do anything about this, fearing public reaction. However, no trees are being planted on the Jones Beach strip to replace the dying pines, because crows nest in trees and crows are predators of local nesters such as plovers and terns. You figure it out. [RRE: Easy! Obviously, we don't manage in a vacuum; public reaction is a factor.]

Finally, the Federation Field Trip to Jamaica Bay, on 25 August, under the capable leadership of Mike Bochnik, was a successful day of birding for a predominately upstate group of birders. Notable sightings included an Eared Grebe in alternate plumage, American Golden-Plover in alternate plumage, Hudsonian Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope and Gull-billed Tern.

CONTRIBUTORS

Deborah Allen, Andy Baldelli, Bill Benner, Rich Berube, Steven Biasetti, Orhan Birol, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, P.A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, James Clinton Sr., John J. Collins, Mike Cooper, Bob DiCandido, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Lester Feldman, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Dick Gershon, Paul H. Gillen, Isaac Grant, Anthony Graves, Andrew Guthrie, Carl Jaslowitz, Rob Jett, David W. Klauber, Greg Kunkel, Dave Künstler, Robert J. Kurtz, Ed Lam (EL), Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine (EML), Patricia Lindsay, Stu Lipkin, Christopher Lyons, Paul Maldonado, Bob May, Bob McGrath, Hugh McGuinness, Dennis Mildner, Shai Mitra, Al Ott, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Glenn Quinn, Herbert H. Roth, George Rowsom, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir, Seymour Schiff, Steve Walter, Jackie Williamson, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; CB – Cedar Beach; CCP – Cupsogue County P; CLP – Clove L P, SI; CM – Cow Meadow, Freeport; CP – Central P; DP – Democrat Pt, FI; FI – Fire I; FP – Forest P; FTT – Fort Tilden, Queens; GA – Gabreski Airport, Westhampton; In – Inlet; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MP – Montauk Pt; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; PB – Pikes Beach, Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, Bronx.

LOONS – DUCKS

EARED GREBE: JBWR 24 Aug thru; only 2 prior summer records, earliest fall record 6 Sep.

Cory's Shearwater: 5 40-mi south SHIN 10 Jun; several DP 23 Jun; 2 RMSP 24 Jun; 2 DP 17 Aug.

Greater Shearwater: 6 40-mi south SHIN 10 Jun; ~50 DP 23 Jun; 8 RMSP 24 Jun; MP 24 Jun; 16-mi SE of SHIN 25 Jun.

Sooty Shearwater: found at RMSP 30 Jun, brought to rehabilitator, died, skin to AMNH.

Manx Shearwater: 2 20-mi south MP 12 Jul (SB).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 50 40-mi south SHIN 10 Jun; 3 DP 23 Jun; 10 RMSP 24 Jun; many MP 24 Jun; 16-mi SE of SHIN 25 Jun; 20-mi south MP 12 Jul; 19 RMSP 4 Aug; 3 off SHIN In 4 Aug; off JBCH Field 6 and RMSP Field 2 on 6 Aug; 8-10 SHIN 12 Aug.

Brown Pelican: on a sandbar north of SHIN 16 Jul; 6 flying east at FTT 28 Jul; off RMSP 4 Aug; 2 JBWE 5 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3 nests Stony Brook colony (DF); 39 nests Argyle L Babylon (DK).

Great Cormorant: Breezy Pt 9 Jun; late date, previously to 9 Jun but a handful of prior summer dates.

Least Bittern: Big Reed Pd MP 1 Jun; Mashomack Shelter I to 6 Jun.

Cattle Egret: Theodore Roosevelt P MP

28 Jun; JBWR 14-15, 22, 26 Jul-early Aug.

Turkey Vulture: CP 2 Jul; Napeague 10 Jun.

King Eider: MP 6 Jun.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: imm Cormorant Pt Hampton Bays 3 Aug; imm MP 9 Aug thru; Theodore Roosevelt P 11 Aug; PP 15 Aug; JBWR 18 Aug.

Cooper's Hawk: nest with yg NY Botanical Garden Bronx, 1st nest in NYC since 1955; a possible 2nd NYC site in VCP, a bird seen several times to 13 Jun.

Red-tailed Hawk: breeding NYC counties: BRON, NEWY, QUEE, RICH. **Am. Kestrel:** breeding all NYC counties.

Peregrine Falcon: breeding pairs NYC counties: 7 NEWY, 2 KING, QUEE, 2 RICH; Nassau U Medical Center NASS every year since 1997.

Wild Turkey: established resident populations in the Brookhaven-Riverhead farm area as far west as Yaphank (KF).

Ruffed Grouse: hen with at least 1 chick Bald Hill wetlands SUFF (near Riverhead Community College) 8 Jun (SB), only Atlas report.

N. Bobwhite: APP 2 Jun; Amagansett 6 Jun; MP 6 Jun; Napeague 6 Jun; Rt 51 fields Eastport 8-9 Jun, 15 Jul; Speonk 8, 29 Jun; Caumsett SP 4 Jul; FL early Jul; Eastport 15 Jul; almost all reports were of

single birds.

Com. Moorhen: juv JBWR seen late Aug, first evidence of nesting there in several years.

Am. Golden-Plover: 2 GA 17 Aug; 13 Doctors Path Riverhead 24-25 Aug, 8 on the 28th; 2 JBWR 24 Aug thru; MEB 25 Aug.

Am. Avocet: JBWE 16 Jul; JBWR 25-31 Jul, 12 Aug, 2 on 15-24 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 in display flight GA 2 Jun; Eastport 24 Jun; PBP on the closed landfill 14 Jul; pr with y GA 18 Jun; 16 there 31 Jul; 17 on 30 Jul, 20+ on 9 Aug, 7 on 11 Aug, 12 on 14 Aug, 18 on 22 Aug, 9 on 25 Aug; Cupsogue 22 Aug.

Whimbrel: 2 flying past the Ponquogue Bridge 8 Jul, 1 on 16 Jul, then 11-12 on 25 Aug; 3 CCP 25 Jul; 2 CM 5 Aug; 3 Cedar Beach Southold 11 Aug; JBWR 19 Aug; MEB 25 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: CCP 27 Jun; 1 increasing to 5 JBWR 27- 28 Jul thru; MEB 25 Aug.

Marbled Godwit: CCP 27 Aug; JBWR 12-late Aug; PB 24-27 Aug; North Line Is 29 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: Sands Pt 12 Aug (GQ).

Stilt Sandpiper: 39 JBWR 27 Jul, 72 JBWR 5 Aug; large numbers.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 6 GA 18 Aug; Breezy Pt QUEE 25 Aug.

Ruff: reeve JBWR 29 Jul-4 Aug (TWB et al).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr CCP 31 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 18-22 Jul, 4-26 Aug; JBWE 25 Jul; MB mudflats 12 Aug; Goethals Bridge Pd SI 29 Aug.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: in the surf ca 200' off beach DP 23 Jun (PL, SM).

Pomarine Jaeger: RMSP 24 Jun.

Parasitic Jaeger: FI In 9 Jun; 2 RMSP 24 Jun; DP 19 Aug.

Long-tailed Jaeger: middle LI Sound seen from Bridgeport-Port Jefferson ferry 27 Aug (DM *vide* NYRBA).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: JBWE 5 Aug

(AW).

Glaucous Gull: SHIN 7-8 Jul (NYRBA); 1st winter Bergen Pt Babylon 25 Jul (PM); SHIN 5 Aug (SM, PL).

Gull-billed Tern: visiting a tern colony on an island in Jamaica Bay; off MNSA, JBWE, Oak Beach.

Caspian Tern: 2 PP 3 Jun; PP 30 Jul; MEB 25 Aug; JBWR 26-27 Aug.

Royal Tern: area around SHIN and CCP frequented by up to a dozen from 1 on 5 Jun, then late Jul thru larger numbers were present with 12 roosting on the n end of Robbins I 14 Aug.

Roseate Tern: 150 MEB 28 Aug, prior to departing.

Com. Tern: 450 MEB 28 Aug, prior to departing.

Least Tern: 195 pairs nesting at Breakwater Beach Mattituck fledged approx 1.5 chicks per nest; a large colony at MEB; JBWE reported re-nesting in two small groups.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: present for about 30 minutes Red Cedar Pt Flanders 10 Jun (AB).

Monk Parakeet: alive and well at various nesting sites.

Barn Owl: breeding NYC counties: BRON, KING, RICH.

E. Screech-Owl: breeding NYC counties: BRON, NEWY, RICH.

Great Horned Owl: breeding NYC counties: BRON, QUEE, RICH.

Barred Owl: confirmed breeding on Fishers I (JW *vide* KF), same area as last Atlas; only report.

Short-eared Owl: Napeague Meadow Rd 2, 26 Aug.

Com. Nighthawk: 35 before dusk PP 28 Aug.

Chuck-will's-widow: Linda Lane Riverhead 3 Jun; 2 Sears Bellow Pd Hampton Bays 9 Jun.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: nested CP, new site since last Atlas project.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Warbling Vireo: nested CP, PP; singing at Peconic Ri Riverhead, Wildwood L Calverton, Sag Harbor, Mashomack on Shelter I (where a fem with brood patch was mist-netted 15 Jun).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Riverside P NEWY 14 Aug; Seaview SI 23 Aug; PP 24, 29 Aug.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: PP 29 Aug.

N. Parula: 3 singing males Camp Hero MP 6 Jun; singing Little Peconic Ri (near Riverhead County Center) 8 Jun; apparently territorial male Fresh Pd Napeague 9 Jun; fem & y (FY) Fresh Pd Hither Hills 7 Jul (JG, ES), a return to breeding in Region after an absence of half a century.

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 21 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: fem captured Greenport 23 Jun (GR), brood patch had extreme vascularization and fluid; JBWR 1 Aug; CP 6, 17, 30 Aug; PP 22, 25, 31 Aug; East Quogue 19-21 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: FP 1-3, 14-19 Jun; singing Hecksher SP 9 Jun; fem PP 25 Aug.

Connecticut Warbler: Peconic 20 Aug (LF).

Mourning Warbler: to 7 Jun; 22 Aug thru.

Hooded Warbler: PP 23 Aug; male Wildwood P Wading River 23 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: East Hampton 14 Jun.

Lark Sparrow: ad Gabreski Airport Westhampton 19-24 Jul (BM, DK), 5 Aug (JQ); only a handful of prior Jul records.

Grasshopper Sparrow: dozen pairs NYSDEC land/bike trail Rt 51 SUFF (opposite sod farms); now gone from the southern NASS concentrations confirmed in the last Atlas.

Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 Sands Pt 28 May.

Blue Grosbeak: male singing near farm field west of Speonk-Riverhead Rd SUFF 8 Jun; 3 (1st spring male, ad male, female) Wading River 10-13 Jun; pair in early Jun in a Calverton field where the species nested several years ago, no evidence of nesting was found and the birds disappeared by mid to late Jun.

Bobolink: confirmed nesting Mount Loretto SI (*fide* HF) where not found in last Atlas.

Boat-tailed Grackle: scattered on the south shore from SI to SHIN; nesting appears to have occurred throughout on various bay islands behind the barrier beaches.

Orchard Oriole: 14 Garvies Pt Glen Cove in Porcelainberry bushes 16 Jul; nesting CP, PP, Inwood P.

syschiff@optonline.net

PREVIEW OF 2002 KINGBIRD ISSUES

The NYSARC report for 1999 will appear in the March 2002 issue.

A definitive article by John Fritz and Shai Mitra, on the Great White Herons (*Ardea (herodia) occidentalis*) which occurred in Region 10 during the fall of 2001, including comparative photos of the two different individuals seen and a summary of all historic records north of Florida, as well as some theoretical musings.

An account, by its discoverers John Fritz and Doug Futuyma, on the latest addition to the New York State checklist, the Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondii*), with photographs. When vetted by NYSARC, the official total will be 459 species.

Spotted Towhee? Eastern Towhee? Eastern x Spotted hybrid? A detailed study by Michael Stubblefield of the possibilities. Accompanied by photographs of the individual seen in Central Park 22 Apr 2001, as well as photographs of specimens from the AMNH skin collection.

A comprehensive guide by Rex Stanford on taking bird photographs through your telescope, using both conventional SLR or digital equipment.

Rebecca Creshkoff's account of the passerine migrant mortalities occurring each year in Manhattan, NYC and what should and can be done to decrease or eliminate these fatalities. With photographs.

A study of the status of Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) in northern New York State and its continuing and evidently losing struggle to maintain its numbers in the southernmost breeding area of its range in eastern North America

The *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird has seemingly become a regular feature of New York birding. Shai Mitra will document its historic occurrence in New York and surrounding areas. The article will be accompanied by photographs.

In 1983 and again in 1994, *The Kingbird* invited some acknowledged New York pundits to predict the next ten species that might be added to the New York State official checklist. Such an article will appear again in 2002, with a summary of the past two articles, so that one might assess the status and accuracy of the previous predictions.

Derby Hill is one of the most exciting birding spots in the state. It has been twenty-three years since *The Kingbird* devoted space to this locale and then the emphasis in the article had to do with hawkwatching. Derby Hill has much more to offer, which aspects will be presented in a forthcoming article.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; 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; art - 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;Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad -subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

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.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

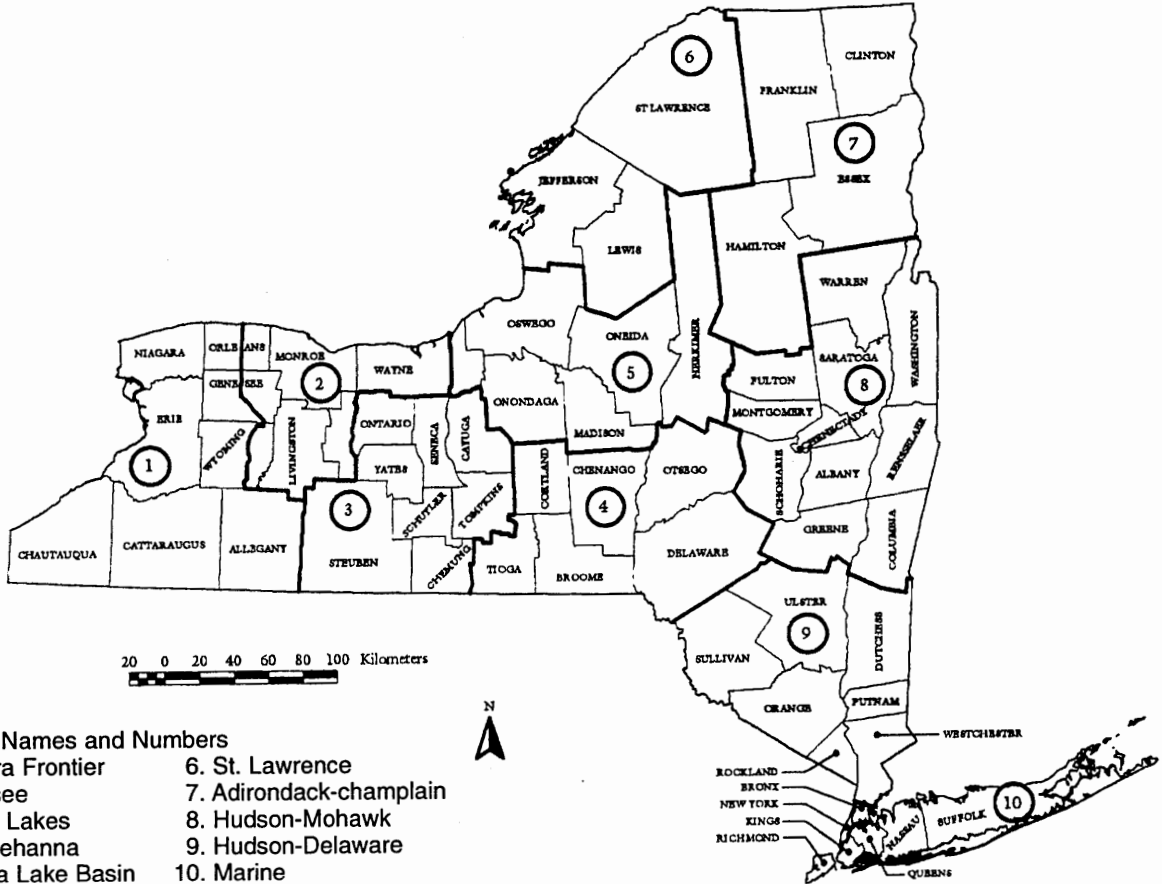
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



Editor of *THE KINGBIRD*

Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS*

Sue Adair, 107 Fox Run Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303

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9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy, NY 12770

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New York State Avian Records:

Angus Wilson, Chair
Send reports to:
Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

Publications:

Emanuel Levine, Chair
585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

Waterfowl Count:

Bryan L. Swift
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

Web Site:

Barbara A. Butler
55 Old Camby Rd., Verbank, NY 12585

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