

The

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continued on inside back cover



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pgs. 289 - 388

CONTENTS

The Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) for 2000	291
New York State Federation Waterfowl Count, January 2002 Bryan L. Swift.....	321
Purple Gallinule in Clinton County, 23 September – 3 October 2002 Glen Drapeau , William Krueger, Charles Mitchell	327
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>) in Monroe Co., 10-13 October 2002, New York State's Second Record Dominic Sherony	330
More Changes to the 7th Edition of the AOU Check-List Relevant to New York State	334
Corrigenda	335
First NYS Hermit Warbler or Hermit x Townsend's Hybrid?	335
Highlights of the Summer Season 2002 Willie D'Anna	336
Regional Reports	340
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations and Reporting Deadlines.....	387
Map of Reporting Regions	388

Editor- Emanuel Levine
Regional Reports Editor- Robert G. Spahn
Cover and Artwork- Andrew C. Vallely
Circulation Manager - Brenda Best
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Regional Reports Proofreader- Berna Lincoln

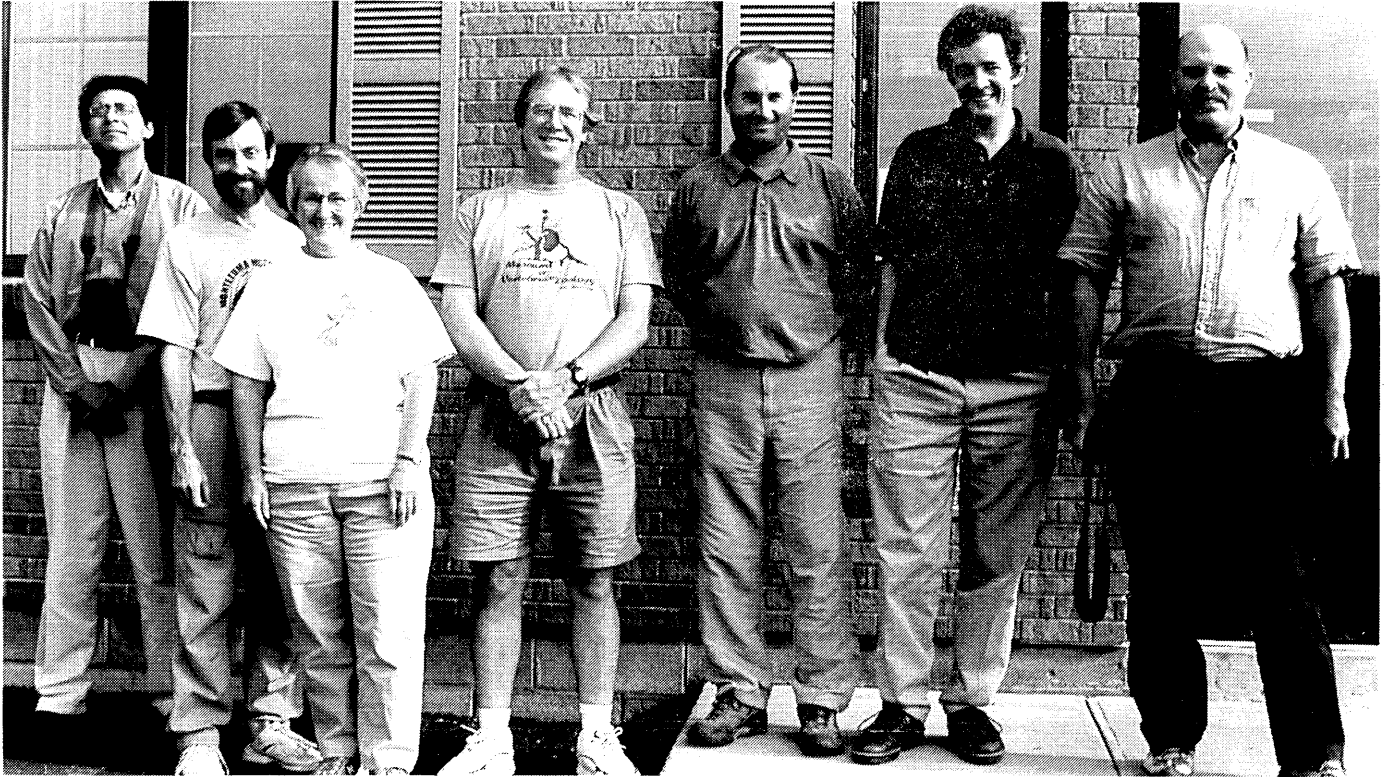


Figure 1 - NYSARC members at their annual meeting held in Ithaca on 1 Sep 2002.
From left to right - Shaibal S. Mitra, Willie D'Anna, Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Kevin J. McGowan, Angus Wilson (Chair), Gerard Phillips, Thomas W. Burke. Member Robert Andrie was unable to attend. Photo by Patricia Lindsay

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2000

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter NYSARC or the Committee) made decisions on a total of 145 reports involving 45 species and forms. These included 110 reports from 2000, 25 reports from 1999, 8 reports from 1998, and 1 report each from 1994 and 1970. In addition we reviewed 3 third-round reports from 1998 and 4 third-round reports from 1999. In all, 104 reports (72%) were accepted. This is close to our average acceptance rate and testifies to the quality of the majority of the submissions. Thirty-one reports were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because the descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. Multiple reports were received for only 15% of the sightings, although co-observers were often mentioned. Unfortunately, final decisions on six reports that are undergoing a third round of review could not be made before the publication deadline and are listed as pending. All of the records reviewed by NYSARC (including written descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings), irrespective of acceptance, are archived at Cornell University in Ithaca and are accessible to the public.

Coverage of the rare birds recorded in New York State remains strong but not perfect. The counties best represented by accepted reports are Monroe 15, Niagara and Wayne 7 each. In total, the committee reviewed reports from 26 counties. All records are sight records unless otherwise indicated. For accepted reports, the names of observers submitting documentation are given in parenthesis and the names of all contributors are listed in full at the end of the report. Occasionally, the names of the original finders (when known) are given in the narrative. The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following The AOU Check-List of North American Birds (AOU 1998). Those contributing photographs, video or sketches, are given special mention in the narrative. With the rapid advances in affordable camera equipment, we have seen an increase in the number of scarce or rare species documented by photographs or video and this is very helpful. Photographs do not need to be 'magazine quality' for them to lend strong support to a written description. Similarly, we will gladly accept copies of video or audiotapes when accompanied by a written report.

Who should submit reports?

A common misconception persists that only the initial discoverer of a bird should submit a report. In actuality, all observers of a rarity (even if it is seen by hundreds of people) should submit written descriptions and/or other forms of documentation (e.g. photographs, video or sketches). As a good rule of thumb, never assume that others will submit anything! A significant number of multi-observer sightings go undocumented and complacency may be partly to blame. Often we receive minimal reports that presume that co-observers will provide the missing details but in reality these have not materialized. Submission of multiple independent reports provides a more compelling and detailed account of the sighting, increasing the likelihood of acceptance.

The review process

We are often asked how the review process works and why it sometimes takes so long. The process itself is relatively simple. When received by the secretary, all reports are duplicated and transmitted to the seven voting members of the committee who write detail commentaries (known as 'review sheets') and cast their votes independently. These are returned to the secretary and the votes are tabulated. Each report is then listed as 'accepted' or 'not accepted'. At least six committee members must vote in the affirmative for an immediate accept; similarly if there are five or more votes against, then the record is not accepted. If no consensus is reached, the reports are sent out again along with the seven review sheets. This allows each committee member to consider the arguments made by the other six before casting a second vote. If necessary, records may even be circulated for a third time. More details of the current voting process are outlined in McGowan and Burke 2000.

There are several reasons why it takes a year or two for NYSARC to publish its decisions. Firstly, we receive a large number of reports and these take a considerable amount of time to compile and carefully review. For a significant fraction of reports, a decision is not reached in the first round of voting and these must be re-circulated through the committee for a second and sometimes third round of review, thus adding to the delay. Secondly, many reports are received weeks or months after the sighting and so we generally cannot begin reviewing until well into the following year. We do our best to work quickly but carefully. Prompt submission, careful preparation of reports and ,where possible, submission of multiple independent reports will help us to reduce the lag to a minimum. The continued cooperation of bird clubs and Regional editors in coordinating submissions is greatly appreciated.

How to submit reports

To learn how to prepare and submit a report, please visit the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs web site:

(<http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/NYSARC/NYSARChome.htm>)

The site also includes a list of species reviewed by NYSARC, information on the composition of the Committee, a gallery of photographs and copies of previous annual reports. NYSARC encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as species unrecorded in New York. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth and Barbara Butler for redesigning and regularly updating the NYSARC web site.

Documentation or correspondence for the Committee should be sent to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Road
Churchville, NY 14428
E-mail: jdiskelly@frontiernet.net

NYSARC Activities

On 1 Sept 2002, NYSARC (Fig.1) held its mandated annual meeting at the Lab of Ornithology Annex in Dryden near Ithaca. With a full agenda, the committee discussed a broad-range of topics during the lively six-hour meeting. The Committee established policy on the review of published material that has not been submitted as a formal report. It was decided that in the case of potentially important records - such as first state records - the secretary will write to the principal authors of suitable articles alerting them that we are about to review their published material. We feel that this gives observers the opportunity to present their best case and with luck most authors will respond by submitting a formal report that includes all of the supporting information available. In a related vein, the committee agreed that authors of detailed articles may submit these in lieu of a conventional report but need to give permission in writing to the secretary before such articles will be considered a report. It would be helpful, but is not required, for the authors to provide a high-quality copy of the article, which can then be photocopied and circulated. Although the committee has agreed to make these allowances, we wish to stress that published articles are generally not the best format for review. Descriptive details are frequently pared down to the bare minimum and tend to focus on clinching details rather than a full description of the bird. Important supporting documentation such as sketches and field notes are rarely included in published material and photographs are often reproduced in black-and-white rather than color. Observers should be aware that these weaknesses may come to bear on the evaluation of the sighting and that publication itself does not ensure acceptance.

Highlights of the 2000 Report

Chief among the highlights of 2000 was the addition of **Cassin's Sparrow** (*Aimophila cassinii*) to the New York State Checklist. With this inclusion, the state list rises to 457 species. Equally exciting was the discovery of a **Cayenne Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis eurygnatha*), the first documented example from New York and one of only a small number recorded in North America. Other notable highlights include well-studied and photographed **Red-necked Stint** (*Calidris ruficollis*) and **Little Stint** (*C. minuta*). In an amazing convergence of Neotropical, Western and Eastern Palearctic vagrants, both stints and the Cayenne Tern were observed on the same beach within hours of each other! A **Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) sighted over Hamlin Beach in late November 1999 was the third record for the state and presumably part of a major incursion that brought birds into many northeastern states and provinces.

NYSARC is indebted to the ninety-two observers who contributed the reports discussed here. Several individuals put forth considerable effort to document important sightings for the permanent record and where possible, their efforts are acknowledged in the narratives. These valiant contributors represent a tiny minority of the many hundreds, if not thousands, of active birders and feeder watchers in the state. Every year we make the same plea to the birding community to submit documentation for all of the rare or out of season birds they

observe in New York. We hope that publication of this expanded annual report and the steady growth of the NYSARC web site and the increased profile of the Committee will contribute to an even greater level of participation from the entire birding community in future years.

2000 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)

2000-35-A Five individuals, Hudson Canyon, Suffolk Co., 2 Sep. (Willie D'Anna). The report detailed five of seven Audubon's Shearwaters logged on an organized pelagic trip to the Hudson Sea Canyon. Both Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus*) and Audubon's Shearwater are known to occur off NY during the warmer months and identification of small black-and-white shearwaters requires a suite of features beyond the extent of coloring on the undertail coverts.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

2000-44-A One juvenile seen over Lake Ontario from Derby Hill, Mexico, Oswego Co., 4 Nov. (Kevin McGann); 2000-46-A One seen over Lake Ontario from Derby Hill, Mexico, Oswego Co., 11 Nov. (Bill Purcell); 2000-54-A One over Lake Ontario at Golden Hill State Park, Niagara Co., 3 Dec. (Brendan Klick); 2000-71-A One over Lake Ontario from Hamlin Beach State Park, 11 Nov. (Robert Spahn). It is possible that all four records refer to the same juvenile wandering westward along the southern shore of Lake Ontario. For much of the year, Northern Gannets are common along the Atlantic Coast of New York and are frequently seen well into Long Island Sound. Occasionally individuals wander along the St Lawrence River and into Lake Ontario.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

2000-24-A One individual over Route 366 in Varna, Tompkins Co. 28 May (Meena Haribal).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

2000-22-A One on Motor Island in the Niagara River, Erie Co., 26 May (Brendan Klick); 2000-26-A/B One at Tiff Nature Preserve, Erie Co., 12-14 June (Robert Andrie, Brendan Klick). A predominantly coastal species, Tricolored Herons are familiar summer visitors to salt marsh habitat on Long Island, but rare elsewhere, particularly in northern and western parts of the state. The majority of records from western New York occur in the spring or early summer.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2000-77-A One at Jones Beach SP, Nassau Co., 27 May. (Andrew Guthrie). This alternate-plumaged adult was photographed by the observer on a small ephemeral pool near Parking Field 10 at Jones Beach SP. The description and photographs clearly document the diagnostic red iris, pink facial skin with white feather border and the red flush to the legs. Although reported sporadically from the same pool, no additional descriptions were received.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

2000-38-A Jamaica Bay WR, Queens/Kings Cos., 8 Oct. (Michael Duffy); 2000-66-A Three individuals Point au Roche State Park, Clinton Co., 19 Nov. (Paul Osenbaugh); 2000-68-A One in the Savannah Mucklands, Seneca Co., 20 Nov. (George Kloppel); 2000-79-A One juvenile at Jamaica Bay WR, Queens/Kings Cos., 11 Oct. (Paul Lehman); 2000-81-A One to three individuals, northern Cayuga Co., 13-18 & 20 March. (Gerard Phillips). The juvenile bird from Jamaica Bay accompanied wintering Greater Snow Geese (*C. caerulescens atlanticus*) that feed in the extensive salt marshes of the bay and use refuge ponds as a roosting site and safe haven. It remained until 20 Dec. The number of Ross's Geese reported in the state continues to increase, perhaps a direct reflection of the growth of the population as a whole. Increased observer vigilance may also be a factor.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*)

2000-62-A Twenty-five individuals at Ring-neck Marsh, Iroquois NWR, Orleans Co., 19 Oct. (Michael Morgante) Various known as Hutchins's or Richardson's Goose, the northern subspecies *B. c. hutchinsii* has at times been treated as a distinct species known as Tundra Goose (Aldrich, 1946). Observers in western NY, principally in Region 1, are reporting this form with increasing regularity. Often these reports involve small flocks mixed with other Canada Geese. The Committee remains interested in carefully documented reports of this taxon and other small Canada Geese so that we can more accurately ascertain the occurrence in New York.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

2000-4-A One male, Fishers Landing, Town of Orleans, Jefferson Co., 28 & 29 Jan. (Nick Leone). This male Tufted Duck was found on the St. Lawrence River with several other duck species including a large number of Ring-necked Ducks (*A. collaris*). This handsome diving duck was documented with a very detailed written description supported by a color photograph. The bright white flanks, solid dark mantle and details of bill coloration offered no evidence of hybridization, although the tuft was much shorter than expected for a full adult male. The Tufted Duck population has expanded greatly in western Europe, and migrants, probably from Iceland, are beginning to winter in eastern North America with greater regularity. Tufted Duck is now a regular but rare winter visitor to New York, principally in the Long Island and New York City area where it is no longer a NYSARC review species. The species remains very rare elsewhere in the state, with only a handful of records.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

2000-19-A/D One adult (Fig.2) at Ripley Hawkwatch site #4, Town of Westfield, Chautauqua Co., 3 May (Leonard DeFrancisco, Melvin & Sally Freeborough, Martha McNeel).. The identification was documented with an exemplary series of reports including detailed descriptions, copies of field notes and very helpful sketches. The authors carefully considered confusion species such as Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*). This is the first record for Region 1 since 1926

and was preceded by several days of warm weather with strong southwesterly winds. The identification was documented with an exemplary series of reports including detailed descriptions, copies of field notes and very helpful sketches. Swallow-tailed Kite is an essentially Neotropical species that breeds in Florida and Louisiana northwards to South Carolina. The majority of New York records have occurred in the spring or fall.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2000-23-A One, Bashakill Marsh, Sullivan Co., 27 May (John J. Collins). This immature was observed by members of the Queens County Bird Club. The gray/brown body, two-toned wings and barred tail argues for a bird in first summer plumage. Records of Mississippi Kite have become more common in recent years, presumably in response to the northwards and eastwards expansion in breeding range (Parker 1999). The majority of NY occurrences occur in the spring and early summer.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

2000-30-A/D One, Cupsogue Beach County Park and Pike's Beach, Westhampton Dunes, Suffolk Co., 12-14 July (John Fritz, Douglas J. Futuyma, Eric Salzman, Angus Wilson). The bird was discovered on the Moriches Inlet flats by John Fritz and then on subsequent days re-sighted by others about a half mile to the east on Pike's Beach. Studied in the company of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*C. pusilla*), Least Sandpipers (*C. minutilla*) and Western Sandpipers (*C. mauri*) as well as a number of larger species including Sanderling (*C. alba*). The bird was an adult in the early stages of pre-basic molt. Thus it retained an extensive rufous wash across the head, neck and throat extending onto the upper breast. The red rather than orange tone to the upperparts and lack of a pale throat helped to eliminate adult Little Stint (*C. minuta*). At this time of year, many adult Sanderlings retain a strong reddish tone contrasting with whitish upperparts and might be confused for a Red-necked Stint. Two of the reports specifically address this important ID con-tender, drawing attention to the differences in size and feather patterning as well as the presence of a hind toe on the stint, which definitively rules out Sanderling. Although not submitted with the written descriptions, a number of full-frame video stills taken by Angus Wilson were posted on the internet and published in *North American Birds*, *Birding World*, and *Birdwatch*. This is the fifth record for New York, all of adults retaining alternate-plumage.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

2000-32-A/D One adult, Pike's Beach, Town of Southampton, Suffolk Co., 16 Jul (John Fritz, Chris Neri, Eric Salzman, Rex and Birgit Stanford). Independently discovered by Eric Salzman and Rex and Birgit Stanford while searching for the Red-necked Stint (see above). The photographs and description clearly indicate an adult in early pre-basic molt (the change from breeding to winter plumage). Red-necked Stint could be eliminated by the orangish rather than reddish wash to the upperparts, fine streaking on the upper breast and solid dark centers on the greater wing coverts. Rex Stanford submitted a series of photographs. This is the third record for the state and the second of an adult. For a full account of the discovery of this bird as well as its identification see Stanford 2000.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

2000-25-A One adult, Town of Savannah, Wayne Co., 7 June (Ben Fambrough). Adult Baird's Sandpipers are rare in NY at any time of year and the spring date is all the more exceptional. Adult Baird's Sandpipers returning from their South American wintering grounds normally migrate northwards along the Rockies and are rarely encountered in the eastern half of the continent (Harrington 1999). The vast majority of Baird's Sandpipers recorded in New York are southbound juveniles. . Fortunately, direct comparison with adult White-rumped Sandpiper (*C. fuscicollis*) was possible. The buff supercilium and long primary projection ruled out adult Semipalmated Sandpiper (*C. pusilla*), the other major contender.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2000-40-A/B One intermediate juvenile, (Fig.3)Derby Hill, Mexico, Oswego Co., 11 Oct. (Kevin McGann, Gerard Phillips). The Long-tailed Jaeger was observed in a small flock of jaegers passing along the lakeshore. Remarkably this flock also contained both Parasitic Jaeger(*S. parasiticus*) and Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*). Compared to the other jaegers, the Long-tailed was conspicuously smaller and slimmer. The characteristic upper-wing flash created by white primary shafts, was restricted to the front edge of the outer two or three primaries, contrasting with the more extensive flashes of the accompanying Parasitic Jaegers.

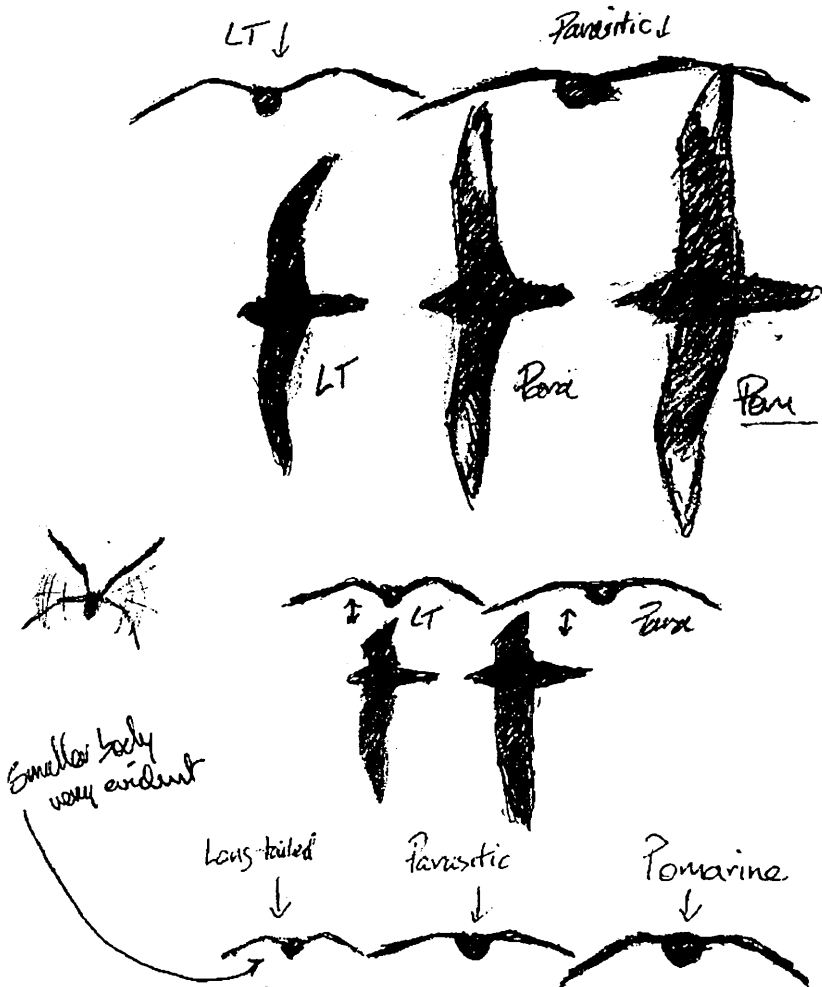
California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

2000-1-A One in third basic plumage, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co., 1-2 Jan. (Willie D'Anna); 2000-47-A/B One adult in basic plumage, Robert Moses Power Plant, Niagara Co., 12 Nov. (Willie D'Anna, Brendan Klick); 2000-50-A/B One adult in basic plumage, Robert Moses Power Plant, Niagara Co., 10 Dec. (Willie D'Anna, Brendan Klick); 2000-63-A One adult in basic plumage, Niagara Falls, Niagara Co., 30 Nov. (Michael Morgante). The Niagara River remains the premier locality for this western species in New York State (D'Anna 2000). The committee was uncertain as to the number of individuals involved.

Cayenne Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis eurygnatha*)

2000-33-A/B One, Pike's Beach, Town of Southampton, Suffolk Co., 17-18 July (Eric Salzman, Shaibal S.Mitra). This is the first record for New York State of this distinctive subspecies of Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) and one of less than ten recorded in North America. The bird was discovered by three independent parties each searching for the Red-necked and Little stints (see above) that had been seen at the same locality. The tern was studied by a number of observers during the day as well as the following day. At various times, the Cayenne Tern was observed alongside a typical adult Sandwich Tern (*S. s. acuflyvida*) as well as the more expected Royal Tern (*S. maxima*). No report was filed for the Sandwich Tern, although it too is a review species. Cayenne Terns occur as two separate populations: one found in the southern Caribbean and the second scattered along the Atlantic coast of Brazil reaching northern Patagonia. The simultaneous occurrence of Eurasian shorebirds and a Caribbean (or possibly South American) tern is quite puzzling. Could this simply be the result of so many sharp-eyed observers coming to the location – the so-called 'Patagonia picnic table effect'? A detailed account of the New York bird together with an informative discussion of the range and taxonomic status of Cayenne Tern can be found in Mitra and Buckley 2000.

Oct. 11th. Derby Bluffs (Hill). NW/WNW 20-30 mph.



Approx. Size / shape ~~ifferences~~ ^{comparisons} of profile.

Smallest bird (LT) flew with buoyant flight in general but often exhibited an 'aggressive' flight action, keeping up with the other species and essentially flying like a smaller version of Pom.

Figure 3 - On 11 Oct 2000, an intermediate-phase Long-tailed Jaeger (2000-40-A/B) was part of a small flock of jaegers, including Parasitic and Pomarine, moving past Derby Hill. Though not photographed, these sketches by Gerard Phillips provide a valuable record of its shape and appearance.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2000-64-A Two subadults at Democrat Point, Fire Island, Suffolk Co., 13-14 June (Patricia Lindsay, Shaibal S. Mitra). Both birds were studied alongside Common (*S. hirundo*) and Roseate Terns (*S. dougallii*). Although Arctic Terns are reported with regularity, relatively few are submitted for NYSARC review and the true status in the state remains uncertain.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*)

2000-36-A/B Up to five individuals on a pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon, 2 Sep (Willie D'Anna, Michael Bochnik). A number of Bridled Terns were observed during this organized pelagic trip and the precise location of each encounter established using a handheld GPS device. Michael Bochnik photographed two of the birds. One of the photographs clearly shows a full adult. Bridled Terns are a subtropical and tropical species with breeding colonies in the Caribbean. In late summer, adults and attending young wander northwards with the Gulf Stream and can reach New York waters in small numbers.

Alcid species

2000-55-A One flying over Lake Ontario at Olcott Beach, Niagara Co., 10 Dec. (Brendan Klick) While the committee agreed that the description adequately described an alcid, it could not be identified to species. All alcids are extremely rare on Lake Ontario and good views are not always possible.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2000-27-A /B One at a feeder in Durhamville, Town of Verona, Oneida Co., 11-15 June (Brenda Best, Dorothy Crumb). This was an excellent report, comprising a detailed description of the entire bird, not just the key field marks, topped off with a definitive color photograph from Brenda Best. This is an essentially Neotropical species with the northern limit of its breeding range reaching southern California, Texas and Florida. The frequency of sightings in New York has increased in recent years.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

2000-37-A One, Jamaica Bay WR, Queens /Kings Cos. 5 Sept. (Michael Duffy); 2000-49-A One, Alley Pond Park, Queens Co., 6 Dec. (Valerie Freer); 2000-75-A One, Prospect Park, Kings Co., 27 Nov. (Robert E. Jett). The Jamaica Bay bird was in an advanced state of molt and this created some confusion over its correct aging. Extensive debate on the internet met with general agreement that this was an Ash-throated Flycatcher but almost certainly not a calendar year bird as suggested by several observers. The Alley Pond bird first appeared on 29 Nov, shortly after the Prospect Park bird. Both remained into December, with the former continuing to 24 Dec. Although we received only one written report for each, all three birds were photographed and seen by a large number of birders.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

2000-69-A/B Two on North Hamlin Rd, Hamlin, Monroe Co., 30 Aug. (Kurt Fox, Robert G. Spahn). Discovered by Richard O'Hara and Robert McKinney. The

detailed descriptions of plumage and vocalizations clearly eliminated other tyrant flycatcher species. A regular fall migrant to southern New York, this species is much less frequent along the shore of Lake Ontario.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

2000-29-A One adult, Oceanside Nature Preserve, Nassau Co., 29 Jun. (Michael A. Farina). The very long tail shown in the accompanying photograph is consistent with a full adult. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers breed in open habitats across the southern United States from New Mexico to Louisiana. Both adults and immatures wander into the northeast, principally during spring and fall.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

2000-53-A/B One, Little Neck Bay, Douglaston, Queens Co., 1 June. (Steve Walter, Angus Wilson). Discovered by Steve Walter. Prompt reporting on the internet allowed Angus Wilson and Andy Guthrie to flee work and catch a commuter train to Douglaston and watch the bird until dusk. It was not seen again. The long tail feathers appeared to be broken but were clearly longer than expected for Eastern Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

2000-60-A/B One, Town of Savannah, Wayne Co., 20 May. (Barbara Herrgesell, Jay McGowan). This Loggerhead Shrike was carefully described and supported by a photograph by Jay McGowan. The number of annual sightings of Loggerhead Shrike in New York has declined significantly in the last two decades and it is important that all occurrences are carefully documented. Special care must be taken to rule out Northern Shrike (*L. excubitor*), which is far more regular in the state and can occur as a spring and fall migrant as well as wintering species.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2000-43-A/B One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe Co., 28 Oct (Mike Davids, John Lehr). This bird, found by Mike Davids, did not linger, staying just 25 minutes. With brief sightings especially, multiple reports can provide stronger evidence than a single report. Together, these two reports provided an acceptable record of this occurrence.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

2000-52-A One at feeder, East Northport, Suffolk Co. 3 Dec. (Vincent Schippa). This handsome and very late warbler was last seen 27 Dec. The lores were described as having a hint of yellow, suggesting the nominate subspecies *D. d. dominica*, which breeds on the Atlantic coastal plain from New Jersey southwards.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2000-31-A One female, Greenwich Village, New York Co., 4-15 Dec. (Helene Tetrault); 2000-45-A/D One female or immature male, Tiff Nature Preserve, Erie Co., 9-12 Nov. (Willie D'Anna, Brendan Klick, Debbie Sharon,

William Watson; discovered by William Watson); 2000-61-A One female found dead on the road, Old Chatham, Town of Chatham, Columbia Co., 9 June. (William Cook). The specimen (1744) of the Columbia Co. male is in the Institute of Nat. Hist. , Columbia-Greene Comm. College, Hudson, NY.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludovicianus*)

2000-34-A/B One, Perry Mills, Clinton Co., 24 Aug. (Shelia Arthur, Christine Murphy). Discovered during Atlas 2000 surveying, the date is remarkable and might indicate a bird attempting to breed in our area. Unfortunately no further sightings were made.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*)

2000-39-A/C One, Jones Beach State Park, Nassau Co. 7 Oct. (Tom Burke, Douglas J. Futuyma, Michael Higgiston, Angus Wilson) This constitutes the **first record** for New York State. Tom Burke and Gail Benson discovered the sparrow, when it perched momentarily on a snow fence separating Jones Beach Parking Field 6 from a smaller parking lot. The bird was then seen running along the ground but could not be relocated as the light faded. Local birders were alerted that evening and searched the area the following morning without relocating the bird. However at midday Burke refound it when it again popped up onto the fence, this time revealing the diagnostic ladder of dark markings along the central tail feathers. Some photographs and video of marginal quality were taken. Gradually the pieces of the identification were put together and confirmed by the small crowd that had gathered. Other species, including the rather similar Botteri's Sparrow (*A. botterii*) and Bachman's Sparrow (*A. aestivalis*), were ruled out by the combination of dusky streaking along the lower flanks, absence of buff tones to the upperparts, lack of a rusty crown and presence of horizontal ladder-effect on the central tail feathers (Beadle and Rising 2002; Rising 1996). During the summer, Cassin's Sparrow inhabits the arid grasslands of the southwestern United States reaching as far north as Nebraska. In the cooler months, birds disperse southwards to southern Arizona and Texas and down into central Mexico. There are a handful of previous records from the northeast (New Jersey, Maine and Nova Scotia), two in September and one from May. The Jones Beach bird was seen by many birders during the next two days and was last glimpsed shortly after dawn on 11 Oct. . For a more detailed account of the sighting see Burke 2001.

Lark Bunting

(*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

2000-15-A/F One adult male, (Fig.4) Town of Alabama, Genesee Co., 21-30 April (Willie D'Anna, Michael Galas, Brendan Klick, Jay McGowan, Gail Seamans, William Watson) This nearly alternate-plumaged adult male was discovered and tentatively identified by

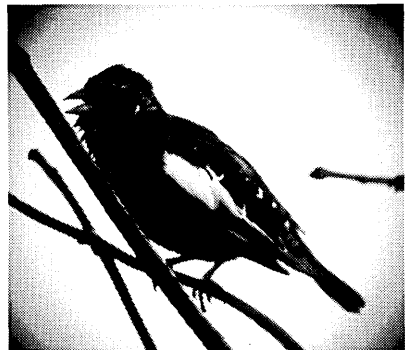


Figure 4
Lark Bunting

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Aron Kehlenbeck, and confirmed by Gail Seamans who notified other birders. Relatively confiding, this handsome bunting was well-documented with a series of detailed reports. The overall black coloring, large white wing patch and thick conical silver-colored bill readily identified it. The bird can be tentatively aged as a second-year based on the white tips to many of the mantle and scapular feathers, as well as a scattering of entirely brown feathers on the back. The last sighting, made by Mr. Kehlenbeck, came on 5 May. This is the first record for Region 1 since a long-staying bird in 1967.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

2000-20-A One adult, Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center (EIC), Town of Scriba, Oswego Co., 9 May (Bill Purcell). This well-described adult was in alternate-plumage judging by the gray rather than brown cheeks. This is the fourth record for Region 5 and first in spring.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2000-18-A/B One female, Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center (EIC), Town of Scriba, Oswego Co., 7 May (Bill Purcell, Kevin McGann); 2000-21-A One first year male, Verbank, Town of Union Vale Dutchess Co., 14 May (Barbara Butler). The female at the EIC was the third record for Region 5.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

2000-67-A/B One, Westlake Rd, Town of Dryden, Tompkins Co., 8 Apr (George Kloppel, Kevin McGowan). Discovered by Ken Rosenberg, this male actively maintained a territory in agricultural fields and may have paired with a female Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*). It remained to the end of the spring. The brief written descriptions were supported by super digital photographs by Kevin McGowan, documenting the extension of yellow onto the malar stripe, the narrower barring on the tail and spotted rather than streaked flanks. McGowan also noted the more bubbling and complex song compared to Eastern Meadowlark. Many birders saw the Western Meadowlark during its extended stay but regretably only two filed reports. One reason for this apathy could be the omission of the species from the NYSARC review list, a carryover from times when singing males were found annually on the Great Lakes Plain. In the past ten years the regularity of occurrence has declined precipitously and it is clear that the review status needs to be re-examined.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

2000-3-A One Colden, Erie Co., 20, 22,23 Jan. (James L. Wojewodzki); 2000-5-A One at feeder in Pompey, Onondaga Co., 6 Feb. (Dorothy Crumb); 2000-6-A Two at a feeder Slingerlands, Albany Co., 17-20 Feb. (David L. Martin, Sandra Bloom Martin); 2000-7-A One, Webster, Monroe Co., 27-28 Feb. (Don Traver); 2000-8-A One, Webster, Monroe Co., 8 Mar. (Don & Donna Traver) 2000-11-A One, Colden, Erie Co., 21 Mar. (James L. Wojewodzki); 2000-74-A Two individuals, Town of Greece, Monroe County 7 Mar. (Kevin Griffith); 2000-80-A One, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Oswego Co., 9 Mar. (Gerard Phillips). Of the two or

more individuals described by Don and Donna Traver, the later bird (2000-8-A) was visibly larger and strikingly pale suggesting it might belong to the less common nominate race (*C. h. hornemanni*). During the winter of 1999/2000 large numbers of Common Redpolls (*C. flammea*) were reported across the state and *The Kingbird* published twenty-eight reports of Hoary Redpoll.

2000 REPORTS ACCEPTED BUT ORIGINS UNCERTAIN

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

2000-51-A Four adults and two immatures, Fairhaven State Park, Town of Sterling, Cayuga Co., 3 Dec. (Bill Purcell). These birds were well- described and compared directly with Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*). The identification is clearly established but there are significant concerns about the natural origins of any Trumpeter Swans in New York. The species is currently excluded from the New York State Checklist, although it is likely to have occurred in our region as a common migrant and possibly breeder prior to European settlement two hundred years ago. In recent times, the first documented examples of breeding occurred in 1996 and involved escapes from a private collection. It is thought that this small 'seed population' survives and may account for many or all of the breeding records from Region 2, 3 and 6. In addition, there is an active reintroduction program in Ontario which began in 1983. The majority of these birds are wing-tagged and examples have been observed in western NY during fall and winter. No Ontario birds have been seen in NY during the nesting season. For a detailed account see Carroll and Swift, 2000.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2000-13-A/C One, Lamson Rd, Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., 16-22 Apr (Barbara Herrgesell, Jay McGowan, Bill Purcell). Barnacle Geese provide perennial headaches for North American records committees. This attractive European goose breeds in small numbers in eastern Greenland and is thus a reasonable candidate for vagrancy to North America. There is a record of a banded Barnacle Goose that was shot in Newfoundland, although this individual originated in Spitzbergen not Greenland. Unfortunately, Barnacle Geese happen to be very popular with wildfowl collectors, both private and commercial. The dilemma for any committee is how to know whether a specific individual represents an escape or a genuine vagrant. The identification of the Lysander bird was not in any doubt and was well- documented including a photograph submitted by Jay McGowan.

Great Tit (*Parus major*)

2000- 14-A One at a private feeder, Town of Lee, Oneida Co. 18 April (Maureen Staloff). The report describes a chickadee-like bird observed and photographed from a kitchen window as it fed on sunflower seed. The description and two color photographs clearly support the observer's identification as a Great Tit. The bold yellow flanks evident in the photographs suggest the Oneida bird belongs to one of the subspecies within the so called 'major' group, which originate in Europe and central Asia (Harrop and Quinn 1995). Northern populations of Great Tits are

short-range migrants principally in response to cold weather. The species has been recorded in Iceland four times, probably as ship-assisted arrivals (Yann Kolbeinsson, *in let.*). Great Tits are kept in captivity in North America and the committee is aware of at least one known escape observed in another northeastern state. There is a sight record from Little Diomed Island in western Alaska, however, this was not accepted by the ABA or AOU Checklist committees due to lack of material documentation (DeBenedictis 1994).

1999 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

1999-37-C One, May's Point Pool, Montezuma NWR, Seneca Co., 10-14 Oct. (Gerard Phillips) - this is an additional submission to a previously accepted record (1999-37-A/B); 1999-58-A/B/C One, Savannah Mucklands, Montezuma NWR, Wayne Co., 13-14 Mar. (George Kloppel, Gerard Phillips, Dominic Sherony); 1999-74-A/B One, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 20 Mar. (Dominic Sherony, Robert Spahn). This species continues to increase in the state. When reporting a Ross's Goose, it is important that observers carefully consider the possibility of a Snow X Ross's Goose hybrid. Precise size comparisons with Snows, head shape, and bill shape and pattern are most important.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*)

1999-59-A Twenty-eight at Ring-neck Marsh, Iroquois NWR, Orleans Co., 21 Oct. (Michael Morgante); 1999-60-A Thirty-two on 13 Nov and 10 on 21 Nov at Ring-neck Marsh, Iroquois NWR, Orleans Co., (Michael Morgante). Until recently, this subspecies of Canada Goose was quite uncommon in New York. As described above, we are witnessing an interesting change in status with reports becoming much more frequent in western and central New York (see comments above). NYSARC is interested in receiving detailed descriptions, if possible with photographs.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

1999-75-A One at Sodus Bay, Wayne Co., 29 Jan. (Robert Spahn). This female Common Eider was observed together with a King Eider. Common Eiders are very rare on the Great Lakes and need to be documented fully. Three subspecies have occurred in the state and assignment to subspecies would provide clues to their origins.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus griseus*)

1999-65-A One, off Rt 31, Packard Valley Farms, Town of Perinton, Monroe Co., 18 May (Dominic Sherony). There are three subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher, two of which (*griseus* and *hendersoni*) are known to occur in New York. During the spring the predominant form in central and western New York is *L. g. hendersoni*, which migrates through the center of the continent to their breeding grounds in central and western Canada. This report from an experienced birder, described a single adult dowitcher in full alternate (breeding) plumage, which he studied

using a telescope in good light. Unfortunately no other dowitchers were present for direct comparison, the only other shorebirds being Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*). However, the description of the overall color and distribution of barring and spotting adequately ruled out *L. g. hendersoni*. Comparisons were made to a specimen (No. 7585) attributable to *L. g. griseus* in the Buffalo Science Museum that was collected in Ontario on 18 May 1969. The report would have been stronger if the subspecies *L. g. caurinus* had also been discussed. This rather variable subspecies migrates through the Pacific coastal states and has not been documented in the east.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

1999-69-A One over Lake Ontario, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe Co., 5 Oct. (Brett Ewald). This juvenile Arctic Tern was studied through telescopes for more than ten minutes as it flew to and fro along the shore of Lake Ontario. The grayish upperwing coverts and outer primaries, white rump and tail and narrow dark primary tips allowed the observers to rule out Common (*S. hirundo*) and Forster's Tern (*S. forsteri*) of comparable age.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

1999-70-A One, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe Co., 23 Nov. (Brett Ewald). Observed flying eastwards along the beach before turning south and over the observers. The pale orange throat and chest and buff rump ruled out adult and immature Cliff Swallow (*P. pyrrhonota*). The late November date is typical for sightings of this species in the northeast. Although no report was submitted, a Cave Swallow was reported on the same day from Braddock Bay and was conceivably the same wandering individual (Griffith 2000). This sighting coincides with a major incursion into the northeast with sightings scattered from Ontario to Rhode Island and south to North Carolina (Curry and McLaughlin 2000; McNair and Post 2001). The arrival of Cave Swallows was associated with strong southerly or southwesterly winds accompanied by warm temperatures stretching from Texas to Ontario. Two subspecies occur in North America and both have been documented in New York. Members of the southwestern subspecies seem to predominate in late fall, although identification in the field requires prolonged and careful observation ideally supported with photographs or specimens (McNair and Post 2001). Although the subspecies at Hamlin Beach could not be firmly established, others associated with the incursion are believed to be *P. f. pallida* (= *pelodoma*), which breed in the southwestern United States and adjacent parts of northeastern Mexico. This is the third record for New York and the first away from New York City (Jamaica Bay and Riis Park/Fort Tilden, Queens Co.).

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)

1999-63-A One, Town of Covington, Wyoming Co., 18 Dec. (Hans Kunze). Although never common in mid-winter, American Pipits are sufficiently regular in central and western New York that NYSARC does not need to consider further reports.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1999-17-B One, Golden Hill SP, Niagara Co., 15 May. (Michael Morgante) - this is an additional submission to a previously accepted record (1999-17-A); 1999-71-A One singing male, Letchworth SP, Livingston Co., 30 May. (Robert Spahn); The Niagara Co. bird was well- described, complete with careful rendition of the song. The spring occurrence in western New York is fairly typical and presumably represents northward migrants that have overshot their traditional range. Unfortunately, neither bird could be studied closely enough to determine the subspecies involved. The interior subspecies, *D. d. albilora*, which shows white rather than yellow lores occurs to the south and west and is known to occur in the Great Lakes region in spring.

1998 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

1998-83-A One immature, off Russell Station, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 19 Nov. (Robert McKinney). This juvenile was studied as it joined a feeding frenzy of gulls and came relatively close to shore. Northern Gannets, particularly juveniles, have become more frequent on Lake Ontario, perhaps mirroring the steady expansion of the breeding colonies in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Nelson 2002).

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

1998-87-A One, Lima Road, Town of Geneseo, Livingston Co., 21 Dec. (Jeannine M. Fox). This Ross's Goose was observed on a farm pond in the company of forty or so Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). The identification was established by the combination of tiny size, very rounded head, blue-pink legs, stubby bill and absence of 'grin patch'.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

1998-24-A One, Braddock Bay Hawkwatch, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 27 March (Carolyn Cass). The description provided minimal details but was accepted after three rounds of review. Because of a sustained change in status, NYSARC has dropped this species from the review list (NYSARC 2000). This said, the species remains very rare in western New York, and full documentation should be submitted to local records committees from that area.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

1998-55-B/C One, Irondequoit Bay, 12 Oct. (Jessie Barry, Kevin Griffith, discovered by Jerry Sullivan). Supplementary descriptions of an immature Purple Gallinule that was watched and photographed as it fed in the open on a small patch of mud flat near the outlet of a creek. An attractive sketch by Jessie Barry as well as superb color photograph by Kevin Griffith, nicely documented the diagnostic combination of golden olive underparts, white undertail coverts and green wings with indigo primaries.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

1998-86-A One, Nations Road, Town of Geneseo, Livingston Co., 13 Oct. (Kurt Fox) The sparrow was discovered by Jim Kimball who contacted Kurt Fox. Tentatively identified as a LeConte's Sparrow, Kimball and Fox studied it through a telescope as it popped up in response to the playing of a tape. The detailed description was strengthened by a careful analysis of the identification, ruling out look-alike species including Nelson's Sharp-tailed (*A. nelsoni*) and Grasshopper Sparrows (*A. savannarum*). The salient points included the light brown median crown stripe, obvious white eye-ring and dark eye stripe, comparatively small pinkish bill, dark scapulars edged with white, obvious white mantle braces and crisp streaks on breast but not the chin. Although this species breeds in southern Quebec, it remains a very rare spring and fall migrant through New York. Regrettably a number of recent reports have not been submitted for review, obscuring the true frequency of occurrence in the state. The committee hopes to receive full descriptions for all claims of LeConte's Sparrow.

1994 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucitcus melanocephalus*)

1994-61-A One male, Goat Island, Niagara Co., 17 May. (Richard W. MacDonald) This belated report described an adult male in alternate plumage. The description clearly eliminated Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*P. ludovicianus*) and Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). However, the committee expressed some reservations as to whether the description fully eliminates a Black-headed x Rose-breasted Grosbeak hybrid. The challenging nature of hybrids is illustrated to good effect in Sibley 2000.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. By far the most common is that the material submitted was considered insufficient or simply too vague to properly document the occurrence and/or eliminate other similar species. For example, written documentation or descriptions prepared entirely from memory weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably and the Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes of uncommon or rare birds. These should be taken while the bird is under study or, if this is not possible, immediately afterwards. It is very helpful to include a photocopy of these notes with the formal report. This helps the committee to know what was seen at the time of the observation before field guides or other birders were consulted.

Advice on report preparation is available on our web site (see above) as well as published articles. We recommend the benchmark article by Dittman and Lasley (1992). The key elements to a good report are (1) the description of the bird with as much detail as possible, (2) the names and contact details of the

observers, (3) location and date of the sighting and lastly (4) an explanation of how the identification was made. This last category is frequently omitted but is extremely important. Ask yourself the following questions: What features led you to this conclusion as to the species involved? What other species might this bird be confused with and how were these possibilities ruled out? By providing this information, you invariably build upon the basic description and present a much more compelling case. By necessity, the preparation of a good report takes time and effort. It is not enough to scribble a few disjointed lines of description and leave it at that. Once the description of what you saw has gone down on paper, it is a good idea to consult reference books, audio tapes and so on. From the details you recorded, can you determine the age and sex of the bird? Are there identifiable subspecies that might tell us where the bird came from? What similar species are there and how can these be ruled out from the details you recorded? The latter it is especially important. Sometimes it is worth considering and discussing exotic possibilities. Escaped waterfowl, birds of prey, parrots and finches are relatively common and some closely resemble North American species.

We do not reject records because the observer is unfamiliar to us or has had records rejected in the past. Likewise, it is relatively uncommon for records to be rejected because the bird was clearly misidentified. We make every effort to be as fair and objective as possible but if the Committee is unsure about any particular submission it tends to err on the conservative side, preferring not to accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the Committee if additional substantive material is presented. In such cases, please contact the Secretary at the address given above.

2000 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)

2000-48-A One, Golden Hill State Park, Niagara Co., 30 Oct. The report describes a large loon studied for fifteen minutes swimming offshore from the lighthouse at a distance of around 500 yards. The bird appeared slightly larger than two Common Loons (*G. immer*) seen in the same telescope view and also seemed to float higher in the water. The most striking feature was its creamy white bill. The back of the head and nape appeared browner than on the Common Loons. Although strongly suggestive of Yellow-billed Loon, the description lacked sufficient detail to firmly exclude a Common Loon. There is considerable variation in bill color and birds with very pale bills are not unheard of. A critical feature in ruling out such birds is the coloration of the outer portion of the upper mandible. Even the palest billed Common Loons will show some dusky markings at the tip, which is unmarked in Yellow-billed Loon. For the Golden Hill bird, no difference in the head shape or the posture and shape of the bill was described. This seems to argue against Yellow-billed Loon, which has a notably heavy bill with a tendency to look slightly upturned.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

2000-72-A One heard calling at Cranberry Pond, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., Dec. 17. This intriguing report comes from an experienced birder who heard two bursts of a three-note call (*ku-ku-ku*), which he identified as that of Least Bittern. The bird was not seen, no further vocalizations were heard and thin ice precluded closer investigation. A winter record of this species in central New York would be unprecedented. Some reviewers felt that it would be unusual for this species to use the territorial call at this time of the year and would have expected more abrupt calls if the bird was disturbed somehow. Unfortunately, the bird did not respond to a tape and without additional evidence, such as a visual observation or more than just two calls, the committee decided not to accept it.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

2000-2-A One immature, near Rt 89, Oswego Co., 8 Jan. This bird was observed with Canada Geese and Mallards in a creek near Lake Ontario. The very brief report mentions a dirty wash to the head but not a dark eye line that should also be present. A description of the bill and head shape was not included, making it impossible to rule out a hybrid.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2000-65-A One, Tupper Lake Marsh, Franklin Co., 24 Dec. This report provided a very sparse description of a white bird estimated to be the size of a Herring Gull that flew over a marshy area and perched briefly on the top of a tree. Unfortunately, not enough detail was provided to firmly identify this as a falcon let alone establish its specific identity.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2000-59-A One, Woodlawn Beach flying along the shore, Erie Co., 21 Sept. This report describes a jaeger migrating along the Lake Erie shoreline, seen for less than a minute. The observer focused on the central tail feathers, describing them as about an inch long, untapered, and blunt tipped. The bird was slimmer and shorter than nearby Ring-billed Gulls and the body was dark grayish black with some lighter brownish banding in the lower belly. Although a large area of white was noted at the base of the primaries below, the remainder of the wing was not described. The observer did not state what age he thought the jaeger was. Reviewers were concerned by the missing details in the report, in particular no mention of prominent barring on the undertail coverts, and the fact that the report was based so heavily upon a single field mark seen only briefly.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

2000-56-A One flying over the Niagara River, Niagara Co., 12 Nov.; 2000-57-A Two flying over the Niagara River, Niagara Co., 19 Nov. In New York, Thayer's Gulls are thought to be regular along the Niagara River during the winter, where adults or near-adults predominate. The identification and taxonomy of Thayer's Gull is one of the thorniest topics in North American birding. The reasons are twofold. First, there is intense debate among taxonomists as to whether Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) and Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*) belong

to separate species or represent two points on a complex cline (gradient) with nominate Iceland Gull (*L. g. glaucooides*). Second, like all large gull species, both Thayer's and Iceland Gull exhibit a high degree of individual variation and this greatly complicates the identification of out-of-range birds. For example, Garner and McGeehan (1998) have suggested that the phenomenal extent of variation in the wingtip pattern of Kumlien's Gull ("almost no two individuals look the same") compared to the less variable patterns of Thayer's and nominate Iceland, indicates that Kumlien's might be a product of hybridization between Thayer's and nominate Iceland. It is unlikely that this debate will be resolved without extensive analysis of genetic markers in birds studied on the breeding and wintering grounds. From a practical standpoint, the committee will now only accept reports that meticulously document the full suite of all appropriate field characters, preferably with supporting sketches or photographs. We realize that this can be very difficult to achieve in the field and anticipate a sharp decrease in the number of reports submitted. The reports of the Niagara River birds came from experienced and careful observers. Unfortunately the distances involved limit the opportunities to photograph the birds in question and can even limit the amount of detail that can be established by study through telescopes. We appreciate their efforts and hope they understand the difficulties that this special case presents.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

2000-10-A One, Black Creek Wildlife Management, Town of Guelderland, Albany Co., 20 Mar.; 2000-42-A One, West of Baldwinsville, Onondaga Co., 21 Oct. Both reports provided too little detail of the bird to rule out Northern Shrike (*L. excubitor*). The early spring and mid-fall dates does not exclude this much commoner species.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)

2000-73-A One at Braddock Bay Park, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 5 Nov. Although the description was sufficient to establish this as a *chaetura* swift, there was not enough to positively identify this bird as a Chimney Swift rather than some exotic species. Setting aside South American species, an important consideration with any out-of-season *chaetura* swift, is the possibility of Vaux's Swift (*C. vauxi*). This western species is very similar to Chimney Swift and is known to occur as a migrant (and possibly regular winter resident) in Florida and Louisiana (Chantler and Driessens, 1995). Field separation of Chimney and Vaux's Swift is extremely difficult, more so than popular field guides suggest, and relies heavily on vocalizations as well as comparative observations. Unfortunately lone swifts rarely call, particular away from nesting areas.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)

2000-16-A/B One, Dryden, Tompkins Co. These reports describe a plain-faced passerine that was studied for two or three minutes in a plowed field before it flew across the road and disappeared. It was not subsequently relocated. A considerable effort went into these submissions and the quality is much higher than the majority we receive. The key points noted by the observers were the pale face with prominent dark eye, small slender bill, pale bill and legs, fine breast streaking on

pale buff, white throat, flanks and belly, and upright posture. A good attempt was made in the discussion to exclude other pipits and larks. After two rounds of review the committee concluded that this record was insufficient to document a first state record. The main concerns stem from the very brief nature of the sighting, the distance from the observers, the fact that it was raining and that the bird was for the most part standing motionless and viewed almost head on. No photographs were obtained and no vocalizations were heard as it flew across the road. Understandably given the difficult circumstances, several important features necessary for the unequivocal identification are missing from the reports. For instance, no details of the back pattern or coloration of tail and wing coverts were noted. Because this is a relatively subtle identification of a species that is extremely rare in the northeast, the committee feels that a detailed analysis of the plumage and structure is essential. Some Committee members voiced concerns over the habitat, which seems atypical for Sprague's Pipit, the delayed reporting of what would be an exceptional rarity and lastly the collaborative nature of the two reports. The latter made it difficult to determine exactly what each observer alone saw. We wish to stress that the level of detail required for a first state record is much higher than for other records and unfortunately this brief sighting did not attain that level. The observers are to be commended, however, for their efforts in documenting this provocative sighting.

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)

2000-78-A One, Sterling Forest State Park, Tuxedo, Orange Co., 20 Oct. This is an intriguing report of a species not on the New York Checklist, accompanied by a lovely colored drawing showing two views of the bird in question. Although the Committee felt that the description and drawing were entirely consistent with Virginia's Warbler, they were concerned by the brevity of the sighting (about a minute) and the possibility that this could have been an unusually drab Nashville Warbler (*V. ruficapilla*). In a recent article predicting the next new species for New York, two prognosticators included Virginia's Warbler on their list (Levine 2002), suggesting that an acceptable report may arrive in the near future.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2000-58-A One male and female, Dutchess Co., 13 Jul. This report relates to two birds observed in a private yard but presents almost no description at all. The observers stated that these birds were chunkier than Indigo Buntings (*P. cyanea*) with brownish wings but the committee felt that this was inadequate to rule out Indigos, which in certain stages of molt will show brown in the wings.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

2000-12-A One, Town of Dewitt, Onondaga Co., 27 Mar. A rather brief description of a bird accompanied by grackles, cowbirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds and observed without optics. A "glossy blue head" is not normally a character assigned to this species – it was this observation and the brevity of the report that led to it being turned down by the Committee.

1999 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

1999-24-A Two, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 12 July. This report involved rather brief "naked-eye" views of two birds soaring overhead. Although the report included a field sketch, black on the primaries was not shown extending into the secondaries, as is typical of this species, nor was this feature described. After circulating three times through the Committee, the report was narrowly turned down.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

1999-72-A One immature, Webster, Monroe Co., 16 May. This bird was observed on a raptor flyway near Lake Ontario with a Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*), Broad-winged Hawks (*B. platypterus*), and a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The observer emphasized the size (intermediate between the Red-tail and Broad-wings), long and relatively pointed wings, and nondescript markings. The committee felt that in the five minutes the bird was observed flying over, additional characters should have been observed. For example, darker flight feathers, heavier markings on the upper breast, pale undertail coverts, and soaring with wings held in a dihedral were not noted. It was also not made clear why this could not have been a larger immature female Broad-winged Hawk.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1999-66-A One adult, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe Co., 29 Aug. This short report described a small jaeger using what the observer described as a 'bouncy tern-like' flight. It was seen to briefly chase a Ring-billed Gull (noticeably larger) before rising in altitude and flying off to the northwest. The underparts were light gray and the wings lacked visible white-wing patches. The central rectrices were described as 'noticeably longer'. The Committee felt that the level of detail fell short for a species of this rarity. A better description of the tail feathers and upper surface of the wings would have helped to rule out Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*). Unfortunately no description was received from the co-observer and this may be one instance of where multiple descriptions build on each other to provide a complete account.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

1999-48-A Two on Niagara River, Town of Lewiston, Niagara Co. 29 Nov; 1999-67-A One first winter, Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co., 30 Jan.; 1999-68-A One adult, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe Co., 17 Nov. As described above, Thayer's Gull presents a unique challenge to North American gull watchers. The 'rules of identification' are in a state of flux and acceptable records require an unusually high standard of documentation. Often this is difficult or impossible to achieve even by experienced and determined observers.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*)

1999-05-A One adult, Kenny's Beach, Town of Southold, Suffolk Co. 13 Mar; 1999-64-A One adult, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe Co., 31 Dec. These reports related to all white gulls studied for a relatively short period of time. The Kenny's

Beach bird was observed standing on a sandy beach with a group of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). After three rounds of review, the Committee voted not to accept the record. Two aspects of the report were troubling. Firstly, the description presented an odd mixture of adult and sub-adult characters and secondly, the report provided no evidence that the observers had considered the possibility of a leucistic (abnormally white) variant of another small gull species. The Hamlin Beach bird was studied at some distance (3/8 to 1/2 mile) by two observers as it flew along the lakeshore before landing on the water. The description was limited to its all white plumage, shape and flight style. Important details such as leg and bill color were not visible because of the distance. Again the Committee felt that the level of detail was insufficient to adequately eliminate leucistic variants of commoner species.

Red-crowned Parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*)

1999-77-A One Hamlin, Monroe Co., 21 Aug. This green and vocal parrot was studied with telescopes as it flew to and from some trees bordering a plowed field. Green overall, the wings showed blue primary tips and large red patches on the trailing edges. The forehead bore a bright red patch. The description clearly rules out Monk Parakeet and suggests an *Amazona*, almost certainly an escaped cage bird. Although submitted as Red-crowned Parrot, the description does not exclude closely related species, such as subadult Lilac-crowned Parrot (*A. finschi*), or the many hybrid combinations that occur in captive birds.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

1999-29-A One, Town of Van Buren, Onondaga Co., 13 Aug. This report contained a lot of detail about the circumstances of the sighting but very little description of the bird itself. Some of the Committee leaned toward acceptance as the date of the sighting is much more likely for Loggerhead than Northern Shrike (*L. excubitor*). Other reviewers were not even convinced that the minimal description indicated any kind of shrike. After three rounds, it was turned down by a narrow margin.

Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*)

1999-56-A One banded, Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., 16 Oct. During the first two weeks of October, the banding station near Braddock Bay experienced a major movement of chickadees, culminating in the capture of an unusual bird on the 16th. The bird's short wing cord measurement (59 mm) drew the attention of the banding team, comprising David Bonter, David Semple and Sharon Skelly. Alert to the possibility of Carolina Chickadee, the tail (54 mm) and exposed culmen (length of upper mandible from tip to the feathers, 7.0 mm) were measured and confirmed by a second bander. The wing chord and culmen measurements seemed strongly in favor of Carolina Chickadee whereas the tail measurement is just within the published range for the species. The bird was compared in hand to Black-capped Chickadees (*P. atricapillus*) caught at the same time. Three color-photographs were submitted showing the bird in the hand, held at different angles. Regrettably, these photographs proved less useful than one might expect. The lower border of the bib and the patterning of the secondary coverts were not

shown well and were thus difficult to evaluate. Likewise, in the one photograph that shows the tail, it is furled rather than spread.

In addition to the measurements described above, the main points in favor of Carolina Chickadee were (i) the dusky edging to the greater coverts, (ii) the sharp rather than ragged corners and dorsal border of the bib and (iii) the grayish nape, contrasting with the white auriculars. Unfortunately, these positive aspects were tempered by a number of features that seem inconsistent with Carolina Chickadee. The chief concerns were: (i) the ratio of the wing chord and tail measurements (0.915). This troubled several committee members because the value is at the low end for Black-capped Chickadee and greater than known for Carolina Chickadee (Pyle 1997). (ii) The white-edging to the secondaries, visible in one of the photographs, appeared broader than expected based on comparison to Carolina Chickadee specimens. (iii) The outer vein of the outermost tail feather appears to have a white edging, a feature of Black-capped rather than Carolina Chickadee.

Although Carolina Chickadee breeds in neighboring New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the species has not been recorded in New York and there are very few documented examples out-of-range (Harrap and Quinn 1995). In this regard, the location and timing of the capture seems puzzling. Why would a Carolina Chickadee, a non-migratory species occurring several hundred miles to the south of Braddock Bay, be found with [presumed] south-bound Black-capped Chickadees? Given all of these uncertainties, the Committee voted six to one on the second round of review against acceptance. What are the alternatives? One possibility is a hybrid. Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees regularly hybridize along a 5-20 mile corridor where their ranges meet. Although vocalizations and pairing behavior of hybrids has been studied in detail, there is less in the way of published information on the measurements and appearance of hybrids. Thus it is hard to exclude this possibility. Another explanation would be a subspecies of Black-capped Chickadee different from *P. a. atricapillus*, the predominant form in New York. Several are smaller and more than one committee member raised the question of *P. a. praticus*, which breeds in the mountains of Pennsylvania. For many subspecies, the full extent of individual variation has not been studied in detail. The range values cited in Pyle are based on a relatively small sample and it is not inconceivable that some forms show a broader range than described. As will be evident from this analysis, any candidate for Carolina Chickadee should be measured very carefully (preferably more than once) and also photographed extensively with emphasis on documenting the detail of major feather groups. The observers are to be commended on preparing a comprehensive and extremely interesting report. We hope the outcome does not discourage future reporting of similar birds. An appropriately cautious account of this interesting bird has been published in Skelly et al. 2001.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*)

1999-57-A Two, Shindagin Hollow State Forest, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 31 Jan. This brief report did not provide enough detail to firmly exclude Black-capped Chickadee (*P. atricapillus*). In particular, the cap color and vocalizations were not described.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

1999-73-A One or two adult males, Town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 2 Apr. The description stated that the bird was about Red-winged Blackbird size, with a light eye, and a reddish-purple cast to the head separating it from the black of the back. Reviewers were concerned by the missing details - no body iridescence noted, tail shape, bill shape, and posture were not described. 1999-76-A One female, Town of Oakfield, Genesee Co., 2 Apr. A very brief report of a female accompanied by a large flock of Rusty Blackbirds (*E. carolinus*) with a few Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) mixed in. Some concern was raised about this species occurring with and using the same habitat as Rusty Blackbirds. Ultimately, however, it was the lack of shape description, particularly the bill, and the lack of consideration given to the possibility that this was a female Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) that led the Committee to not accept the report.

1998 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1998-75-A One Sackets Harbor, Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson Co., 29 Dec. This report included photographs, although of poor quality, and a thorough description of what the observer considered to be a winter-plumaged Pacific Loon. The description was generally good for Pacific Loon but the photographs were not supportive. Due to the poor quality of the photos some reviewers decided to essentially ignore them and accept the description. Other reviewers, however, believed that the photos strongly indicated that this was a Red-throated Loon (*G.stellata*). A well-known feature of adult Pacific Loons in winter plumage is the chinstrap. Although a chinstrap is evident in the photos, it appears to be too thick and the description confirms that impression. In addition, light crescents were noted on the back. The combination of a chin strap and pale edgings on the back would not normally be shown by a Pacific Loon since the chin strap is a character for an adult and the pale edgings is a mark of an immature. This inconsistency might have been overlooked (as a Pacific Loon in transitional plumage) if the photographs had not indicated several features consistent with Red-throated Loon such as an "upturned" lower mandible, head held at an upward angle, and a pale spot in front of the eye. Another character described in the report is a sharp demarcation between a dark hindneck and a white foreneck, a feature that is typical of a Pacific Loon. However, what is not emphasized in the field guides is that some Red-throated Loons also show this feature. This report illustrates how very subjective the differences between Pacific Loons and Red-throated Loons can be. The observer did a commendable job with this report but, after three rounds of review, it was not accepted by a narrow margin.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

1998-80-A One, Brockport, Monroe Co., 23 May. Although this sighting was not considered that unusual, this report had so little description that it did not pass muster. A particular weakness was that the size and shape of the bird were not described. Sandhill Cranes are no longer reviewed by the NYSARC except in cases of unusually high numbers.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

1998-85-A One immature, Webster, Monroe Co., 20 Dec. Any hummingbird so late in the year deserves careful scrutiny. Although the Committee was convinced that this was indeed a hummingbird, the report provided too few details for identification to species.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

1998-84-A One, Hogan Point, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 12 Oct. The brief description of a bird seen in a weedy field with many other sparrows included no discussion of shape and an incomplete description of the plumage pattern, leaving some reviewers unconvinced with the identification.

1970 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)

1970-1-A One banded in Pompey, Onondaga Co., 25 Sep. This report consisted of a color photograph of a *Catharus* thrush without description or measurements. There is sufficient detail in the photograph to eliminate Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*) and Hermit Thrush (*C. guttatus*). The main feature pointing towards Bicknell's Thrush rather than Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*) is the extensive area of pale yellow on the lower mandible. At the time of capture, Bicknell's Thrush was treated as a subspecies of Gray-cheeked Thrush and the two were not split until 1995. The Committee felt there was not enough information in the report to firmly establish this difficult identification. The angle of the bird did not show the color of the tail to good effect or allow the extent of the primary projection to be estimated. Mandible color is a variable feature and not definitive in itself (McLaren 1995; Smith 1996; Clement 2000; Lane and Jaramillo 2000). Bicknell's Thrush breeds at altitude in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains (Atwood et al. 1996), but because of the significant identification difficulties, its status as a migrant remains poorly known. When faced with a candidate, observers are urged to take detailed notes on the plumage and soft part colorations. Every effort should be made to record or document any vocalizations. Banders should carefully measure the length of the primaries and tertials but also take detailed notes on plumage and any vocalizations.

REPORTS FOR WHICH A DECISION IS STILL PENDING

The Committee has not yet reached a consensus on the following reports. All are undergoing a third round of review at the time this annual report went to press. No conclusion should be drawn as to the final outcome. We apologize for the delay and hope to announce the final decisions shortly.

Albatross species

2000-28-A One, 18 miles off shore from Fire Island, Suffolk Co., 18 Jun.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

2000-9-A One at Biddelcum Pond, Town of Schroepfel, Oswego Co. 11 Mar.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*)

2000-41-A One at Point au Roche State Park, Clinton Co., 12 Oct.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

2000-76-A 30+ individuals, Dutchess Co., 31Dec.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

2000-17-A One, Niagara Mohawk Visitor's Center, Town of Scriba, Oswego Co, 4 May.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

2000-70-A One at feeder in Fredonia, Chautauque Co., 10 Dec..

Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee,
Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Robert Andrle,
Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Kevin J. McGowan,
Shaibal S. Mitra, Gerard Phillips

Contributors:

Robert Andrle, Shelia Arthur, Willie D'Anna, Allen Benton, Jessie Barry, Brenda Best, Michael Bochnik, Joseph Brin, Thomas W. Burke, Barbara Butler, Carolyn Cass, John Collins, William Cook, Dorothy Crumb, Mike Davids, Leonard DeFrancisco, Charlcie Delehanty, Michael Duffy, Lenore & Vern Durkee, Brett Ewald, Benjamin Fambrough, Michael Farina, Steve Fast, Jeannine Fox, Kurt Fox, Melvin Freeborough, Sally Freeborough, Valerie Freer, John Fritz, Douglas J. Futuyma, Michael Galas, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Andrew Guthrie, Meena Haribal, Barbara Herrgesell, David Hoag, Michael Higgiston, Robert E. Jett, Brendan Klick, George Kloppel, William E. Krueger, Hans Kunze, Robert Kurtz, Paul Lehman, John Lehr, Nick Leone, Patricia Lindsay, Richard W. MacDonald, David Martin, Sandra Martin, Zinas Mavodones, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Chita & Robert McKinney, Shaibal S.Mitra, Michael Morgante, Christine Murphy, Martha Neel, Chris Neri, Paul Osenbaugh, Gerard Phillips, Brenda & Anthony Prentice, Bill Purcell, Eric Salzman, Vincent Schippa, Gail Seamans, Debbie Sharon, Sharon Skelly, Dominic Sherony, Edmond Spaeth, Cathy Spahn, Robert Spahn, Rex G. and Birgit Stanford, Maureen Staloff, William Symonds, Helene Tetrault, Dave Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Shelia Tuttle, Steve Walter, William W. Watson, Angus Wilson, Charles A. Witek III, Jim Wojewodzki, John C. Yrizarry

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NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 2002

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 mid-winter waterfowl count, or "Federation Waterfowl Count" (FWC), was held 12-27 Jan 2002 with approximately 270 participants. Weather conditions were mild but generally unfavorable for complete counts due to extensive open water and strong winds. Nonetheless, a record total of 447,833 birds (46 species) was documented, 13% above the previous high (set in 2001), and 67% above the 1973-2000 average. The top ten species, accounting for 85% of the total, were: Canada Goose, Mallard, Greater Scaup, American Black Duck, Brant, Redhead, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Canvasback, and Surf Scoter. Canada Goose accounted for most of the increase in total counts compared to previous years.

INTRODUCTION

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has conducted an annual midwinter waterfowl count (FWC) every year since 1955 (Rising 1955) except for a brief hiatus in 1968-1972 (Jones 1980). Each January, members visit lakes, rivers and shorelines throughout New York State to count waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) and associated water birds (e.g., loons, grebes, cormorants and coots). Whenever possible, counts are conducted during a nine day count period beginning on the first Saturday in January after New Year's Day, with a target date of the first Sunday in that period. Most counts are conducted during the first three days, but in some cases additional time is needed to complete the counts.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Official weather data for January 2002 were not available, but Regional compilers reported generally unfavorable conditions across the state. Temperatures were mild, with highs in the 30s to low 40s, with overcast skies and strong winds on the target date, especially on larger open water areas, such as the Great Lakes shorelines. The count period was preceded by a period of colder weather with little precipitation in January. Snow cover from storms in December was largely gone from most areas during the count period. As a result of this weather pattern, some smaller inland waters were frozen, but all larger lakes and coastal bays remained entirely open to waterfowl use.

RESULTS

A total of 447,833 birds, comprising 46 species, was counted in 2002 (Table 1). This established a new record high count since the FWC began in 1955. The 2002 total was 13% above 2001 (Table 2) and 67% above the 28-year (1973-2000) average of 268,763 (Table 3). Less than 1% of the total count was recorded outside of the scheduled survey period.

Comparison of 2002 counts with 28-year (1973-2000) averages shows seven of 13 major species or taxa at least 10% above average, and only two species or taxa more than 10% below average (Table 3). Canada Goose (211,191) shattered the previous high of 163,000 (in 2000), and accounted for most of the increase in total counts compared to previous years. New high counts were established also for Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, White-fronted Goose, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Ring-necked Duck. Relatively high counts of these and many other species probably reflected the generally mild winter weather in 2001-2002. This contrasted with the year before, when cold weather coincided with record high counts of many diving duck species.

Total waterfowl numbers in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were down 2% from 2001, and were 6% above the 10-year (1991-2000) average (Serie and Raftovich 2002). Flyway counts of dabbling ducks were up 3% from a year ago, diving ducks declined 11%, and sea ducks increased 55%. Canada Goose counts in the flyway were unchanged from 2001 to 2002, whereas Brant and Snow Goose counts increased 25% and 35%, respectively. Annual changes in relative abundance in New York often do not mirror flyway trends because state counts reflect distributional shifts (in response to weather) as well as population changes.

Highlights of Regional reports included a pair of Harlequin Ducks at Buffalo (Region 1), a Barrow's Goldeneye on the St. Lawrence River near Ogdensburg (Region 6), the first-ever Brant on the FWC in Region 7 and a Great Cormorant on the Hudson River in Columbia County (Region 8).

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 important 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.

For the planners among you, future counts are scheduled as follows:
 2003 - January 11-19 (target date - Sunday, January 12); and
 2004 - January 10-18 (target date - Sunday, January 11).
 2005 - January 9-17 (target date - Sunday, January 10);

For more information about the FWC, visit the Federation'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 Bemont & Gail Kirch	9	Michael Usai
5	Marge Rusk	10	Ronald & Jean Bourque

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Table 1. Regional totals for January 2002 Federation Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	149	165
Common	1	10	4	1	6	1	9	0	5	591	628
Grebe, Pied-billed	15	1	27	2	7	3	0	1	5	149	210
Horned	2	185	7	0	19	0	44	0	2	302	561
Red-necked	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	7
Eared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant, D.-crested	107	2	2	0	37	4	0	1	6	112	271
Great	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	38	198	237
Goose, White-fronted	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Snow	0	0	6	0	2	0	20	11	2	1,028	1,069
Canada	2,939	5,113	117,355	1,432	14,602	3,828	1,712	9,050	28,840	26,320	211,191
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	18,099	18,101
Swan, Mute	0	181	2	3	4	3	0	148	222	1,447	2,010
Trumpeter	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Tundra	258	0	508	0	21	109	0	0	0	0	896
Wood Duck	7	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	22	59	93
Gadwall	62	108	194	0	53	97	0	0	108	2,278	2,900
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
American	17	2	45	0	23	5	0	0	286	1,619	1,997
Am. Black Duck	79	439	2,377	59	433	242	252	1,007	1,297	12,040	18,225
Mallard	5,267	6,175	10,119	643	5,099	1,130	1,999	2,927	3,171	11,069	47,599
Mallard X Black	0	9	1	0	7	0	2	0	5	22	46
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Northern Shoveler	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	112	681	797
Northern Pintail	0	1	19	4	1	0	0	0	10	206	241

Green-winged Teal	2	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	6	264	279
Canvasback	6,863	61	1,248	0	0	3	0	150	629	1,399	10,353
Redhead	312	7,818	6,033	0	227	20	0	0	0	18	14,428
Ring-necked Duck	47	64	393	0	684	1	68	31	345	601	2,234
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Scaup, Greater	13,444	808	50	0	395	148	50	0	828	8,743	24,466
Lesser	23	338	3	0	25	1	17	0	412	2,462	3,281
scaup sp.	0	450	149	0	0	0	1,100	0	0	107	1,806
Eider, King	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13
Common	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	388	388
Harlequin Duck	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7
Scoter, Surf	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	9,875	9,877
White-winged	106	540	3	0	305	2	0	0	0	12,727	13,683
Black	5	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2,596	2,606
Scoter sp.	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4,791	4,797
Long-tailed Duck	2,195	1,130	2	0	738	244	1	0	91	1,139	5,540
Bufflehead	3,347	373	188	0	142	236	121	5	443	4,191	9,046
Goldeneye, Common	1,551	2,640	875	11	1,031	2,498	1,624	157	190	1,344	11,921
Barrow's	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Merganser, Hooded	65	11	22	0	22	32	44	4	161	1,272	1,633
Common	2,758	196	56	126	568	1,637	1,701	706	865	35	8,648
Red-breasted	159	190	5	0	204	10	5	0	157	3,886	4,616
Ruddy Duck	6	3	0	0	22	0	0	0	337	3,767	4,135
American Coot	223	131	1,712	76	9	0	4	0	183	1,726	4,064
Unidentified	1,372	2	55	67	0	228	0	0	30	1,002	2,756
TOTAL OF ABOVE	41,236	26,997	141,467	2,424	24,697	10,484	8,775	14,201	38,823	138,767	447,833

Table 2. Comparison of January 2001 and January 2002 counts for selected waterfowl species.

Species	2001	2002	% Change
Snow Goose	30	1,069	3463%
Canada Goose	122,223	211,191	73%
Brant	8,038	18,101	125%
Mute Swan	1,684	2,010	19%
Gadwall	1,517	2,900	91%
American Wigeon	1,727	1,997	16%
American Black Duck	17,356	18,225	5%
Mallard	47,122	47,599	1%
Canvasback	24,584	10,353	-58%
Redhead	19,915	14,428	-28%
Ring-necked Duck	567	2,234	294%
Greater Scaup	54,688	24,466	-55%
scoters (all species)	30,752	30,96	31%
Long-tailed Duck	8,160	5,540	-32%
Bufflehead	10,025	9,046	-10%
Common Goldeneye	19,639	11,921	-39%
Hooded Merganser	1,424	1,633	15%
Common Merganser	9,464	8,648	-9%
Red-breasted Merganser	8,058	4,616	-43%
Ruddy Duck	2,490	4,135	66%
American Coot	3,008	4,064	35%
TOTAL of all species	397,764	447,871	13%

Table 3. Comparison of the January 2002 count with 1973-2000 average for all species averaging over 1,000 individuals annually.

Species	Average	2002	% Change
Canada Goose	69,459	211,191	204%
Brant	15,109	18,101	20%
American Black Duck	19,826	18,225	-8%
Mallard	32,376	47,599	47%
Canvasback	10,652	10,353	-3%
Redhead	7,437	14,428	94%
scaup (both species)	50,222	29,553	-41%
scoters (all species)	12,373	30,963	150%
Long-tailed Duck	4,386	5,540	26%
Bufflehead	6,077	9,046	49%
Common Goldeneye	12,292	11,921	-3%
Common Merganser	11,461	8,648	-25%
Red-breasted Merganser	4,282	4,616	8%
TOTAL of all species	268,763	447,871	67%

PURPLE GALLINULE IN CLINTON COUNTY, 23 SEPTEMBER-3 OCTOBER 2002

Glen Drapeau

POB 716 Peru, NY 12972

William Krueger

40 Colligan Point Road Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Charles Mitchell

95 Park Avenue W. Plattsburgh, NY 12901

While photographing a Great Blue Heron on 23 Sep 2002, GD's eye was drawn to movement below and to the right of his subject where he saw a single, drab marsh bird with no bars, stripes, eye ring or other distinguishing features. The following day WK and CM also found an immature Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) which has proven to be the northernmost recorded in New York State.

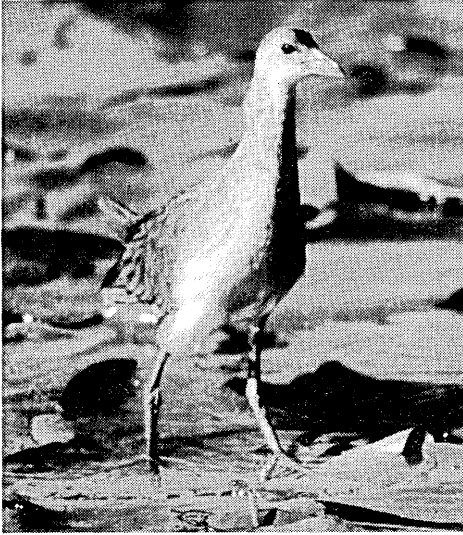
DISCOVERY

When Charlie and I set out for Ausable Point on 24 Sep, I mentioned the report of an immature Purple Gallinule then present at Montezuma NWR without considering for a moment that one could be here as well. We parked, took note of a photographer, off to one side, with a very long lens and got our gear out. Before I could cross the road Charlie had found New York State's second immature Purple Gallinule of the season. At this point Glen came over, introduced himself and told us that he had found and photographed the bird the day before. Thus began a collaboration that benefited each of us and that we expect to continue.

The three of us spent the next several hours rooted to the spot. Glen, a professional photographer, purposefully clicked away expending film at an alarming rate. By evening, e-mails and various rare bird alerts had been sent. Over the next ten days at least one of us was there daily to keep track of the bird and to make sure visiting birders got good looks at it. Most of the time it was very cooperative, staying in accessible areas with only moderate cover. Throughout this time Glen continued to photograph; in all he shot approximately twelve 36 exposure rolls. This article is indebted to him for generously sharing the results of his efforts and providing the accompanying photos. (Figs 1 & 2)

HABITAT, IDENTIFICATION AND BEHAVIOR.

We found the young gallinule along the shore of a shallow cove of Lake Champlain on the east side of the entrance road to Ausable Point Campground, Town of Peru, Clinton County. A large marsh on the west side empties into the cove through a culvert. The banks of the cove are lined with lush vegetation. At its mouth is a sedge-covered bar about 200 yards out from the road.



Purple Gallinule in Clinton Co.,
23 Sept.-3 Oct. 2002 © Glen Drapeau

The cove is home to Pied-billed Grebes, American Bitterns, Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks and Mallards. Other species seen while the gallinule was present include Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier and Merlin.

The gallinule's crown and back were brownish, its cheeks and neck were a lighter and richer brown that lightened into a wash on its foreneck. The bill, which included a dark forehead shield, was reddish brown in direct sunlight but could appear gray with some yellow in other lights. Its iris was red-orange. Its chin, breast and belly were off-white; its undertail coverts snowy white. This field mark and the bird's habit of cocking its tail made it the avian equivalent of a white-tailed deer

and proved useful when searching for it. Its folded wings showed a hint of olive above a definite greenish coloration on the lower edge but neither of these colors was obvious under all lighting conditions. There was no white flank stripe but rather a small buff patch toward the rear. In flight the flanks were dark. Its legs and feet were dull yellow, the feet unwebbed and long-toed.

The bird most frequently fed in emergent vegetation—primarily pickerelweed, pond lily and spatterdock—along the margin of the waterway. During the many hours we spent observing, the only food that we actually saw it consume were snails extracted from their shells, possibly *Lymnaea* (great pond snail) which is found here. We presume the bird was also eating seeds, principally from the dominant pickerelweed. It did feed on the underside of lily pads, which were literally a cafeteria of snails, snail eggs, crustaceans, crustacean eggs and aquatic insects. When it fed among the sedges, it also gleaned food by holding the end of a plant down with its foot and running its bill along the stem. It walked on the plants while feeding, had a habit of pumping its cocked tail and swam rarely. It almost always remained at or near the water-vegetation interface in the shallower areas of the cove. When it flew, its flights were short and weak. A remarkably unwary bird that allowed close approach, it was startled into flight only twice, once by a Great Blue Heron and once by one of us. On one occasion, while trying to separate a snail from its shell, it was startled by the alarm cry of a Greater Yellowlegs. The sudden swing of its head instead separated the shell from its bill and threw the snail into deeper water. The bird made no effort to retrieve its prey.

PREVIOUS RECORDS

Even though we knew of the Purple Gallinule at Montezuma NWR, we had no reason to expect to find one here. A list of rarities that might appear in Clinton County (Mitchell & Krueger 1997) makes no mention of Purple Gallinule; nor is it included even in passing in (Bannon 1991) on birding in Montreal. The range map (Sibley 2000) has two green dots in the St. Lawrence Valley between Cornwall and Quebec City and several in the Maritime Provinces, but none in Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine. DiCostanzo (Levine 1998) mentions 35 records for New York State; of these only 4 appear to have been of immature birds and more than 25 were from Long Island. A record from Monroe County appears to have been the farthest north this bird had been seen in New York State before the Ausable Point sighting.

Editor's Note:

After the completion of this article, an immature Purple Gallinule was found on 17 Oct by John Haas at the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area in Sullivan County, for the third Purple Gallinule report of the season, all immatures.

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Purple Gallinule in Clinton Co.,
23 Sept.-3 Oct. 2002
© Glen Drapeau

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*)
IN MONROE CO., 10-13 OCTOBER, 2002
NEW YORK STATE'S SECOND RECORD**

Dominic Sherony
51 Lambeth Loop, Fairport, NY 14450
dsherony@frontiernet.net

Abstract

A first year Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was found on the mud flats at the south end of Irondequoit Bay in the town of Penfield, Monroe Co., NY feeding with a large group of Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*) on Thursday, 10 Oct. The bird remained in this same location for four days (10 -13 Oct 2002) and was seen and studied by no less than 200 birders from across the state, Canada, and a few from the east and midwest. Several observers were able to get identifiable photographs.

Discovery and Observation

The south end of Irondequoit Bay has long been a favorite fall birding spot in the Rochester area for shorebirds and gulls. In the fall, Lake Ontario naturally draws down in years with dry summer and fall conditions. In years past, the fluctuations in the lake level have been more pronounced and the south shore was a haven for migrating shorebirds. The control dam on the St. Lawrence River has reduced this effect. Still, some small shorebird habitats will arise on the lakeshore in dry years. This year was no exception and shorebirds have been present there for the past month. New York State and the town of Penfield acquired the land at the south end of the bay bordering Irondequoit Creek and established La Salle's Landing Park on the site in 2001. This has provided birders, as well as others, with easy access and convenient parking. Shorebird observation is best done by walking through the cattail marsh to the mud flat.

I arrived at 12:40 pm and began scanning the mud flat. It was a beautiful day, with 70 F temperatures, sunshine with a few broken clouds, and a very slight wind coming from the north. About fifty shorebirds were feeding at the extreme north end of the mud flat. The sun was to the south and I was scanning about 150 yards away with binoculars and located the shorebird group. I got my scope on this group, zoomed up to 40X, and started going through the flock. I began with Pectoral Sandpipers but the fourth bird I looked at was the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. My attention was immediately drawn to the bird by the very reddish cap, which showed up extremely well in the sunlight. I looked over this bird for key field marks and was confident about the identification. I looked up from the scope and did it a second time. After being certain, I walked back to

Pectoral on Left, Sharp-tailed on right.
Apparent size difference as shown in
this photo is strictly due to stance of the
birds at the time of photographing.

© Matt Victoria

my car and started calling local birders. Within a half-hour, Gary Chapin, Bob Spahn, Jeanne Skelly, and Mike Tetlow had arrived and all confirmed the identification.

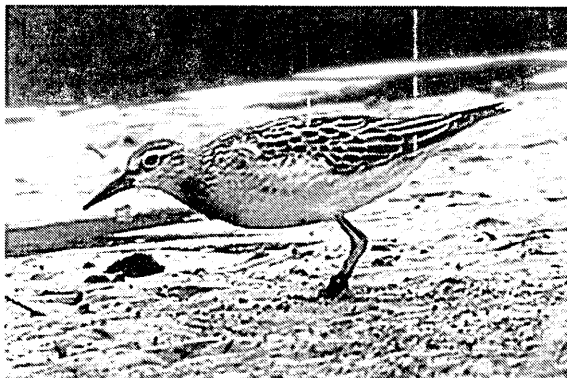
I was familiar with the basic field marks of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. I first saw three adults on 14 Apr 1994 in Hong Kong at Mai Po but have never been able to find them in the US. It has long been a bird I have sought and have regularly scanned through the Pectoral Sandpipers at Montezuma NWR looking for this species. Although most eastern US sightings are from the coast, I didn't think there was any reason why an Asian stray could not be found upstate.

I remained at the south end of the bay for three hours watching the bird and calling people. It was last observed that day by Brett Ewald after 6:00 pm. At least 30 people saw the bird on Thursday. The next three days were overcast but generally warm. Word quickly spread on the Internet and many people continued to come daily. On Friday, 11 Oct 2002, I was watching the bird with Bob Spahn and Willie D'Anna when a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) came over the bay at 9:45 am. All the gulls took off and a mixed flock of shorebirds including the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper formed a tight group, flew upward gaining altitude until they were above the Peregrine Falcon and then flew south. We thought that they were gone for good but they were back on the mud flat an hour later and the bird was present for the remainder of that day.

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was present throughout Saturday and Sunday. I saw the bird both days and many came to see it on the weekend. On Sunday, it began to drizzle in the late morning and got progressively cooler. The last sighting of the bird was 4:30 pm when a Peregrine arrived again. It was not found after that and was not present on



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Irondequoit Bay
12 Oct 2002
© Kevin and
Jay McGowan



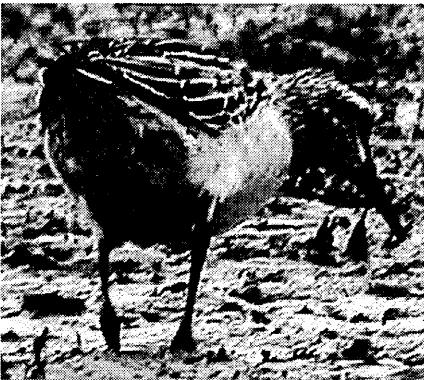
Monday morning nor found on subsequent days. On Sunday, a cold front went through. Temperatures dropped, the winds became stronger and shifted to the northwest, and the shorebirds changed rapidly at the south end of the bay. A flock of Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) and Stilt Sandpipers (*Calidris himantopus*) came in the late afternoon and these birds were gone on Monday morning.

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was studied by many and was photographed by at least five people. Willie D'Anna, Matt Victoria, and Kevin and Jay McGowan all posted excellent photographs on the Internet. The bird varied in observed distance from about 120 feet to about a maximum of 450 feet. Light conditions varied over the four day period but the bird was identifiable even on the cloudy days just after sunrise (about 7:20 am).

Identification

On those four days, there were between 25 to 50 first year Pectoral Sandpipers on the mud flats as well as other shorebirds. The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper always associated with a group of Pectoral Sandpipers and was generally easily observed. It was the same size as the largest Pectorals, some of which were noticeably smaller, and it was a much brighter bird than the first year Pectorals. The Sharp-tailed was aged by the condition of the plumage and field marks. In behavior, it acted no differently than any Pectoral Sandpiper.

The accompanying photos show many of the field marks described. All the Pectorals and this bird were identified as first year by their fresh unworn plumage. The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was identified by the appearance of its cap, throat, breast, mantle and undertail coverts. The cap was bright reddish, a color between rufous and red, with dark or black relatively fine thin streaks. In sunlight,



Note streaking on undertail coverts of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Pectorals do not show this streaking.

© Kevin and Jay McGowan

the cap was very conspicuous. The cap of Pectoral Sandpiper was more brownish with wider dark streaks. The bright white supercilium was wider above and just behind the eye as compared with that of a Pectoral Sandpiper. The throat was white, unlike that of a Pectoral. There were fine streaks around the neck, and they were short, ending at the upper breast. The breast was richly buff and the buff color faded out at the belly. The breast was distinctly different from that of the Pectoral Sandpiper which was heavily streaked and the streaks showed a sharp demarcation at the belly. The undertail coverts of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper had fine streaks and the Pectoral coverts were simply white.

The mantle of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was very bright; all mantle feathers with dark centers and fringed. Scapulars were fringed in rufous, unlike Pectorals, which are more buff with some short white edges. Tertials were fringed in rufous-yellow, more colorful than those of Pectorals. Upper wing coverts were fringed in buff with slight rufous tones.



Note sharp contrast between white supercilium and dark (red) cap of this Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. This contrast is not present in the Pectorals.

© Kevin and Jay McGowan

Other Records

Paulson (1993) and Rogers (2002) indicate that Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is much more common as a vagrant on the west coast than in the east. Sibley (2000) shows sightings in the midwest and in some southern states but east coast records are more numerous than inland sightings. There are two past sightings in New Jersey but no accepted records (Larson pers. comm.). There are two records for Connecticut, the last occurred on 11 Aug 1999; and there have been five sight records for the New England Region (Ellison and Martin 1999). Levine (1998) summarizes the only NY accepted record, that of Tom Davis from Long Island at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge of 18-24 Jul 1981 and another sighting in 1982 but not accepted by NYSARC.

There have been several east coast reports of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper this year. One adult appeared at Bear Swamp at Bombay Hook NWR on 5-6 Aug 2002. A second was a juvenile seen sporadically between 30 Sep - 10 Oct 2002 also at Bombay Hook NWR (Rohrbacher pers.comm.). A single bird appeared at Cape May, NJ on 8 Oct 2002 and was present for one hour (Boyle pers.comm.).

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MORE CHANGES IN THE 7TH EDITION OF THE AOU CHECK-LIST RELEVANT TO NEW YORK STATE

Volume 119 No. 3 July 2002 pgs. 897-906 of *The Auk* contains the 43rd Supplement to *The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds*. It includes some changes which apply to the official New York State checklist. Since *The Kingbird* follows the taxonomic and English name designations established by the AOU, those changes applicable to New York birds are shown below.

Replace

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) with Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*). Based on differences of display sounds and morphology the *delicata* group has been raised to full species status necessitating this change, as it is distinct from the Old World *G. gallinago*

Latin name changes

Ajaja ajaja (Roseate Spoonbill) to *Platalea ajaja*

Porphyryla martinica (Purple Gallinule) to *Porphyrio martinica*

Porphyryla flavirostris (Azure Gallinule) to *Porphyrio flavirostris*

Phalaropus fulicaria (Red Phalarope) to *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Guiraca caerulea (Blue Grosbeak) to *Passerina caerulea*

Move

Lazuli Bunting to immediately BEFORE Indigo Bunting

Bullock's Oriole to immediately BEFORE Baltimore Oriole

Additions to the NYS checklist

The following species have been added to the New York State checklist by action of the NYSARC .

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) – place after Mourning Warbler

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) – place after Eastern Towhee

CORRIGENDA

In the June 2002 Vol. 52 No. 2 issue of *The Kingbird* there appeared under my authorship an article entitled "Further Predictions of Species to be Added to The Checklist of The Birds of New York State."

On page 120 of that article, I inadvertently added Long-toed Stint to the New York State checklist. I quote from the article.

"That panel (referring to the 1994 article "Predictions of Species to be Added to the New York State Checklist" in Vol 44 No. 4 pgs. 277-280) listed some 16 species not chosen in 1983 as possibilities, with the balance, of course, from the earlier list. Five (5) of those sixteen (16) new choices have since achieved checklist status."

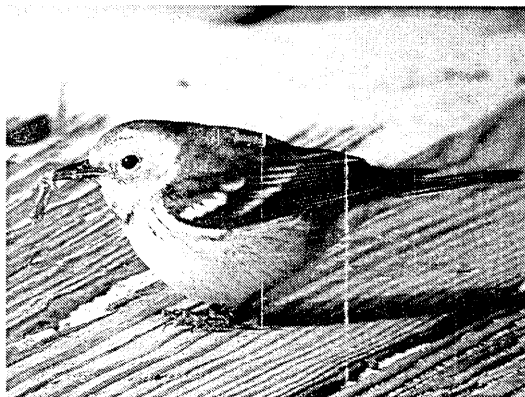
The first species shown on that list of five is "LONG-TOED STINT". This is an error, as the species has NEVER been recorded in the state and is NOT on the state checklist.

The Editor

First NYS Hermit Warbler or Hermit x Townsend's Hybrid?

This spectacular find 11/28/02 by Andrew Block at Jones Beach, Nassau Co. remained through 1 Dec and was seen by literally hundreds of birders wishing to add the species to their NYS list. A full detailed account and discussion by the finder, with photos, will appear in the March 2003 issue of the *The Kingbird*.

Jones Beach, Nassau Co.
28 Dec 2002
© Seth Ausubel



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON 2002

Willie D'Anna
2257 Cayuga Drive Extension,
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Weather Effects

It was another hot dry summer. July was the warmest in 47 years in Region 2 and it was the third driest summer on record at Buffalo in Region 1. In Region 10, the precipitation deficit for the first eight months of 2002 was a worrisome ten inches! Seventy forest fires blazed through the Adirondacks during the season. And I thought that was only a problem out west! Although the exceptionally cold and wet May weather continued into early June for most Regions, June ended very warm with this trend continuing through July and most of August. Region 6 was the exception in June with a warm dry start and a very wet finish that flooded streams and marshlands.

Atlas 2000

The middle year of this five-year breeding bird project was a particularly interesting one. In Region 10, Summer Tanager was confirmed nesting at a site where they reportedly nested before. However, that presumed first record was not accepted by the NYSARC. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, heard and seen in appropriate habitat in Region 7, is also not on the NYS checklist as a breeder. This bird, or possibly two birds, was present 30 Jul to 24 Aug. The species breeds not far away on the St. Lawrence River in Quebec.

Least Bitterns had a good season with birds found in every reporting Region, including five locations in Region 1, four locations in Region 5, and an impressive six adults at one location in Region 7.

Are more Wilson's Phalaropes be breeding in New York than suspected? The only known nesting site, a farm in Region 7, saw their return there this summer. In addition, three adults and a juvenile were found at another location not far away. Since Wilson's Phalarope is a late spring migrant, birders might assume that June sightings are of birds moving further north or west. Other June sightings this summer included a pair in Region 3, two in Region 2, and a single in Region 1. This is more than usual and *may* be an early indicator of a species that is expanding its breeding range. In any case Wilson's Phalaropes in summer should bear careful watching for possible breeding.

Sedge Wrens put in one of their best showings in years in Regions 1 & 2 and were also up in Regions 5, 6, & 7. Region 1 had their highest count of Henslow's Sparrows since 1967, unfortunately at a site that is threatened with development. Further tempering the good news was the complete absence of the species at the opposite end of the state in Region 8.

Some local first breeding records include Common Raven in Region 2, Common Loon on Skaneateles Lake (Region uncertain), and No. Parula in Dutchess County in Region 9. One recalls that last summer saw the return No. Parula to Region 10 after a long absence. Additional expansion of No. Parula should be looked for elsewhere in the state. Blue Grosbeak, a very rare breeder on Long Island, was confirmed at two sites and was probable at two others in Suffolk Co. in Region 10.

Yellow-breasted Chats are scarce breeders in the state, especially in inland Regions. Thus, the discovery of three singing males within close proximity in Region 1 was a major surprise. Ospreys were believed to have nested in Region 2 which will be a first there when confirmed. Sandhill Crane is still not on New York's list of breeding species but two at each of two locations in Region 2 this summer continues the intriguing possibility that breeding confirmation may not be far off.

I was stunned to learn that the number of birders helping out in Atlas 2000 is only a fraction of what it was in the first Atlas. Since there are many more birders now, it is difficult to understand. There are lots of good reasons to get involved. For starters, it is great experience which can help you to learn identification by both sight and sound. You get to see all sorts of interesting bird behavior as birds are never more animated than during the nesting season. Your observations make an important contribution to our knowledge and understanding and ultimately to conservation of birds and their habitats. Searching for "missing" birds on your list takes you to areas you might otherwise have passed by, areas that can often prove to be quite productive. And of course, there is always the chance for a surprise - like one of the many great finds discussed above. If you are an active birder, there many good reasons to get involved with Atlas 2000. Your help is urgently needed!

Miscellaneous

As usual, summer shorebirding was a mixed bag this season. One of the highlights was the number of Baird's Sandpipers, commented on by three Regional Editors. Region One's count of eight was its highest in 35 years and that was in addition to counts of seven and six at two other localities. Region 3 includes the often productive wetlands of Montezuma NWR, so the count of five at the refuge being the highest in five years is significant. Region 5 chimed in with a high count of six Baird's while Region 9 added two and Region 10 had its usual smattering.

A count of 30 Worm-eating Warblers in Region 9 makes it obvious where the stronghold of that species is in New York. Nesting at only a fractional percentage of what they used to, Common Nighthawks are now mainly watched for during their fall migration. Unfortunately, those numbers are also plummeting with very low maximum of 83 in Region 8.

Often highlighted in these pages for its declining trend, Black Tern did little to alleviate concern this season. Two major sources of disappointment were the complete absence of breeders in Region 2 and a very low maximum at a traditional Region 6 staging area. The news that most of the artificial nesting platforms placed in Region 6 marshes went unused is also disheartening. These negatives are only slightly countered by the high counts at Montezuma NWR. and the somewhat surprising breeding confirmation in Region 7.

Our Birds Under Threat

Not since the days of DDT have our birds faced such grave and immediate threats as they do now. The last two years have seen an alarming number of fish-eating waterbirds killed on Lake Erie, the result of an outbreak of Type E botulism. As Region 1 Editor Mike Morgante has documented in these pages, the diversity of species affected is surprising and even included one Red-tailed Hawk this season. Type E botulism has even spread to Lake Ontario where it was confirmed in a few gulls. Over 100 dead birds were found on Lake Erie this summer and with the knowledge that fall usually brings the greatest mortality, it is sobering to consider what may happen next season.

While we may have some idea of the number of birds affected by the botulism outbreak since many dead birds wash up on shore, determining the effect of West Nile Virus (WNV) is much more problematic. A few birders have commented to me on the greatly reduced number of American Crows and Blue Jays. While I have not personally noted a decrease in jays, it has *seemed* like there are fewer crows around. And while I am not ready to dismiss such casual observations, hard data is still necessary to determine the true effect upon bird populations. The fact that WNV has spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast in only three years is alarming. Let's hope that the birds can rapidly develop some immunity to this deadly disease.

Rarities

American Avocets are still on the NYSARC's review list, despite the increasing number of reports in the last 10 to 20 years. Unfortunately, without birders following through with documentation, that status may not change for a while, even if it is considered a "no-brainer" to identify. As many as 20 Avocets were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, & 10 with a most impressive ten at two localities in Region 3.

Birders turned up some greater rarities than normal for the summer season. Leading the way was at least one Brown Pelican moving around Lake Ontario which was a first for Regions 2 & 6 and Region 5's second. This species was also noted at several spots on the Canadian side of the lake. Formerly very rare, even on the coast of New York, Brown Pelicans have become annual in Region 10. A Bullock's Oriole in Region 1 will be the first for the Niagara

Frontier if accepted by NYSARC while a well-documented Least Tern, only the Region's third, was found dead on its fourth day there. The Eared Grebe capital of New York, the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant held an unprecedented four birds this summer. Continuing the trend of recent years, Region 2's Hamlin Beach Lakewatch recorded another Long-tailed Jaeger and a Black-headed Gull. Region 2's Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was even more unusual in spring while Marbled Godwit and Yellow-headed Blackbird are always good finds. One of the most bizarre birding events in recent years began with the discovery of a White-winged Dove in a rural area of Region 2. While looking for that bird, someone discovered an Eurasian Collared-Dove - the well-known "Patagonia picnic table" effect! These two Regional firsts were seen by many birders, often in the same yard, and both were frequently heard singing. Although the Eurasian Collared-Dove is not on the official New York State checklist, there have been multiple sightings on Long Island, where the possibility of escape is considered greater. The question now becomes, how will the NYSARC treat these two records? Both species are kept in captivity and their concurrent appearance in the same yard is somewhat suspect. At the same time, neither was banded and no captive source for the birds could be found. A King Rail in Region 3 was a great bird, made better by its occasional wanderings into view of birders over a three-week period. A most unusual for summer Pomarine Jaeger and two Cattle Egrets highlighted Region 5's list. The two American White Pelicans in Region 6 completed their sweep of North American pelicans this season. Region 7's Three-toed Woodpecker was not only a great rarity but a great Atlas find as well. Region 9's King Rail was reported from early June well into July, hopefully nesting, while the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow found in early June was undoubtedly a migrant. Pelagic species highlighted Region 10's list of rarities, include an albatross species and a South Polar Skua. With very few records in the state, two separate White-faced Ibises in that Region was an incredible discovery. The prairie-breeding Franklin's Gull that Region 10 had is a great summer find of this declining species. A Loggerhead Shrike there was their first since 1994 and the occurrence of one or two Common Ravens now means that all ten Regions have had recent records of the species.

My choice for Bird of the Season goes to two birds - Region 2's Eurasian Collared-Dove and Region 10's breeding Summer Tanagers. While the collared-dove may be considered suspect, which could preclude its addition to the state checklist, its occurrence along with the White-winged Dove certainly created some great excitement for New York's birders. Equally exciting in this mid-year of Atlas 2000, the nesting Summer Tanagers were reportedly documented with photographs and hopefully this time can be officially added to New York's list of breeding species.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster NY 14086
morgm@localnet.com

June was cool over the first three weeks but ended up warmer than usual over the last week. The average temperature was 67°F, 1.2° above average. It was a dry month as only 1.47" of rain fell, which was 2.35" below normal. It was the first month since November 2001 with below normal precipitation in Buffalo. Sunshine, heat and humidity characterized July in the Niagara Frontier. The average temperature was 73.4°, 2.6° above normal. It was very dry over the first three weeks until several thunderstorms occurred during the last week. Precipitation was 3.24", only 0.10" above the average. Sunshine was nearly constant at 77%. August was also very warm, sunny and dry. The average temperature was 71.5°, 2.4 degrees above normal. Rain was scarce, with only 1.77" falling, 2.1" less than usual. Overall, it was the third driest summer on record for Buffalo and the sunniest since 1988. [Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service Web site *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.]

The Region's birders again made some interesting finds during the third summer of the Atlas 2000 project.

Sedge Wrens made a much better showing than usual. Individuals in Clymer and Wilson were from new locations. Four in Pomfret were found at a site where occasional sightings were documented in recent years. Three separate, protected locations at Iroquois NWR again held singing birds this year according to refuge staff. Other than at Iroquois, where selected habitat is being managed for grassland bird species, increased sightings are likely due to enhanced observer effort from the Atlas. I suspect that this rare local breeder still goes undetected in some wet meadows and weedy fields. Targeted searches would be difficult but could turn up more birds.

Henslow's Sparrows were found at several previously documented breeding areas. Concerned about development plans for the William Street site in Lancaster, I contacted NYSDEC and completed forms for the Natural Heritage Registry. On the evening of 25 July, Mark Kandel (NYSDEC) and I conducted a conservative count at the site and tallied 15 individuals. This count is the highest for the Region since 1967 and the location represents the largest known population of this species in Region 1. The location is approximately 15 miles east of Ontario, Canada, where this species is virtually absent and is listed as endangered. Hopefully, this documentation will help NYSDEC and the Town of Lancaster develop a strategy to protect this area or to conserve local habitat for this species. Birders are encouraged to share their knowledge of state-threatened and endangered species with their local NYSDEC office.

Follow-up visits in search of a **Yellow-breasted Chat** observed in late May at the Schoolhouse Marsh parking area at Iroquois NWR resulted in the discovery of

three actively singing chats in the vicinity. Several birders observed these birds throughout the month of June. Chats are irregular and local breeders in the Region and this apparent small colony was unexpected.

Atlas 2000 work has already documented the increase of breeding Pine Warblers in the Region. Observations were made from eight locations this summer. Breeding was only known from a few locations prior to the first Atlas 2000 season. It was also encouraging to have Prothonotary Warblers reported from two previously documented breeding areas at Iroquois NWR and nearby Tonawanda WMA. Breeding has been infrequently recorded in recent years from these locations.

Peregrine Falcons successfully nested again at both the Statler Tower site in downtown Buffalo and the gorge at Niagara Falls. Three fledglings were reared at both nests. The breeding female from the Buffalo nest was banded as a wild fledgling in New Brunswick, Canada (700 miles east of Buffalo) in 1998. This was her fourth year as a productive female in Buffalo.

Great Egret nestlings at the Motor Island Colony were fitted with red leg bands by NYSDEC. Twenty nestlings were banded in early June and an impressive total of 37 egrets was present on 3 July. Please look for banded egrets and report any sightings to NYSDEC or to Bill Watson. On 31 August, a record Regional count of 55 Great Egrets was made at Iroquois NWR, where the late summer numbers of dispersed egrets have increased in recent years.

There were some notable records this summer beyond the breeding species. Rita Kautz closely observed an unusual oriole at the oriole feeder in her Attica backyard on 13 June. She then went to her bird books and identified it as an adult male **Bullock's Oriole**. The bird did not return to the popular feeder in the following days. A report was filed with NYSARC; this would represent a first for Region 1 if accepted.

Don Harris and Brendan Klick found a **Least Tern** at Woodlawn Beach State Park on 17 August. Many birders were able to observe the noticeably weakened bird in the following days until it was reportedly found dead on 20 August. Subsequent searches to recover the specimen were unsuccessful. This represents the third documented and first summer record for the Region. Reports of at least two other wayward Least Terns on the Great Lakes were made during the same time frame in Ohio and Indiana.

Eared Grebe is becoming expected at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. It has been nearly annual at this location since the mid 1990s, including the past two summer seasons. One was found on 17 August, followed by a Regional high count of four on 25 August. It is suspected that the same individuals are returning each year in late summer and remaining deep into the fall.

Severe outbreaks of Type E botulism caused extensive mortality to piscivorous waterbirds on Lake Erie during the previous two years. While increased mortality occurred during the fall seasons, there is also an impact during the summer, primarily on gulls. At the Bethlehem Steel Plant gull colony in Lackawanna, an estimated total of 4000 Ring-billed Gulls, adults and young of year, were found

dead over the first two weeks of July. Type E botulism was believed to be the cause of death for the majority of these birds because of a confirmed test result and because both adults and young were affected. NYSDEC conducted weekly counts for dead birds this summer along the Lake Erie shoreline. Nine species were recorded: Ring-billed Gull (92), Herring Gull (7), Great Black-backed Gull (7), Sanderling (2), Common Loon (1), Canada Goose (1), Mallard (1), Black Scoter (1) and Red-tailed Hawk (1). The majority of these birds were believed to be dead from botulism. NYSDEC is very concerned that this outbreak could spread to Lake Ontario. Several gulls found dead along Lake Ontario in Niagara County were submitted for analytical testing. Fortunately, Type E botulism was not confirmed. However, Type E botulism was diagnosed in other gulls collected in eastern Lake Ontario.

Spring migrant shorebirds lingered into early June, including a late **Wilson's Phalarope** in Newfane on 12 June. Summer shorebirding was highlighted by increased numbers of Baird's Sandpipers found during the last week of August. A Regional record count of eight was made at Batavia WWTP while counts of six and seven were made at Woodlawn Beach State Park and Lakeside Beach State Park, respectively. For the third consecutive summer, **American Avocet** was sighted in Chautauqua County. Other notable shorebirds included a Red Knot at Woodlawn Beach, **Western Sandpiper** at Dunkirk Harbor, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Iroquois NWR and a Red-necked Phalarope at Batavia WWTP.

Other highlights for the season included sightings of Canvasback, Northern Goshawk, Merlin, Laughing Gull, White-eyed Vireo, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Pine Siskin.

I'd like to thank Ken Roblee and Mark Kandel of NYSDEC and Dick Miga for their contributions.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Jim Berry, Elizabeth Brooks, Bill Burch, Willie D'Anna, Leonard DeFrancisco, Kurt Fox, Don Harris, Paul Hess (INWR), Paul F.Hess (PFH), Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula, Linda Holmes, Rita Kautz, Brendan Klick, David Mark (DMA), Dick Miga (DMi), Miley Miller (MMi), Mike Morgante (MMo), Terry Mosher, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerry Rising, Mark Schlacter, Jack Skalicky, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Dave Tetlow, Michael Turisk, William Watson, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; Carlton Hill MUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area, WYOM; ChauL – Chautauqua L; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NR – Niagara River; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA,

GENE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, E Aurora, ERIE; Tiftt NP – Tiftt Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WeBSP – Wendt Beach SP, ERIE; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: dead L Erie shoreline 2 Jun (DEC); Farmersville CATT 6 Jun; AISP 8 Jul; NF 11 Aug; unusual in summer.

EARED GREBE: arr BWWTP 17 Aug (BK!); max 4 BWWTP 25 Aug (MMo!), record count for Reg; third straight summer and nearly annual since mid 1990s at this location.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1093 BuSP 28 Aug (WW); high counts continue, apparent breeding increases, nesting at Motor I NR again.

Am. Bittern: TWMA 23 Jun; INWR 24 Jul; 3 OOWMA 17 Aug; 3 TWMA 24 Aug; no reports away from INWR area.

Least Bittern: Wilson NIAG 21 Jun (WD), newly discovered breeding location; Cheney Marsh CATT 21 Jun (MMi); TWMA 23 Jun (PY); Porter NIAG 27 Jun (BRBA); decent showing away from INWR area.

Great Egret: 20 nestlings Motor I NR banded 17 Jun; 37 Motor I NR 3 Jul (WW); 10 TWMA 25 Jul; 8 Tiftt NP 30 Jul; max 55 INWR 31 Aug (BK, DH), record count for Reg.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Newstead ERIE 2 Jun; Yates ORLE 5 Jun; SPNS 7 Jun; Cheney Marsh CATT 29 Jul; only reports away from NR.

Mute Swan: 2 WTSP 14 Jul, only report; up to 35 on L Erie just west of NR in Ontario 3 Aug; increasing to immediate west and east, but still uncommon in Reg.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Conewango WMA CATT 6 Jun (JB); INWR 8 Jun (DH), banded; BWWTP 15 Jun thru (KF), neck-collared.

Gadwall: 2 BWWTP 7 Jul (WW), unusual location for date.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 20 BWWTP 24 Aug.

N. Shoveler: Clarence ERIE 2 Jun; 5 BWWTP 15 Jun; DH 4 Aug; max 24 BWWTP 17 Aug.

N. Pintail: BWWTP 25 Aug; only report.
Green-winged Teal: 12 INWR 27 Jun (DH), good count for date; 4 BWWTP 24 Aug.

Canvasback: 2 ad m BWWTP 15 Jun thru (KF, BK!), second consecutive summer there; 2 BuSP 20 Aug (WW!); rare in summer.

Redhead: NF 24 Aug; BWWTP 25 Aug; only reports away from INWR.

Greater Scaup: 2 NF 24 Aug (BK! DH); rare in summer.

Lesser Scaup: 12, 11 Amity L ALLE 3, 17 Jun (VP), high counts for date; BWWTP 15, 29 Jun; 3 NF 11 Aug; INWR 17 Aug thru; more locations than usual in summer.

BLACK SCOTER: dead L Erie shoreline 19 Aug (DEC); very rare in summer.

Bufflehead: NF 11 Aug (BK! DH); BWWTP 24-25 Aug (BK! DH); unusual in summer.

Red-breasted Merganser: BuSP 20 Aug; unusual in summer.

Ruddy Duck: 219, 291, 309 BWWTP 15 Jun, 7 Jul, 17 Aug; much higher counts than previous summers there.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Newfane NIAG 19 Jun; Yates ORLE 25 Jul; unusual early summer locations; SPNS 7, 19 Aug; Barcelona CHAU 26 Aug; Persia CHAU 30 Aug.

Bald Eagle: imm BWWTP 15 Jun (KF); 2 imm Newfane NIAG 19 Jun; imm Yates ORLE 11 Jul; reports from non-breeding areas.

N. Goshawk: ad Yorkshire CATT 1 Jun (DH); CHAU 6 Aug (LD); new locations.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Marilla ERIE 13

Jun; 3 Bennington WYOM 5 Jul; good Atlas finds at north end of breeding range.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Bennington WYOM 8 Jun, near edge of breeding range in Reg; Elma ERIE 15 Jun, possibly late migrant.

Merlin: 2 INWR 25 Aug (MMo!), slightly early.

Peregrine Falcon: 3 fl Buffalo ERIE (BB), adults seen downtown Buffalo thru; 2 ad, 3 fl NF 29 Jun.

Sora: Wilson NIAG 16 Jun (WD, BP), good Atlas find.

Am. Coot: 21 TWMA 2 Jun; Sherman CHAU 8 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 9 Jun; 2 ad, 2 yg BuSP 20 Aug (WW), irregular breeder in Reg.

Black-bellied Plover: INWR 3 Jun; arr 3 Tillman WMA ERIE 9 Aug; Newstead ERIE 17 Aug; 2 WoBSP 18 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 INWR 5 Jun, late spring migrants.

AM. AVOCET: Van Buren Pt CHAU 16 Aug (JGo); regular migrant recent summers in CHAU.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr INWR 24 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 Times Beach ERIE 7 Jul; BWWTP 7 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Rushford CATT 10 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: Eagle WYOM 18 Jun (WW); 2 Buffalo Airport ERIE 30 Jul (MMo), likely migrants.

Red Knot: WoBSP 24 Aug (KF); less than annual in summer.

Sanderling: arr Newfane NIAG 18 Jul; 4 WoBSP 17 Aug; max 16 LBSP 27 Aug; 7 DH 31 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 64 TWMA 2 Jun (WW); 15 INWR 5 Jun (WW); arr INWR 24 Jul.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: DH 16 Aug (DMi), unverified.

Least Sandpiper: arr 2 BWWTP 7 Jul; max 36 TWMA 25 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3, 1 INWR 3, 5 Jun; 2 Ridgeway ORLE 13 Jun (WW), slightly late.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 6, 3 WoBSP, DH 24 Aug (KF, DMi); max 8 BWWTP 25 Aug (MMo, PY), highest Reg count in 35 yrs; 7 LBSP 26 Aug (DT); impressive showing.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 TWMA 29 Jul; max 25 INWR 17 Aug.

Dunlin: last 11 INWR 3 Jun (DH).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 14 INWR 17 Aug (BK, DH), impressive count; 2 Tift NP 24 Aug.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: INWR 24 Aug (BK! DH), slightly early.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 INWR 17 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: Otto CATT 9 Jun; max 43 INWR 24 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: Newfane NIAG 12 Jun (WW!), late.

Red-necked Phalarope: BWWTP 24-31 Aug (WW! mob); regular there in late summer.

LAUGHING GULL: DH 25 Jun (JGu); unusual in any season.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 60 WoBSP 17 Aug.

Caspian Tern: Buffalo NR 9 Jun; 4 DH 11 Jun; max 30 WoBSP 18 Aug; 27 DH 25 Aug.

Com. Tern: 11 ChauL 2 Jun (JB); 2 INWR 13, 22 Jun; unusual locations for date.

Forster's Tern: arr WoBSP 24 Aug; 2 WoBSP 31 Aug (WD, KF).

LEAST TERN: WoBSP 17-18 Aug (BK! DH, mob); third Reg record, first for summer; found dead 20 Aug.

Black Tern: 2 SPNS 13 Jun (LH), unusual location; max 11 TWMA 29 Jun.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Blasdell ERIE 1-5 Jun (MT); Buffalo ERIE 2, 22 Jun; 3 Clymer CHAU 29 Jun (JB); few sightings in breeding season; 17 Falconer CHAU 25 Aug (LD); max 26 ChauL 26 Aug (MMi).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Charlotte CHAU 3 Jun; 2 WeBSP 10 Jun, 23 Jul;

INWR 16 Jun; Newfane NIAG 19 Jun, newly discovered breeding location; Como P ERIE 24 Jul thru; 3 PG 24 Aug; 2 LBSP 26 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Como P ERIE 1 Jun-3 Jul; may be expanding breeding range in ERIE.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Stockton CHAU 6 Jun (DMi), late migrant; Tiffi NP 24 Aug (DMa).

Acadian Flycatcher: 7 locations CATT, CHAU, ERIE, WYOM during breeding season; max 4 Boston ERIE 13 Jun (JS).

White-eyed Vireo: WoBSP 24 Aug (KF); rarely reported as summer or fall migrant.

Com. Raven: 3 Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 24 Aug (JB); only report away from ALLE, CATT.

Cliff Swallow: 4 Peace Bridge Buffalo ERIE 16 Jun; 26 BuSP 15 Jun; continues increase along Buffalo waterfront and Niagara Ri.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Yates ORLE 29 Jun; ad + yg Newfane NIAG 18 Jul; good Atlas finds on L Ontario Plain.

Carolina Wren: continues apparent increase throughout Reg.

SEDGE WREN: Clymer CHAU 8 Jun (JB!); Wilson NIAG 16-22 Jun (WD!); 4 Pomfret CHAU 21 Jun (TM!); singing at 3 locations INWR 7 Jul (PH); encouraging; good showing.

Swainson's Thrush: last Tonawanda ERIE 8 Jun; AISP 12 Jul (PFH); arr INWR 24 Aug.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Newfane NIAG 12, 23 Jun; Barre ORLE 15, 22 Jun; only reports.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: WoBSP 24 Aug (KF), unusual migrant find.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Eagle WYOM 2, 18 Jun (MS! WW!); 2 Barre ORLE 16 Jun (PY!); still very rare despite increase in hybrid types.

Nashville Warbler: Alfred ALLE 3, 14 Jun (EB); Yorkshire CATT 6, 29 Jun; uncommon breeder in Reg.

Pine Warbler: 2 Wilson NIAG 1 Jun (WD!); Darien 8, 15 Jun (MMo!); 2 Sardinia ERIE 8 Jun (MT!); Bolivar ALLE 8 Jun (GR); 3 Bush Hill SF CATT 9 Jun (DH); Friendship ALLE 10 Jun (GR); 2 E Aurora ERIE 19 Jun; Bennington WYOM 5 Jul (MMo!); continues increase as breeder in Reg.

Prairie Warbler: 6 Yorkshire CATT 1 Jun (DH); 3 Andover ALLE 3-30 Jun (EB); 6 Alfred ALLE 8 Jun (EB); 6 Otto CATT 29 Jun (WD); 2 Gerry CHAU 1 Jun (FR!); possible new breeding location.

Blackpoll Warbler: last INWR 2 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: INWR 2 Jun (WW); 2, 1 TWMA 23, 29 Jun (PY, DH); historical breeding locations but infrequently reported in recent years.

Hooded Warbler: increasing as breeder NIAG and elsewhere.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Dunkirk CHAU 24 Aug.

Canada Warbler: Yates ORLE 5, 13 Jun (WW), unusual breeding location.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 3 INWR 8-29 Jun (KF, mob), persistent singers, apparent small breeding cluster, unusual.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 3 Yorkshire CATT 1 Jun (DH!); 2 Andover ALLE thru 21 Jul (EB!), historical breeding area.

Vesper Sparrow: reported 6 locations; max 6 Barre ORLE 15 Jun (DH).

Grasshopper Sparrow: reported 9 locations.

Henslow’s Sparrow: 3, 4 Eagle WYOM 2, 18 Jun (MS, WW); 2 Carlton Hill MUA 14 Jun (KF); Barre ORLE 15 Jun (DH); 2 INWR 7 Jul (PH); max 15 Lancaster ERIE 25 Jul (MMo), conservative count made with NYSDEC, highest Reg count in 35 years, site threatened by development.

White-throated Sparrow: Blasdell ERIE
8 Jun (MT!), late migrant or unusual
breeding location.

Bobolink: max 50 INWR 25 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: 2 Eden ERIE thr 24 Jul
(RA!), rare breeder away from lake plains;
Wilson NIAG 30 Jun (WD).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: ad m Attica

WYOM 13 Jun (R. Kautz, report to
NYSARC); will be first Reg record if
accepted by NYSARC.

PINE SISKIN: 5 Amity L ALLE 12 Jun
(VP!); Marilla ERIE 13 Jun (MMo!);
Colden ERIE 22 Jun (JW!); possible
breeders.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

If you like them hot and dry, this was the summer for you. Of course, if you were a farmer, this wasn't your best summer. June started out on the cool side but finished with warmth and an average temperature of 67.6°F. That reading was 1.8° above normal. It reached 91° on 25 June. While the precipitation for the month totaled 4.29", 0.93" above normal, it was really a month of halves. The first half was fairly wet, with the bulk of the precipitation falling during a 12 hour period on 14-15 June, while the second half of the month saw little or no rainfall. July was sunny, warm and humid. It was the warmest in 47 years and the tenth warmest in the last 100. The average temperature was 3.3° above normal at 74.0°. It was 90° or higher on seven days and 80° or higher on 23 days. The dew point was in the 70s on 15 days. Precipitation totaled 1.59", 1.34" below normal. The bulk of the rain fell during the final week of the month. August saw much of the same thing. The average temperature was 72.4°, 3.5° above normal. Again there were seven days when the temperature reached 90° or higher. The week of 11-16 August could best be described as torrid. A record high of 97° was reached on the 14th. Precipitation was a mere 0.84", 2.2" less than normal. Rain came in the form of spotty showers and local thunderstorms.

The breeding season was nonetheless interesting. The wetness that was prevalent in May continued into June and was most likely the cause for many nesting failures during that period. This was noted particularly for American Kestrels, Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds. Other early nesters certainly suffered. Some seemed to be delayed in nesting, but still successful. The weather the rest of the season was conducive to Atlasing, and observers spent a great deal of time in the field. This produces many Atlas records, but not always increased reports to the Regional editor.

The lakewatch once again documented the occurrence of Common Loons on Lake Ontario for the bulk of the season. Pied-billed Grebe reports came from scattered locations and generally echoed the trend of decreased breeding. Double-crested Cormorants were regular, but were almost exclusively adults. A highlight was the presumably wild immature **Brown Pelican** that was observed at Hamlin Beach and Sodus Point in June, July and August. The sightings were most likely of the same individual. This was a first record for the Region, ignoring the presumed escape seen 19 September 1981.

Atlasing certainly helped the wader picture. American and Least bitterns were turned up in a number of locations, many of which are not normally birded. Numbers trend downward, but the increased activity brought more reports than usual. Great Egret numbers were well above normal. A single bird was seen arranging sticks in a nest at the edge of a Great Blue Heron colony in Wayne County, but breeding was not confirmed. Green Herons were well reported, while Black-crowned Night-Herons were scarce.

The waterfowl picture was aided by the continuation of the lakewatch into June. Brant are fairly regular in early June. Mute Swan and Canada Goose continued their successful breeding in higher than hoped for numbers. There were pairs of American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal observed, but no confirmation of breeding. Scattered individuals and small numbers were reported for Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser and Common Merganser.

The raptor picture for the most part was positive. It is highly likely that a pair of Osprey nested in northern Wayne County almost to the Lake Ontario shore this summer. This species has only recently been added as a breeder in the Region as the increased numbers at Montezuma NWR have pushed north into Wayne County. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks were well reported. Bob Spahn commented that many Cooper's Hawks seem to be occupying breeding sites traditionally held by Northern Goshawks. This may contribute to or be a result of the goshawk decline in the Region. The late summer hawk flights were generally good. The flights are dominated by Red-tailed Hawks, but many other species are mixed in with them. Ring-necked Pheasants were scarce, but Wild Turkeys were well reported, with second broods suggested by many observations of very small young in late August. Rails weren't very well reported this year, so speculation on their status would be at best just that – speculation. Sandhill Crane pairs were reported into June in Savannah, Wayne County, and at Taylor Marsh, Ontario County. Breeding was not confirmed, but we can hope that it will be in the near future.

The shorebird migration was characterized by the usual lack of habitat. The late spring and return migrations were generally weak. Highlights included Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. The best of the season though was an **American Avocet** discovered by Doug Daniels at Sodus Point.

As has been the case in recent years, **Long-tailed Jaeger** was reported at the

end of August from Hamlin Beach. The best gull reports were of Little Gull, **Black-headed Gull** and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Black Terns were not found nesting in the Region this season; their precipitous decline has apparently reached the point of extirpation as a local breeder.

Two of the real highlights this season were the discovery of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** and **White-winged Dove** in Hamlin by Brett Ewald and Mike Davids, respectively. Both were discovered on 8 June, the former by Brett while searching for the latter, seen earlier by Mike. The White-winged Dove was last seen on the 18th, but the Collared-Dove was reported through the season. The Eurasian Collared-Dove will probably be the second state record if accepted by NYSARC as a wild bird. There have been previous reports in Regions 5 and 10, with the former, in 2001, likely to be accepted as an addition to *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. The White-winged Dove is a Regional first.

Barred Owls were turned up regularly by Atlas workers in new locations. A few of the now expected Northern Saw-whet Owls were also reported. Long-eared Owls were also reported as breeders. The sad trends for Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will continued, with no reports of either during the season. Red-headed Woodpecker reports were up, primarily due to the increased coverage by Atlas workers. Mature oak stands along the Lake Ontario shore even produced reports. The same was true for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, with reports on the increase this season.

Nesting flycatchers were well reported. Acadian continued to be found, but mostly away from the traditional locations. Great -crested Flycatchers seemed to do very well this year. Vireos presented no real surprises or trends. Common Raven was confirmed as a breeder in the southern reaches of the Region at Rattlesnake Hill WMA. This confirmation has been long overdue, as reports have been consistent for many years. Hopefully, that same fate awaits Fish Crow. Sightings along the lakeshore continue, but breeding has not been confirmed.

The swallow picture was pretty much the same as usual with the exception of Purple Martin, which seemed to be affected by the cool, wet early season. In some cases the martins abandoned the nest sites very early. Cliff Swallows were absent from some formerly occupied sites. The Sedge Wren nesting records from four different locations in the Region were a pleasant surprise. In recent years this species has been completely absent as a nester and sometimes not even recorded for the year. Other wrens were about normal, with Carolina Wren continuing to do well and Marsh Wren showing variations in abundance. Some locations, such as the marshes south of Irondequoit Bay, showed good numbers of Marsh Wrens, while the marsh areas of the west lakeshore seemed to harbor smaller numbers this year. The Buck Pond stronghold for this species seemed normal to slightly below normal.

Nothing really stood out one way or the other with the thrushes. The traditional late spring migration of Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes was okay but not spectacular. Mimids did well, with very good numbers of Gray Catbird and Northern Mockingbird. Brown Thrasher even seemed a bit on the up side from recent years.

Warblers showed a varied picture. While Blue-winged continues to do well, Golden-winged was scarce, with only a few reports from scattered locations. On the plus side were Cerulean, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Mourning and Hooded, with the latter two continuing to spread into new areas. On the down side were Nashville (away from Bergen Swamp), Northern Parula, Prairie, Prothonotary and Canada. These are not typically present in large numbers so there may not necessarily be a trend. A Yellow-breasted Chat report was good as this species is an uncommon nester at best. [There were several others after the report deadline when late Atlas summaries filtered in. RREd]

Scarlet Tanager was well reported, as was Eastern Towhee. Vesper Sparrow seems to be holding its own in appropriate habitat. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows were hard to find, especially Henslow's. Of interest was a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** on 7 June in Savannah near the location of the Sandhill Crane sightings. Late May records have occurred, so it was likely a migrant. The White-throated Sparrow in June at Thousand Acre Swamp was a surprise.

The icterid picture was highlighted by a calling male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** on 11 July in the marshes south of Irondequoit Bay. Orchard Orioles were present in the usual small numbers. Observers commented on the good numbers of Baltimore Orioles. In the finch department, Purple Finch seemed low, yet a pair was found nesting along the lakeshore. There were no reports of breeding Pine Siskins, but there were some midsummer sightings of Evening Grosbeaks at feeders.

The June species total was 178, July was 168 and August was 170. June was slightly above the 10 year average while the other two months were slightly below. Total species count for the year was at 286, which is significantly higher than the 10 year average of 271.5.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jessie Barry, Karen Beadling, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Diane Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Gary Chapin, Charles Chick, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Mike Davids, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Steve Eaton, Brett Ewald, Jeannine & Kurt Fox, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Helen Haller, Greg Hartenstein, Diane Henderson, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Greg Martocello, Chita & Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara, Cathie Sandell, Dominic Sherony, Robert & Susan Spahn, Jeff Spindler, Paul Spindler, David Strong, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Bill Thompson, Don & Donna Traver.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; CL – Conesus L, LIVI; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; LW – Letchworth SP, LIVI/WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; P – T Perinton, MONR; PA – T Parma, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SP – Sodus Pt, WAYN.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 1-3 HB Jul.
Horned Grebe: arr 2 HB 19Aug (WS), record early.
Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 7 Aug (WS), record early.
BROWN PELICAN: imm HB 6 Jun (WS!); SP 19-25 Jul (KF!, mob); SP 10 Aug (DD!); first Reg record.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 742 HB 29 Aug, high count.
Great Egret: 7 G 5 Jun, 10 H 13 Jun, 31 S 30 Aug, good totals; 1 WAYN 29 Jun (R&SS), adjusting material on nest.
Brant: 2 HB 1 Jun; last 5 HB 6 Jun.
Gadwall: arr 5 HB 20 Aug (WS), record early.
Am. Wigeon: 2 HB 20, 24 Jun.
N. Shoveler: 1, 2 PA 2, 9 Jun; arr HB 18 Aug (WS), record early.
N. Pintail: arr 2 HB 25 Aug, early.
Green-winged Teal: HP 24-26 Jun; WYOM 20 Jun; 2 HB 24 Jun.
Canvasback: IB 20 Jun.
Greater Scaup: HB 16 Jul; arr HB 25 Aug, unusual dates.
Lesser Scaup: arr 5 HB 31 Aug.
White-winged Scoter: last 3 HB 2 Jun (WS); arr 3 HB 6 Aug (WS).
Long-tailed Duck: 4 HB 2 Jun; 2 HB 13 Jun; 3 HB 30 Jun.
Com. Merganser: HB 24 Jul.
Red-breasted Merganser: 1-2 HB 1-6 Jun.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Red-tailed Hawk: 1130 BB 11 Aug; 1035 BB 13 Aug; 1175 BB 14 Aug; very good counts for fall movement.
Merlin: arr HB 5 Aug (RS, WS), record early.
Sandhill Crane: 1-2 S thru 30 Jun; 1-2 Taylor Marsh, Honeoye thru (Lynn Braband, pers. com. with RS).
Black-bellied Plover: arr HB 5Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr HP 23 Aug; max 60 HB 31 Aug; scarce this fall.
Semipalmated Plover: arr SP 21 Jul.

AMERICAN AVOCET: SP 11 Aug (DD!).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr P 15 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr P 30 Jun.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Webster 11 Jul.
Willet: SP 11 Aug (DD!); annual in very small numbers.
Upland Sandpiper: max 12 Geneseo Airport 13 Aug (JK), high count for this declining breeder.
Whimbrel: arr SP 25 Jul (KF); HB 28 Jul (WS); HB 16 Aug (MD, RS); HP 22 Aug (DT).
Marbled Godwit: HP 27 Jul (DT), rare.
Sanderling: arr 3 SP 21 Jul; HB 21 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr P 15 Jul.
Western Sandpiper: 2 HB 9 Jun (DT), unusual and few reports in spring.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 HP 7 Jul.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr Cuylerville 9 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr P 15 Jul.
Dunlin: HB 16 Jun.
Stilt Sandpiper: 1 alt plumage P 14 Jul (DS, *et al*), not often seen in this plumage.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr HB 3 Jul.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr ad S 30-31 Aug (RS).
Wilson's Phalarope: last 2 PA 9 Jun (BE); 2 S 30 Aug (R&SS).
Parasitic Jaeger: HB 6, 20, 27 Aug; typical of recent years; first date record early.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: ad 18 Aug (MD, WS, DT), nearly annual when daily lakewatch active.
Little Gull: 3 ad HB 5 Aug (RS, WS); ad HB 6 Aug (RS, WS); only reports for Aug.
Black-headed Gull: imm HB 20 Aug (WS).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 in 2nd summer plumage Kendall 8 Jul (JB).
Com. Tern: max 38 HB 19 Aug (WS).
Forster's Tern: 6 HB 3 Jun.
Black Tern: HB 6 Aug; 2 BB last half Aug; only reports for this former local breeder.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1-2 H 8 Jun thru (BE, Mob); not yet on NYS Checklist; pending NYSARC review of this and prior reports.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: H 8-18 Jun (MD, mob); 1st Reg report.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr LW 9 Jun (BE), very late this year.

Com. Nighthawk: max 14 G 5, 7 Jun, very poor max; last G 8 Jun; fall max 5 Greece 31 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Cummings Nature Center, Naples 15 Jun (SE), late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 M 2 Jun; arr 3 M 19 Aug, banded.

Philadelphia Vireo: last G 1 Jun.

Fish Crow: G 6 Jul, 5 Aug (KG).

Com. Raven: 2 LW 17 Jun.

Sedge Wren: 6, 3, 1 Pt Breeze ORLE various Jun (DT, mob); 2 Beatty Pt G 15 Jun (JB); Victor 8 Jun (GC,DS); G 24 Jun (JB).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last M 2 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: Mendon Pds P 20 Jul, rare this date; arr Rush 7 Aug, early.

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: T Sweden 17 Jul (RS).

Prairie Warbler: HB 29 Aug (MD,RS), unusual location.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr G 29 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last G 8 Jun; ad Hemlock L 13 Jul observed while Atlasing (DS,GH); arr BB 30 Aug.

Connecticut Warbler: BB 31 Aug (MD,KD).

Wilson's Warbler: last 5 M 2 Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1, 2 CL 15, 21 Jun (JK).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED

SPARROW: S 7 Jun (KF), late in new location.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last M 2 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: Thousand Acre Swamp, Penfield 25 Jun.

Bobolink: max 250 HP 9 Aug (DT), high count.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: m calling from cattails IB 11 Jul (R&SS).



REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira NY 14905

brown_creeper@sg23.com

Summer 2002 was warmer than normal in every month. June was the fourth rainiest on record, keeping water levels high in the Region's rivers. However, rainfall was only 60% of normal in July and August, and water levels dropped to expose shoals and mudflats.

For many years, birders in the Ithaca area have conducted the Ithaca June Count, using basically the same approach and counting methods as used on Christmas Bird Counts. These data have been the foundation for the Region's summer data over those years. This year, however, the data were not available at the time of the writing of this report. As a result, I have made no comparison of this year's local breeding bird population indicators with previous years' numbers. However, I have made the usual comparisons for transient species, for species little affected by the Ithaca June Count, such as those occurring in marsh habitat, and for species whose late summer flocking behaviors produce such large numbers that the Ithaca June Count numbers for them become relatively insignificant.

Pied-billed Grebes have steadily increased in the Region since I began keeping records. Although the increases have not been statistically significant every year, they were this year, capping four consecutive years of increases. Management of the wetlands in both the Montezuma Wetlands Complex and Montezuma NWR has certainly helped this threatened species, as well as several other marsh species.

Management of Double-crested Cormorants seems to be equally successful. The objective of reducing numbers in Lake Ontario seems to be affecting the number of post-breeding-season birds occurring in the Finger Lakes Region. The number reported this year may only be about half of that reported two years ago.

Great Blue Heron numbers dropped dramatically from a year ago. Perhaps the high river levels of spring and June, which certainly diminished the number of fishing locations available, caused many of the birds to push on to other areas for nesting. Great Egrets also appeared in lower numbers than last year, though they did not show the drastic decrease that the Great Blue Herons showed. The six Least Bitterns observed at Montezuma were the most seen in the Region in nearly a decade. They were so reliably observable that people went to the Refuge expecting to see a Least Bittern. Black-crowned Night-Herons were present in good numbers. There were no rare wanderers from the south reported this summer.

Another marsh denizen present in better numbers this summer was Ruddy Duck. The most unusual duck reports were of a female Bufflehead at Montezuma in early June and again in early July, and Jesse Ellis's report of a Greater Scaup on Cayuga Lake near Stewart Park at the end of the period. One Snow Goose tarried throughout the summer at the Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

Fred Sibley was surprised to find a large number of Virginia Rails calling at

Texas Hollow Bird Sanctuary. His discovery helped the Region total to its highest level in five years. In contrast, Common Moorhens were reported at their lowest level. It is hard to say whether water levels were unfavorable for nesting, or more cover for hiding was related to their poor showing. The bird of the season was the **King Rail** that sang and occasionally walked into view at Montezuma for more than three weeks.

It was not a great shorebird summer, but Baird's Sandpiper and American Woodcock were reported in their highest numbers in five years. American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover and Stilt Sandpiper had their lowest numbers in that period. Upland Sandpiper seemed to rebound from two years of very low numbers. The most exciting shorebird was **American Avocet**. Jack Brubaker found seven on the breakwater at Watkins Glen and Joe Brin and Bernie Carr simultaneously watched three at Montezuma. All of the avocets departed before the next day. Another great find was Pete Hosner's Red-necked Phalarope.

Very intriguing were the two **Wilson's Phalaropes** that Bard Prentiss and Jay McGowan flushed from a roadside puddle. At least one of them was an adult female. The date of 20 June is midway between recent spring departures and fall arrivals. *Bull's Birds of New York State* classifies a bird recorded on 19 June as an early fall migrant.

Bonaparte's Gulls were the rarest representatives of their family. A new nesting colony of Ring-billed Gulls sprang up on a large pile of gravel left in the Chemung River in downtown Elmira. While high water eroded the sides of the island away, several pairs of the gulls began raising nestlings and fledged at least 20. A not-quite-mature Herring Gull also constructed a nest, but apparently did not lay eggs. By summer's end vegetation was taking over the island, so repeat nesting seems doubtful.

For the third summer in a row, a single Forster's Tern appeared in the Region. It was a fine year for Black Terns at Montezuma, with as many as 30 counted at one time.

Geo Kloppel found two fledgling Northern Saw-whet Owls while atlasing in Buttermilk Falls State Park. At least two Whip-poor-wills were again singing near Addison through mid-June. Another was heard near Ithaca in mid-July.

John and Sue Gregoire banded and photographed early migrating Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Swainson's Thrush. Like the Swainson's Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo migrants rarely appear before September. Meena Haribal found two on 25 August. Jay McGowan found another on 27 August. John and Sue Gregoire also banded and photographed an early Cape May Warbler in late August.

Bob Fogg found a "Brewster's" Warbler on 12 June. With the complete absence of nesting Golden-winged Warblers in the Region, the occurrence of "Brewster's" Warbler might be considered rarer than the "Lawrence's" hybrid. The recessive genes related to the "Lawrence's" form may be able to persist for a long time in the Blue-winged population that currently occupies the Region.

Jay and Kevin McGowan located a Yellow-breasted Chat near Ithaca on 1 June. Dan Lebbin had the best warbler find, an early Connecticut Warbler at Sapsucker

Woods on 26 August, confirmed by other observers the following day.

Jesse Ellis found a late Orchard Oriole at Myers Point on 20 August. This regionally scarce breeder, if not usually departed long before that date, at least becomes very inconspicuous by then. The same can be said of the Henslow's Sparrow that Steve and Susan Fast found in Danby, also on 20 August. Allison and Jeff Wells watched and listened to a singing White-winged Crossbill in Etna through 6 June, hoping in vain for confirmation of breeding.

The following species listing includes comparisons of observed bird populations in the Region between summer 2001 and summer 2002. A "+" at the end of the species account indicates an increase; a "-" indicates a decrease. Species accounts with neither symbol indicate that the species either did not demonstrate a significant change in reported numbers or the change was a decrease caused by the lack of Ithaca June Count data in 2002. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($X^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). 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*.

CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Ameigh, Mike Andersen, Jeanne & Joel Baines, Ryan Bakelaar, Eric Banford Family, Maureen Barger, Fred Bertram, Mike Beykirch, Joseph Brin, Michele Brown, Jack Brubaker, Norene Buehner, Mike Burger, Jillian Butler, Linda Buttel, Bernie Carr, Mark Chao, Gary Chapin, Lois Chaplin, Robin Cisne, Dick & Joan Clements, Cornell Campus Bird Club, Cornell Campus Club Bird Study Group, Cornell Outdoor Club, Nancy Cusumano, Donna Jean Darling, Greg Delisle, Nancy Dickinson, Rachel Dickinson, Lynn Donaldson, Lenore & Vern Durkee, Karen Edelstein, Jesse Ellis, Harry Ellsworth, Jody Enck, Steve & Sue Fast, Jan Fell, Annette Finney, Martha Fischer, Bob Fogg, Kurt Fox, Sarah Fuller, Jeff Gerbracht Family, Mary Ellen Gleason, John Greenly, Marva Gingrich, John & Sue Gregoire, Bob Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Scott Haber, Steve Hall, Stefan Hames, John Hanyak, Becca Harber, Meena Haribal, Alcee Hecht, Asher Hockett, Brett & Marti Hoffman, Jeff Holbrook, Pete Hosner, Larry & Sara Jane Hymes, Carolyn Jacobs, Rosemary Jewett, Anne Marie & Tim Johnson, Steve Kelling, Marie King, Louise Kingsbury, Geo Kloppel, Julie Koski, Pam Larnard, Paul Larrabee, Leona Lauster, Dan Lebbin, Tim Lenz, Tim Levatich, Jeff Lewis, Judy Lutes, Fred Manzella, Bill McAneny, Dave McDermitt, Kevin McGann, Jay & Kevin McGowan, Bob & Judy McGuire, Matt Medler, Todd Miner, Ginny & Nari Mistry, Bobbie Morse, Marilyn Moskal, Dave Nutter, Bill & Joan Ostrander, James Paolo, Gerard Phillips, Alicia Plotkin, Sandy Podulka, Mike Powers, Bard Prentiss, Marie Read, Jim Rink, Ronda Roaring, William Roberts, Ken Rosenberg, Charlie Rouse, Dave Russell, Sandy Sharp, Dominic Sherony, Fred Sibley, Linda Silber, Matt Stillerman, Sarah Fern Striffler, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes Family, Donna Trumbull, John VanNiel, Matt Victoria, Allison & Jeff Wells, Anne Marie Whelan, Mary Wilcox, Ben Winger, Dick & Jill Wood, Mary Woodsen, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

EWMA – Erwin WMA, STEU; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, SCHU; LoPd – Lowe Pd; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt; NeCr – Newtown Creek, CHEM; RP – Riverfront P, CHEM; SaWo – Sapsucker Woods; SCF – Seneca County Fairgrounds; StP – Stewart P, TOMP; TCAH – The Center at Horseheads, CHEM.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: max 20 MWC 20 Jul; +.

Double-crested Cormorant: last MNWR 3 Jun; arr StP 12 Jul; max 58 StP 29 Aug.

Least Bittern: max 6 MNWR 24 Aug (MHa), high.

Great Blue Heron: max 25 MNWR 15 Jun, low.

Great Egret: max 25 MNWR 21 Aug; -.

Cattle Egret: Tyre 7 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 3 MNWR 20 Jul; max 7 MNWR 24 Jul; +.

Turkey Vulture: max 3 Woodhull 13 Jul, low.

SNOW GOOSE: 1 MWC thru.

Canada Goose: max 107 Horseheads Gravel Pits CHEM 10 Jun, low.

Wood Duck: max 28 TCAH 23 Aug, low.

Green-winged Teal: arr MNWR 17 Aug; max 20 MWC 21 Aug; +.

Redhead: max 6 MNWR 24 Jun; high.

Ring-necked Duck: max 2 MNWR 10 Aug; only report.

GREATER SCAUP: arr StP 30 Aug (JEL).

BUFFLEHEAD: MNWR 7 Jun (BF) and 3 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 2 MNWR 1 Aug, low.

Merlin: arr Cayuga Heights 23 Aug (SHam!).

KING RAIL: MNWR 2 Jun (MAn, BF, PH, MMe) to 24 Jun (fide JR).

Virginia Rail: max 16 Texas Hollow Bird Sanctuary SCHU 6 Aug (FS), high; +.

Com. Moorhen: max 8 MNWR 14 Jul; -.

Black-bellied Plover: max 5 MNWR 3

Jun; last Geneva 7 Jun; arr MyPt 16 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 21 Aug; -.

Semipalmated Plover: last MyPt 6 Jun; arr MNWR 19 Jul; max 4 MNWR 24 Jul, low; -.

Killdeer: max 57 NeCr 1 Aug, low.

AMERICAN AVOCET: 7 Village Marina SCHU 15 Aug (JaBr); 3 MNWR 15 Aug (JoBr, BC report to NYSARC); +.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 5 Jul; max 10 Seybolt Rd Bait Ponds SENE 26 Jul; -.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 3 MNWR 5 Jul; max 12 MNWR 14 Jul, low; -.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 4 NeCr 10 Jun (DR), early; max 6 MNWR 10 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: max 12 SCF 20 Jun; last Seneca Falls Airport 24 Jun; +.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr & max 6 Long Pt SP 2 Jun; last MyPt 6 Jun; arr MyPt 26 Jul.

Sanderling: arr MyPt 14 Aug; max 2 MyPt 17 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 40 MNWR 2 Jun; last 5 MyPt 6 Jun; arr MNWR 14 Jul; -.

Least Sandpiper: last MyPt 4 Jun; arr 6 RP 18 Jul; max 33 MNWR 24 Jul; +.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last & max 3 MyPt 5 Jun; arr RP 30 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr & max 5 MNWR 20 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 14 Jul; max 4 MWC 21 Aug, low.

Dunlin: last MyPt 4 Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 19 Jul (SHab), early; max 3 MNWR 27 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 MNWR 19

Jul; max 10 MWC 21 Aug; +.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 4 MNWR 23 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: max 15 MNWR 23 Aug; +.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 2 SCF 20 Jun (JMcGo, BP); arr MNWR 17 Aug (GC, DS, MV); +.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 27 Aug (PH).
Bonaparte's Gull: last Geneva 7 Jun; arr StP 12 Jul; max 2 StP 14 Jul.
Ring-billed Gull: max 501 Seneca L SP 2 Aug; +.
Herring Gull: max 72 Clute Memorial P SCHU 7 Jun (MF, KR), high; +.
Great Black-backed Gull: arr Long Pt SP 3 Jul (RB, MMe), early; max 3 StP 24 Aug.
Caspian Tern: last 2 MyPt 2 Jun; arr 4 MyPt 30 Jun (RB), early; max 50 Treman Marina SP 9 Aug; -.
Com. Tern: max 3 Dryden L P 3 Aug.
FORSTER'S TERN: arr StP 27 Aug.
Black Tern: max 30 MNWR 24 Jul (SHab, PH, MMe), high; +.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 62 Elmira 16 Aug, low.
Mourning Dove: max 38 Horseheads 28 Aug, low.
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 2 Buttermilk Falls SP 11 Jul (GK), high.
Com. Nighthawk: max 50 RP 30 Aug; -.
Whip-poor-will: max 2 Addison 15 May; Eco Village TOMP 16 Jul.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 2 Summerhill 15 Jun.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 EWMA 7 Jun, low.
Downy Woodpecker: max 6 KH 4 Jul, low.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 EWMA 7 Jun, low.
N. Flicker: max 7 KH 25 Aug, low.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last LoPd 7 Jun;

arr SaWo 23 Aug (MC!).
E. Wood-Pewee: max 7 Cornell U 28 Aug, low.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr KH 31 Jul (J&SGr ph), early.
Willow Flycatcher: max 2 TCAH 18 Jul, low.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr & max 2 StP 25 Aug (MHa); high & early.
Com. Raven: max 36 Elmira Correctional Facility Clubhouse CHEM 21 Jul.
Tree Swallow: max 1000 MNWR 20 Jul.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 200 StP 26 Jul; +.
Bank Swallow: max 25 StP 24 Aug, low.
Cliff Swallow: max 10 Addison 29 Jun; +.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 15 Caroline 3 Aug, low.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 4 Elmira 7 Jun, low.
E. Bluebird: max 8 StP 25 Aug, low.
Swainson's Thrush: arr KH 7 Aug (J&SGr ph), early.
European Starling: max 1800 TCAH 23 Aug; +.
Cedar Waxwing: max 29 Caroline 8 Jun, low.

WARBLERS

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: Dryden 12 Jun (BF).
Tennessee Warbler: arr KH 24 Aug.
CAPE MAY WARBLER: KH 27 Aug (J&SGr ph), early.
Blackpoll Warbler: last LoPd 4 Jun.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: SaWo 26 Aug (DL!) and 27 Aug (MAn, EB, PH!).
Mourning Warbler: max 6 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 1 Jun.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 17 Caroline 3 Aug, low.
Hooded Warbler: max 6 EWMA 7 Jun.
Wilson's Warbler: arr SaWo 27 Aug.
Canada Warbler: max 10 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 4 Aug.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP 1 Jun

(J&KMcGo).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 7 EWMA 21 Jun, low.

Chipping Sparrow: max 20 MWC 20 Jul, low.

Field Sparrow: max 4 Elmira 28 Jun, low.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 6 SCF 20 Jun; last STEU 4 Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: max 2 Caroline 8 Jun; last Danby 20 Aug (S&SF), late.

Swamp Sparrow: max 4 Caroline 8 Jun,

low.

Indigo Bunting: max 5 Woodhull 29 Jun, low.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 40,000 MNWR 24 Aug (MHa), high; +.

Orchard Oriole: last MyPt 20 Aug (JE1), late.

House Finch: max 4 LoPd 7 Jun, low.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: last Etna 6 Jun (AWe).

House Sparrow: max 30 NeCr 25 Aug, low.

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

Reg4sightings@mail.com

No Report



REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076
wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

The summer was warm and a little drier than usual, especially after June. The average temperature in June was 67.9°F, 2.1° above normal, and there was 5.35" of rain, 1.64" above normal. Of the rainfall, 2.86" fell on 14 June. In July, the average temperature was 73.7°, 2.8° above normal. There was only 1.75" of rain, 2.27" below normal. The August averages were 73.0°, 3.8° above normal, and 2.71" of rain, 0.85" below normal.

The wet June didn't seem to have an adverse effect on most breeding activity, and the warm temperatures probably helped. Ground-nesting Wild Turkeys did seem to delay breeding, but there were many broods of Ruffed Grouse by early July. Tree Swallows were a little late as many young were on wires, being fed by adults, at the same time that Cliff and Barn swallows fledged.

Common Loons produced young on Skaneateles Lake. An adult with young was seen in Spafford, but the south end of the lake is split between three Regions and the location of the nest remained unknown, to the confusion of Atlasers. Tom Salo reported that Common Loon and Common Merganser populations recovered nicely at Stillwater Reservoir after it had been drained for dam repairs in 2001.

A **Brown Pelican**, which was first reported in Region 2, was relocated at Sandy Pond where it was seen regularly for over a week. Two observers looking for the pelican were fortunate to have, and carefully describe, a **Pomarine Jaeger** flying overhead, a rare summer record. It may have been the result of an early departure from the breeding grounds. Four immature Black-crowned Night-Herons at Sandy Pond may have resulted from local breeding or may have come from breeding sites to the north. The night-herons at Onondaga Lake are probably breeding locally, but a little more Atlas work is needed there earlier in the season to confirm this. There was no large concentration of Great Egrets this year and only two reports of Cattle Egret.

The Great Swamp Conservancy in northern Madison County attracted uncommon summer waterfowl such as Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck and American Coot, but only the teal was confirmed as a breeder. Elsewhere, another shoveler appeared to be mated with a Mallard and coots did breed in Utica Marsh. At Delta Lake, the water level dropped only slightly in August, resulting in low numbers of shorebirds reported there. However, mudflats at Salmon River Reservoir in Redfield attracted shorebirds, but the area was only accessible by boat. There were few early June reports of northbound shorebirds, as many birders had turned their attention to Atlas work. A late June Willet was a surprise and two Whimbrel reports were better than recent years.

The small breeding populations of Red-headed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Fish Crow and Orchard Oriole all seem to be holding their own and,

with the exception of the woodpecker, may be growing. Common Raven continues to expand out of higher elevations, with family groups in central Oswego County and sightings from just south of Syracuse. Sedge Wrens were found at two sites, while Henslow's Sparrow was found at one. Marsh Wrens are often only reported from the large marshes, but this year they were found at many smaller marshes as well.

A **White-eyed Vireo** remained in Utica into early June, after which no one bothered to look for it again. John Rogers found a second pair of Prothonotary Warblers in Big Bay Swamp while doing Atlas work. With at least two pairs there this year we can only guess as to how long the species may have been present. Other birds turned up during Atlas work were a Kentucky Warbler and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, both out of range in northern Onondaga County. In neither case was breeding confirmed. In Happy Valley WMA David Nash found a singing Blackpoll Warbler and then saw the female carrying food into a conifer for an unusual breeding record away from the Adirondacks or Catskills.

The cone crop was mixed, as some white pines bore cones while many had few or none and red pines seemed to produce a moderate crop. Other nut and seed bearing trees had only fair crops this year. Natalia Garcia mentioned good fruit crops of elderberry, mountain ash and grey dogwood, while Matt Perry cited lots of grapes, buckthorn, honeysuckle and other berries good for wintering frugivores.

A total of 200 species was reported for the season, better than many years. Highlights included **Brown Pelican**, Cattle Egret, Willet, Whimbrel, **Pomarine Jaeger**, Sedge Wren, Blackpoll Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler and **Kentucky Warbler**.

CONTRIBUTORS

Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Barbara Herrgesell, Gene Huggins, Kevin McGann, John Moore, David Nash, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Marge Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Julie Siler, Gerald Smith, Sheila Smith, Maureen Staloff, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DL – Delta L; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HIWMA – Howland I WMA; LOL – L Ontario littoral; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pd; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: ad and 3 y Skaneateles L, unclear as to whether breeding occurred in Reg 5; alt ad SPd 28 Jul.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 8 CM 14 Jul; y reported from W Monroe, SPd, CM, UM, GSC.

BROWN PELICAN: imm SPd 26 Jul (BC), 2nd Reg record (previous 1920), seen by mob 27 Jul to 5 Aug, last 14 Aug.

Least Bittern: reported Deer Creek WMA, Six Mile Creek Schroepfel, GSC, HIWMA, CM.

Great Blue Heron: max 106 Sterling 10 Jul.

Great Egret: max 3 Bville 2 Aug; singles widespread.

Cattle Egret: GSC 10 Jun; HIWMA 5 Jul.

Green Heron: max 23 CM 24 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad and 2-3 imm OnonL after 25 Jul; 4 imm SPd 28 Jul.

Turkey Vulture: 2 y about to fledge in old house Fayetteville 15 Jul; 2 y in Camillus barn 22 Jul.

Mute Swan: 2 fl Pulaski 6 Jun.

Wood Duck: 89 Verona Marsh 10 Aug; last downy y 10 Aug.

Gadwall: GSC 10 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: ad with y GSC in Jun; max 20 DL 20 Aug.

N. Shoveler: male GSC in Jun; male Palermo 19 Jun, possibly mated with Mallard.

Green-winged Teal: ad with y GSC in Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: Oswego 10 Jul.

Hooded Merganser: max 17 Redfield 21 Aug.

Com. Merganser: max 80 Redfield 29 Aug.

Ruddy Duck: 1-2 GSC to 2 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: ad took fl Herring Gull Stillwater Res 26 Jul; breeding suspected there but not confirmed; imm and ad

regular along L Ontario thru.

N. Harrier: max 5 Pompey 25 Aug; FY GSC 23 Jul.

N. Goshawk: breeding DeRuyter Res; male Constantia 13 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: SPd 5 Jun flying S, wanderer or migrant.

Merlin: Bville 29 Aug; fl E end Stillwater Res 8 Aug; also found at W end of reservoir.

Peregrine Falcon: SFWS 19 Jul, unusual there.

Ruffed Grouse: females with y widespread Tug Hill after 15 Jun.

Wild Turkey: few reports of y before late Jul.

Virginia Rail: 3 Columbia Ctr 22 Jun.

Sora: 4 Columbia Ctr 22 Jun.

Com. Moorhen: CM where they are uncommon 16 Jun; 6 Columbia Ctr 22 Jun.

Am. Coot: up to 4 pair GSC 10 Jun; breeding confirmed UM 21 Jul; present Columbia Ctr.

Black-bellied Plover: max 25 W Monroe 2 Jun; no fall reports.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 GSC 7 Jun; max 13 Redfield 25 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 26 Redfield 26 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 27 Redfield 26 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Columbia Ctr 7 Jul.

WILLET: Fair Haven SP 29 Jun (CT).

Spotted Sandpiper: max 15 OnonL 26 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: reports from Schroepfel, Fulton airport, Remsen.

Whimbrel: max 3 SPd 16 Aug; 2 SPd 25 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: SPd 27 Jul, only report.

Red Knot: W Monroe 2 Jun; no fall reports.

Sanderling: 5 Pony Farm Lysander 18 Aug, unusual location; max 14 SPd 16 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 8-10 per day DL in Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 120 Redfield 21 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: SPd 8 Aug, only report.

Baird's Sandpiper: max 6 SPd 26 Aug, high.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Bville 25 Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper: 2 OnonL 28 Aug, only report.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 SPd 11 Aug; SPd 16 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 6 GSC 2 Aug.

Pomarine Jaeger: ad or subadult SPd 27 Jul: dark-morph jaeger with spatulate tail feathers (MY!, JS).

Little Gull: ad SPd 10-18 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 40 SVB 30 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 2 Constantia 17 Jun, possibly nesting Oneil?; max 69 SPd 12 Aug.

Black Tern: max 6 SPd 16 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: Green Lakes SP 10 Aug, first migrant; max 43 Syr 31 Aug with total of 217 12-31 Aug; migration thought to have started late as birds possibly hung back in warm weather.

Whip-poor-will: reports from Cold Brook and Constantia.

Chimney Swift: max 120 W Winfield 29 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 4 pairs in beaver swamps T Ira, T Hannibal, T Lysander, same as in 2001.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Plainville 4 Jul, seems out of place.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Trout Pd HERK 23 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Labrador Hollow 4 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: reports from Whiskey Hollow, Hannibal, Ira.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Proctor P Utica

to 2 Jun.

Fish Crow: Oakwood Cemetery Syr 30 Jun.

Com. Raven: breeding central OSWE in Palermo and Volney; reported from Onondaga Hill and TRWMA, new locations.

Carolina Wren: numerous reports Syr; W Monroe 12 Jun; Liverpool 6, 16 Jun; Cicero 20 Jun; Hastings 27 Aug.

Sedge Wren: Sterling 6 Jun; 1-2 T Richland to 18 Jun.

Marsh Wren: some less expected places were W Dead Creek Bville, GSC, Columbia Center, Westmoreland, Sage Creek Marsh.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: on territory T Richland near Fernwood, unusual at low elevation.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Brewerton 16 Jun, well out of range.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: Cazenovia 7 Jul; Stillwater Res 12 Jul; arr Hastings 31 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: TRWMA 10 Jun, late.

N. Parula: likely late migrants De Witt 1 Jun, W Monroe 12 Jun, CM 18 Jun; 4 McKeever BBS 30 Jun, good number.

Yellow Warbler: max 22 SPd 18 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: Cicero Swamp 7 Jul, unusual.

Cape May Warbler: Lebanon 10 Jun, late.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 3 W Monroe 12 Jun and 1 there 19 Jun, late.

Prairie Warbler: breeding Dewitt; on territory Georgetown.

Bay-breasted Warbler: SFWS 31 Aug, only report.

Blackpoll Warbler: last LOL 5 Jun; pair carrying food Happy Valley WMA 26 Jun (DN), unusual location.

Cerulean Warbler: none s end Otisco L where formerly 4-5 pair.

Prothonotary Warbler: pair Big Bay Swamp on Oneil 2 Jul with male carrying

food to nest on 3 Jul (JR), 2nd known breeding pair there.
Louisiana Waterthrush: last Canastota 8 Aug.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: TRWMA 19 Jul (JB).
Wilson's Warbler: last 2 Georgetown 2 Jun; arr Hastings 24 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS
Henslow's Sparrow: Remsen 22 Jun.
Lincoln's Sparrow: FY Big Burnt L HERK 25 Jul.
Bobolink: max 140 Parish 23 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: pair + 3 1st yr males GSC 10 Jun; Litchfield 10 Jun; FY Cross L 29 Jun; FY Pompey 7 Jul, higher elevation than usual.

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

Mickey Scilingo
PO Box 2106, Liverpool NY 13089
mickey.scilingo@gte.net

The first two weeks of June were warm, sunny and dry, a pleasant departure from the cold and wet conditions of May. Temperatures ranged from average to 1 °F below average in Watertown for the month. In the third and fourth weeks of June, rain resumed and there were several days of intermittent downpours. The St. Lawrence River Valley and western Adirondacks received the majority of the precipitation, 2"–3" above normal. July was similar to 2001, extremely hot and dry throughout the Region. Temperatures were 2°–2.5° above normal, with most large cities having at least one day over 90°. The Town of Colton, in the Adirondacks of St. Lawrence County, had the most days over 90° with nine. The hot and dry conditions persisted into August, with precipitation being 2" below normal throughout the area. The first cold wave occurred on 24 August and produced the first good wave of migrants.

The above-average precipitation during the latter half of June created flooding in many streams and marshlands throughout the area. The Robert Moses Power Dam in Massena was unable to discharge excess water for two weeks because of potential flooding of the commercial docks in Montreal. The Black River, which drains the Tug Hill, remained over its banks as well until mid-July. The reports of pairs of adult ducks in the rivers in late May and early June suggested flooded nesting areas. The only proof of poor nesting was a 50% decrease in the number of ducklings along the St. Lawrence River in the Morristown area during July. One

positive result was the reappearance of water in many of the creeks and marshes of St. Lawrence County, which had been dry for the past two summers. Berry and cone crops were plentiful during the month of June, while nesting was in full swing. The ensuing dry conditions during July, however, made aerial insects scarce. Swallows and martins began flocking together by the hundreds in mid-July and, like last summer, many departed the area by the end of the month. Despite the dry conditions, the watershed held up well as many of the flooded marshes and lowlands returned to their traditional levels.

The first ever record of **Brown Pelican** in Region 6 came on 7 August, when Gene McGory observed an immature bird flying past Sawyer's Bay in Henderson, Jefferson County. That bird was one of what may be as many as eight juvenile/immature Brown Pelicans that were observed in the Great Lakes area during the summer. At the end of the month, two **American White Pelicans** were found in the Black River Bay. This was just the second summer report in ten years, and only the fourth overall Regional report since 1990. Control measures of Double-crested Cormorants continued on Little Galloo Island this summer. Although specific numbers were not available, the number of nests oiled was similar to that from last year (about 5400).

An adult Trumpeter Swan with one juvenile was observed at Perch River WMA on 11 July. This sighting, coupled with some late information received last year, confirms breeding of this species here for the eighth consecutive summer. A new Bald Eagle nest, the third located in St. Lawrence County, was found with two young inside near Blake Falls Reservoir in the Town of Parishville. This now makes five known nest sites within the Region. A rare occurrence for the area was the discovery of an active Red-Tailed Hawk nest on state land near the South Branch of the Grasse River in the Town of Clare, St. Lawrence County, in June. Another rare discovery in St. Lawrence County was the covey of about a dozen Gray Partridges found on 20 August in the Town of Louisville, a place where they have not been seen in 20 years. This is far from the western Jefferson County locations where they are usually found, and the possibility exists that these are newly released birds.

Statewide counts of Black Terns were not conducted this year. Instead, the study focused on habitat and site suitability of selected historic and active nesting grounds, with the hope of developing management recommendations. Part of the study involved placing artificial nesting platforms at two sites in Jefferson County: Dexter Marsh and Perch River WMA. Of the ten platforms placed in Dexter Marsh, only two were observed to be used, while none of the 20 placed at Perch River were used. The annual pre-migratory staging counts conducted at Point Peninsula yielded a very low daily maximum of two birds on 29 July. Since 1991, the total was the second lowest counted there and continues an overall decrease in Black Tern numbers during the same time frame. As a result of these low numbers, other places were searched for staging terns and 29 birds were observed at Bass Island in mid-August. Hopefully, these studies will provide the information needed to restore and protect any remaining habitat for these birds.

The diversity of habitats within the Fort Drum Military Reservation continues to provide breeding grounds for a multitude of New York State's endangered, threatened and special concern species, including Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow, among others. The nine individual Sedge Wrens reported from six locations in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties is a good total compared with recent years. The high number of Bobolinks in the Louisville-Massena area is a good sign, as is the increase in the number of Cliff Swallows.

A total of 168 species was reported for the Region, including 13 waterfowl, 10 raptors, 10 shorebirds, 9 flycatchers, 22 warblers and 9 sparrows. Highlights not previously mentioned were Redhead, Merlin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray Jay, "Brewster's Warbler", White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak. Regional lowlights included the absence of reports for Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Horned Lark, Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows.

Thanks to Robert Long for his assistance with the weather data for the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick Brouse, Carol Cady, Bernie Carr, Sheila Cerwonka, Bob & Peggy Coe, Karl Curtiss, Nick Leone, Jerry LeTendre, Robert Long, Irene Mazzocchi, Gene McGory, North Country Bird Club, Peter O'Shea, Bill Purcell, Mandi Roggi, Paul Russo, Mickey Scilingo, Gerry Smith, Eve Sweatman, Molly Thompson, Matt Victoria, Bob & June Walker, Mary Zimmer.

ABBREVIATIONS

CL – Cranberry L, T Clifton, STLA; CV – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ED – El Dorado Beach, T Henderson, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum; PRWMA – Perch River WMA, JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence R; TLou – T Louisville, STLA; TMas – T Massena, STLA; TTher – T Theresa, JEFF; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA, STLA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 12 Jun; ads with y CL Jul; 2 in alt plumage flying over T Lyme 11 Jul; 4 WHWMA 26 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: Alexandria JEFF 22 Jun; Hammond STLA 30 Jun; breeding FD; y CV 11 Aug; 2 WHWMA 29 Aug.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 2 Black River Bay JEFF 30 Aug.

BROWN PELICAN: Sawyers Bay Henderson JEFF 7 Aug; 1st Reg record.

Double-crested Cormorant: 80 SLR TMas 19 Aug.

American Bittern: TMas 1 Jun; several nesting reports from FD.

LEAST BITTERN: 3 FD 9 Jun; Stine Rd T Alexandria JEFF 22 Jun.

Great Blue Heron: small rookery with 12 nests FD 7 Jun; TMas 9 Jun; Massena Dam 9 Jun; TLou 12 Jun; WHWMA 20 Aug.

Great Egret: Rt 420 10 Jul; Rt 26 LEWI

29 Jul-1 Aug; Naumberg LEWI 1-6 Aug; Burrville T Watertown 15 Aug.
Green Heron: TLou 12 Jun; T Hounsfeld JEFF 11 Jul; ED 11 Jul; FL CV.
Turkey Vulture: 9 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; SLR TMas 9 Jun; 4 TLou 18 Jul.
Mute Swan: bred along SLR.
TRUMPETER SWAN: 1 ad + 1 y PRWMA; 8th consecutive yr breeding this location.
Wood Duck: pr TLou 10 Jun, only report.
Gadwall: pr FD 1 Jun; SLR Massena 9 Jun.
Am. Black Duck: pr TLou 15 Jul; ad + y CL Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: FL TLou 18 Jul.
Green-winged Teal: pr FD 1 Jun, 28 Jun.
Redhead: m Sawmill Bay Chaumont JEFF 9 Jul.
Hooded Merganser: ad + y CL July.
Com. Merganser: SLR Massena 9 Jun; ad fem + 1 imm ED 11 Jul; pr TLou 18 Jul; 73 ED 25 Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Brasher 9 Jun; TLou 18 Jul; pr Brasher Falls STLA; y in nest near CL 10 Aug.
Bald Eagle: new nest with 2 y Blake Falls Res Parishville STLA; ad Wanakena Inlet CL Jul.
N. Harrier: TMas 9 Jun; pr Macomb STLA 30 Jun; Massawepie Bog STLA 30 Jun; 2 reports of adults carrying food near FD.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: Rt 56 STLA 15 Jun; ad with FL FD 30 Jul.
Cooper's Hawk: ad carrying food Black Ri JEFF 18 Jul.
N. Goshawk: imm Kelsey Creek Watertown 8 Jul; CO near Blake Res T Colton STLA 15 Jul; TTher 9 Jun, 28 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: FY FD 24 Jun.
Red-tailed Hawk: TLou 16 Jun, 18 Jul; nest with y near S branch Grasse Ri T Clare STLA, rare for area.
Am. Kestrel: 2 TLou 15 Jul; 6 Brownville

JEFF 3 Aug; 19 T Orleans JEFF 6 Aug.
MERLIN: Carry Falls Res Colton STLA 23 Jun; T Clayton 11 Jul; Croghan LEWI 12 Jul; migrant ED 25 Aug.
Gray Partridge: 12 in covey TLou 20 Aug; not seen in this area for over 20 years, possible new release.
Ruffed Grouse: 6 Rt 56 1 Jun; family group TLou 15 Jul.
Wild Turkey: 81 TMas/TLou 1 Jun; 5 TMas 9 Jun; 13 y TLou 11 Jun.
Virginia Rail: 4 TLou 1 Jun.
Com. Moorhen: Rt 420 STLA 10 Jul; pr + 2 y Wellsley I SP 11 Aug.
Am. Coot: 2 Rt 420 STLA 10 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: 8 ED 25 Aug, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: 4 Burrville T Watertown 15 Aug; 3 ED 25 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: 7 ED 25 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 9 ED 25 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: 4 Massena Dam 9 Jun; 2 Burrville T Watertown 15 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 11 ED 25 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Burrville T Watertown 15 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: 10 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.
Am. Woodcock: 2 TMas 9 Jun; ED 11 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: 8 Raquette Ri S.Colton STLA 3 Aug, inland from usual migratory route along SLR.
Ring-billed Gull: 60 SLR 1 Jun; < 100 dam area most of summer.
Caspian Tern: 8 ED 25 Aug.
Com. Tern: SLR TMas 9 Jun.
Black Tern: 2 Alexandria JEFF 22 Jun; 6 TTher 30 Jun; 29 staging Bass I mid-Aug; very low overall.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 64 TLou 1 Jun.
Black-billed Cuckoo: TMas 1 Jun; FL FD 21 Jun; Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: prs Black Pd WMA 28 Jun & Lakeview WMA 12 Jul,

both T Henderson JEFF.

Great Horned Owl: TLou 1 Jun; TMas 1 Jun; Massena Dam 2 Jun; y Chaumont JEFF 18 Jul.

Barred Owl: 1 report.

Short-eared Owl: FD 4 Jun, only report.

Com. Nighthawk: 4 FD 18 Jun.

Whip-poor-will: pr courting FD 18 Jun; TLou 15 Jul; Brasher Falls 18 Jul.

Chimney Swift: 9 TMas 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; 12 TMas 28 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; last 26 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: TLou 1 Jun, 15 Jul; nest Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FD 2 Jun; FL CV Jul.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: nest Black Ri JEFF 18 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pr TMas 1 Jun; pr TLou 15 Jul.

Downy Woodpecker: max 30 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 21 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.

N. Flicker: max 10 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.

Pileated Woodpecker: pr Rt 56 TMas 1 Jun; Kelsey Creek Watertown 28 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Wanakena area STLA Jul, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: reports from TLou, TMas, Wanakena, Chaumont Barrens.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Wanakena area STLA Jul, only report.

Alder Flycatcher: max 20 TMas 9 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Willow Flycatcher: 2 in 2 places TLou 1 Jun, 15 Jul.

Least Flycatcher: max 10 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

E. Phoebe: max 25 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

Great Crested Flycatcher: FY TLou 18 Jul.

Blue-headed Vireo: Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Warbling Vireo: max 28 TMas 9 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: several m Washington P Lorraine JEFF 1 Jun; singing males TNC property Montague LEWI 13 Jun; all thought to be late migrants.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 90 TMas 9 Jun, good showing.

Gray Jay: Dead Creek Flow Trail T Clifton STLA 2 Jul, only report.

Com. Raven: pr Ironsides I SLR, unusual location; 6 Moon L TTher 5 Jun.

Purple Martin: 100s CV Jun-Jul; breeding WHWMA.

Tree Swallow: seemingly low numbers from TMas and dam area.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: Wanakena area STLA Jul; ED 11 Jul; only reports.

Bank Swallow: 100+ in colony SLR 9 Jun; FY there 1 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: 70 on nests TMas 9 Jun, continuing to increase locally.

Barn Swallow: max 30 TMas 9 Jun.

Black-capped Chickadee: 140 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

Tufted Titmouse: TLou 1 Jun, only report.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 to feeders TLou; Brasher Falls 10 Jul.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 40 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.

Brown Creeper: pr TLou 1 Jun.

Carolina Wren: Sacketts Harbor JEFF 15 Jul, only report.

House Wren: max 18 TMas 9 Jun; FY TMas 15 Jul.

Winter Wren: Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Sedge Wren: T Antwerp JEFF 7, 18 Jun; T Rossie STLA 10 Jun; Belleville T Ellisburg JEFF 18 Jun; T DePeyster STLA 30 Jun; 2 PRWMA 11 Jul; pr McCormick Rd Oswegatchie STLA 13 Jul; seem to be increasing.

Marsh Wren: Wanakena area STLA Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: ad on nest FD 8 Jun.

E. Bluebird: several prs TMas.
Veery: max 30 TLou 9 Jun.
Hermit Thrush: Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul; Wanakena area STLA Jul; only reports.
Wood Thrush: max 35 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Gray Catbird: max 12 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: 2 TMas 1 Jun; T Lyme JEFF 11 Jul; only reports.
Cedar Waxwing: 40 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; 14 TLou 15 Jul.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: fem with y accompanied by m Golden-winged Warbler carrying food FD 1 Jul.
Golden-winged Warbler: males carrying food 25 Jun, 27 Jun, 1 Jul FD.
"Brewster's Warbler": fem paired with m Golden-winged Warbler FD 26 Jun; Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Nashville Warbler: 6 Rt 56 STLA 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
N. Parula: TMas 9 Jun; Sixberry L TTher 9 Jun; 6 prs Wanakena STLA Jul.
Yellow Warbler: 200 TLou/TMas area, excellent total.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 12 TMas 9 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Magnolia Warbler: 2 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; ED 11 Jul.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Wanakena area Jul.
Black-throated Green Warbler: Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Blackburnian Warbler: Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Pine Warbler: 3 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: FY FD 25 Jun; FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Palm Warbler: pr Hitchins Bog Colton STLA 11 Jun; migrant Holmes Pt Morristown STLA 23 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: 2 migrants T Clayton

JEFF 3 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: 5 FD Jun.
Black-and-white Warbler: 6 Rt 56 TLou 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; 5 singing m + 1 fem FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Am. Redstart: max 60 TMas 9 Jun.
Ovenbird: 25/day TLou; several Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Mourning Warbler: pr FY Onjebonge State Forest LEWI 8 Jul; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Com. Yellowthroat: 14 TLou/TMas 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Canada Warbler: several pr FY FD Jul; Wanakena area STLA Jul.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 2 TMas 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul; 4 including FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul; WHWMA 29 Aug; TMas 30 Aug.
E. Towhee: 2 TMas 1 Jun; T Lyme JEFF 11 Jul.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 m FD 4 Jun; 2 Van Alstyne Rd Clayton JEFF 15 Jun; Bishop Rd Macomb STLA 30 Jun.
Field Sparrow: FY Chaumont Barrens JEFF 11 Jul.
Savannah Sparrow: 10 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun; PRWMA 11 Jul.
Henslow's Sparrow: 2-3 Dog Hill Rd T Orleans JEFF 11 Jul; 3 m FD 18 Jul.
Song Sparrow: max 45 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: max 20 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: max 29 TLou 1 Jun; others Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Dark-eyed Junco: Wanakena STLA area Jul.
N. Cardinal: 36 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; 4 pr TLou 15 Jul.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 19 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun; Wanakena area STLA Jul.
Indigo Bunting: Wanakena area STLA

Jul; PRWMA 11 Jul; ED 11 Jul; 2 pr
TLou 15 Jul.

Bobolink: 200 TLou/TMas area 9 Jun;
PRWMA 11 Jul; 18 TMas 15 Jul.

E. Meadowlark: 15 TLou/TMas area 9
Jun; PRWMA 11 Jul; FY TMas 15 Jul.

Com. Grackle: max 70 TMas 22 Aug.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 80+ TLou 29
Aug.

Baltimore Oriole: 14 TLou/TMas area 1
Jun.

Purple Finch: 11 TLou/TMas area 1 Jun;
Wanakena area STLA Jul.

House Finch: 3 TLou/TMas area.

White-winged Crossbill: pr Massawepie
Mire STLA 13 Jul; 10 Massawepie 20 Jul;
6 Hitchins Bog Piercefield STLA 20 Jul;
T Clifton 8 Aug; unfortunately none CO.

Am. Goldfinch: max 30 TLou/TMas 1

Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: few TLou 1 Jun.

CORRIGENDA

*The Kingbird 50 (4) 423 Red-breasted
Merganser:* FL Picton I SLR T Clayton
JEFF (BH) should be **Com. Merganser**.

*The Kingbird 52 (2) 170-173 Disregard
entire (winter) report.* It was a reprint of
the previous winter's report [*The Kingbird*
51 (2) 623-626].

ADDENDUM

*The Kingbird 51 (3) YELLOW-
HEADED BLACKBIRD:* m at feeder
Buckton STLA May 2001.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

477 County Rt 8, Elizabethtown NY 12932

The late spring rains continued into June, with heavy showers during Four Brothers banding on the 15th. Lake Champlain had risen to 98.64' by 21 June, and monthly rainfall wound up 3.30" above normal. Early July was extremely hot and humid. Beginning 6 July, birders along the Québec border experienced the smell of smoke, haze and red sun from the Nomaska forest fires near eastern James Bay, until heavy rains that reached Franklin and Clinton counties on the evening of the 8th began to extinguish them. But rainfall diminished and by the hot, humid 92° day of 22 July, Champlain had dropped back to 97.02', below the level of late May. Monthly rainfall was only 3.35", or over 0.5" below normal. Most of August was extremely hot, with a 12-13 day heat wave beginning on the 7th. On 13 July, a 92° day, a rapidly-moving afternoon thunderstorm sparked a one-acre forest fire on Pok-o-Moonshine. Another broke out the next day near Ausable, and by 15 August there were 14 forest fires in Clinton and Essex counties, all started by lightning. Not until 28 August were the 70 forest fires in the Adirondacks declared mainly under control. In spite of the brief thunderstorms, monthly rainfall was only 1.10", and Champlain had dropped to 95.22'. Normal rainfall in July-August is 6.68", but

only 3.61" fell during 2002, leaving the Region more than 3" short and headed back into drought.

Bird-banding operations were conducted during June-July on Four Brothers, and 827 birds of six species were banded: 76 Double-crested Cormorants, 5 Cattle Egrets, 70 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1 Canada Goose, 600 Ring-billed Gulls and 75 Herring Gulls. Several additional cormorants were banded under High Peaks Audubon's master-station permit and fitted with satellite transmitters and color bands, in cooperation with the University of Vermont. The annual census was also conducted with the assistance of UVM researchers. On 15 June, a single Great Egret was on Island "D" and a mystery grayish, egret-type chick on "B" was thought to be a Glossy Ibis. For the first time since 1982, there were not enough Ring-billed Gull chicks to band the standard sample of 1,000, undoubtedly linked to the closing of landfills.

As might be expected, Atlas 2000 observers had some exciting encounters. Following their May discovery of **Wilson's Phalaropes** (a female and two males) on the traditional Laurin Farm field, Bill Kueger and Charles Mitchell found four more (two females, a male and a juvenile) at a pothole just south of the Little Chazy River, west of Lake Shore Road, a posted site they hadn't previously searched. Krueger noted, "Possibly they were breeding here all along and we missed them from 1998-2001 because the fields are so vast and viewing from the road necessarily limited. We also observed wing-lifting behavior among the four."

Krueger and Mitchell had an even better discovery at the nearby Gravelle Farm on 30 July when they heard the unmistakable sound of a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, verified with a tape that day and viewed through a scope for more than a minute the following day. The 1984-89 Québec Atlas confirmed breeding in seven of the 36 Atlas squares in which the species was reported, with an estimated provincial population of 1000 along the St. Lawrence. This population is *A. n. subvirgatus*, while the subspecies *A. n. alterus* has been reported at the James Bay coast on the Québec side and in a few locations on the Ontario side (Réginald Ouellet, in *The Breeding Birds of Québec*, 1996). In freshwater habitat along the St. Lawrence, this sparrow is found in the tall grasses of wet meadows, much like that at the lakeside Gravelle Farm, where one to two birds lingered until 24 August.

Other noteworthy summer finds included **Least Bitterns** at Scotion Creek, several Upland Sandpipers in Clinton and Franklin counties, **Black Terns** feeding young at Point au Fer, Philadelphia Vireos from a number of Adirondack Atlas blocks, **Sedge Wrens** from three locations and "Yellow" Palm Warblers and **Clay-colored Sparrows** from two sites each. Yet even flickers and tanagers provided interesting sightings, as the following species reports reveal, and one of the more bizarre birds was ultimately thought to be a quite long-legged "pouter pigeon," an apparent escapee frequenting a New Russia feeder. A total of just 176 species was reported, short of the totals of 182 and 187 during the first two Atlas summers. Observers are again reminded that the goal is to at least match the 202 *breeding* birds (179 Confirmed) recorded in Region 7 during the 1980-85 Atlas. But we're getting there, and adding a few new finds.

Finally, we welcome the appearance of *Birdwatching in Vermont* (University Press of New England, 2002) by Ted Murin and Bryan Pfeiffer. Among its many attributes, the book provides a point of reference from the Green Mountains and Vermont side of Champlain for birders in our Adirondack-Champlain Region. Chapter 5, "Species Accounts," will be an invaluable reference for observers on the New York side, especially Atlas volunteers. We highly recommend this book.

CONTRIBUTORS

Thomas Barber, Joan Collins, Daniel Crane, Charlcie Delehanty, John D. & Susan Delehanty, Michael Drake, Don Fasking, Ken Feustel, Elizabeth Fitts, Dan Fitzgerald, Bob Gillis, Mark Gretch, Judy & Roger Heintz, Suzy Johnson, Mark Kantrowitz, Harold Klein, Bill Krueger, Julie Lattrell, Nick Laviola, Robert McKinney, Charles Mitchell, Daniel Nickerson, Evan Obercian, Nancy Olsen, John & Susan Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Bill Purcell, George Roberts, Dana Rohleder, Paul Shabeen, Phil Terrie, John & Patricia Thaxton, Susan Turner, Hollis White.

ABBREVIATIONS

CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Rivers; FBI – Four Brothers islands; LA – L Alice WMA; LL – Long L; PARC – former Plattsburgh AFB; PtR – Point au Roche SP; TL – Tupper L.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: 5 chicks CR 16 Jul (BK,CM); 3 chicks Ausable CLIN 18 Jul (JL); pr W Canada Lks Jul (TB); LL 3 Aug (JC); Atlas surprises.

Double-crested Cormorant: 76+ banded FBI; 3 ads Little Tupper L 14 Jul-3 Aug (JC,BP), calling at night.

LEAST BITTERN: 6 ads Scotion Cr 14 Jun (NO), unprecedented number.

Great Egret: FBI 15 Jun; Hogansburg 4 Jul; Barber Pd 29 Jul; 2 Keene 29-30 Jul; 2 Peru 7 Aug; a strong showing.

Cattle Egret: 5 banded FBI.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 70 banded FBI.

Canada Goose: 1 banded FBI; max 100 TL Munic P by 31 Aug (CD).

Com. Goldeneye: s HAMI 25 Jun (TB,DC), a good Atlas find.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Harrier: hen at 4348' L Tear of the

Clouds 25 Jul; imm over 4240' Big Slide 23 Aug (J&PT).

Merlin: Meachem L, Newcomb, Oregon Plains, Saranac L, plus other Atlas additions.

Gray Partridge: juv Plattsburgh yard 28 Jul (HK), unexpected.

Virginia Rail: Brandon, CR, Huntley Pd area, LA, Skerry, plus others.

Sora: 2 CR 25 Jun (BK,CM); L Durant/Rock L area 9 Jul (NL,EO); always a welcome find.

Com. Moorhen: PtF 9 Jun; CR 6 Jul (BK,CM); with y 23 Jul (BK,NO), scarce here.

Am. Coot: CR 9 Jun (BK); with y 23 Jul (BK,NO); Minerva area 12 Jun; Huntley Pd area 19 Jun (NL,EO); unexpected in Adirondacks.

Black-bellied Plover: max 4 CR 1 Jun; last 2 CR 4 Jun (BK,CM).

Greater Yellowlegs: last CR 9 Jun (BK,CM); arr CR 12 Jul (SJ,BK); 2 LL 29

Jul (PT), rare HAMI.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last CR 9 Jun (BK,GR); arr CR 10 Jul (BK,CM); CR 23 Jul (BK,NO).

Upland Sandpiper: Banker-Stetson Rds CLIN 25 Jun (BK,CM); Crinklow Rd FRAN 5 Jul (DN,JP), still seeming reduced along border since 1980-85.

Sanderling: arr CR 20 Jul (BK).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last Meachem L 9 Jun (AP); arr 6 CR 20-30 Jul (BK).

Least Sandpiper: arr 6 CR 10-30 Jul (BK,CM), as expected.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr CR 10-30 Jul (BK,CM), early CLIN.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: m, 2 fem, imm s. Little Chazy R 2 Jul (BK,CM); 2 fem there 3 Jul (SJ,BK); m, 2 imm Gravelle Farm CR 13-14 Jul (SJ,BK,CM); imm there 16 Jul (BK,CM); most welcome Atlas records.

Caspian Tern: CR 1 Jun (SJ,BK); 2 CR 4 Jun (BK,CM); CR 6-30 Jul (BK,CM); suspected to have nested in VT in 2000 (Murin & Pfeiffer 2002).

Com. Tern: CR 1 Jun (SJ,CM); 2 CR 6-31 Jul (SJ,BK), nests in VT (Murin & Pfeiffer 2002).

BLACK TERN: 4 PtF 1 Jun (SJ,BK); feeding y 18 Jun (BK,CM); ph of y 7 Jul (SJ); a most encouraging Atlas find.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: New Russia feeder ~1 Aug thru (DF, ph), unbanded large mystery bird with exceptionally long, white, pointed primaries, elongated tail, extremely long legs with white feathering to high pink tarsi, seemingly identified via Internet as a "pouter pigeon," far more sedentary than the often-reported and always-banded "racing pigeon."

E. Screech-Owl: red-phase Keene 30 Jun & 3 Jul (J&PT), high; pr CH 20 Jul; FL 31 Jul (BK), 1st Confirmed CLIN.

Com. Nighthawk: St. Armand Beach 6 Jun; near Severance 8 Jun; Miner Inst 20 Jun; w. Beekmantown 1 Aug;

encouraging.

Whip-poor-will: Miner Inst 20 Jun (NO,MS), only report.

Three-toed Woodpecker: m Sixth L mid-Jul (MK), an excellent find.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Little Tupper L, Silver L Mt, etc.; more expected.

N. Flicker: pr Moody Rd & Trout Ri Belmont FRAN 6 Jul (JP), fem appeared pure red-shafted, and was at least an intergrade..

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Churubusco 20 Jun (J&RH), unexpected border location.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Klondike Notch 3 Jun (AP); Little Tupper L 18 Jun (BP); Cedar R 9 Jul (RM); singing m Johns Brook Loj early Jul (J&PT); Indian Ri HAMI Jul (TB); an excellent Atlas season.

Gray Jay: Oregon Plains, Sabattis Bog, other Adirondack Atlas reports.

Am. Crow: becoming more "urban" TL village (CD).

Boreal Chickadee: Big Slide, Brothers, Bushnell Falls, Cascade, Catamount, Hurricane, Panther Gorge, Phelps, Saddleback, Wolf Jaws, and many other Atlas sites.

SEDGE WREN: Stillwater Swamp Dannemora CLIN late Jun (J&RH); singing m Walkerville Rd Skerry FRAN 7 Jul (DN,JP) in *dry* hayfield; CR 10-23 Jul (BK,CM,NO); all superb finds.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing males Hurricane Mt 1 Jun & Sabattis Bog 5 Jun, among others.

Bicknell's Thrush: Hurricane, Lower Wolf Jaw, Panther Gorge, Phelps, Skylight-Marcy col, Snowy, plus other peaks.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: Peru 10 Jul (EF), unexpected Atlas find; singing m The Garden, Keene Valley 12-14 Jul (J&PT),

more expected; Oregon Plains 26 Aug (DR), possible transient.

Nashville Warbler: 3920' Big Slide 23 Aug (J&PT), somewhat high.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 60+ Oregon Plains 26 Aug (DR).

Palm Warbler: pr Robinwood HAMI 20 Jun (BP); Sabattis Bog 1 Jul (MD); *D.p. hypochrysea*.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Cheney Pd area 25 Jun (NL,EO), a good find by Atlas blockbusters.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: *orange-variant* Constable FRAN 6 Jul (DN,JP).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 2 singing m CH 10 Jun (BK) to possibly 3 by 21 Jul (NO); Churubusco 20 Jun-mid-Jul (J&RH); great finds.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr PARC 6 Jun (BK); 5 PARC 12 Jun (MG); a known nesting ground.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED

SPARROW: 1-2 ads CR 30 Jul-1 Aug (BK,CM,NO, ph); last heard 9 Aug; last seen 24 Aug (WK).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Stone Rd Belmont FRAN 6 Jul (DN,JP), north of contiguous range.

Purple Finch: max ~20 TL feeder early Aug (CD); many Atlas reports.

Red Crossbill: Beaver Cr CLIN 22 Jul (DR); 2 m Phelps Mt 9 Aug (J&PT); only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Tahawus Club area 10 Jul (NL,EO), seemingly only summer report.

ADDENDUM

FISH CROW: Crown Pt village outskirts 28 May 2002 (AP); nested in VT at Red Rocks Park S. Burlington 1998, now annual in Burlington area (Murin & Pfeiffer 2002).

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

Jane Denker Graves

133 York Avenue, Saratoga Springs NY 12866

jgraves@skidmore.edu

As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in June was a near-normal 66.8°F, with 53% sunshine. Precipitation totaled 5.45", 1.71" above normal. July was hot and dry, with temperatures averaging 73.4°, 2.3° above normal, with 68% sunshine. Precipitation was only 0.84", 2.66" below normal, making it the fourth driest July on record. The weather remained hot in August. Temperatures averaged 72.9°, 3.9° above normal, with 62% sunshine. There was a return to more normal rainfall of 3.86".

Reports indicated a mixed breeding season, possibly due to the abnormally cool weather in May. Peregrine Falcons experienced a poor year, with the seven active nests in the Lake George area fledging only four young, contrasting with the 12 young from five nests fledged last year. Of the three nesting pairs on the Hudson River bridges in Albany and Greene counties, two were successful, fledging three

young. In contrast, atlasers confirmed American Kestrel nesting in 25 blocks, with individuals present in an additional 67 blocks. Shorebird habitat was limited, as usual, to the Cohoes and Vischer Ferry areas; only nine species were found.

Bob Yunick again reported record banding results for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with 136 captures, and Tree Swallow, with 562 banded at the five colonies he monitors. Hooded Warbler was present for the fourth year in a row on Beaver Dam Road on the Helderberg Escarpment, with four to five singing males present throughout the breeding season. Henslow's Sparrow was not reported from any location; the DOWMONT ROAD fields used for the past several years were mowed and turned into snowmobile trails last winter.

A total of 172 species was reported during the period, down from last year's 190. This included 9 species of waterfowl, 12 hawks, 3 owls, 9 flycatchers, 7 thrushes, 27 warblers, 8 sparrows and 4 finches.

This is my final report as Region 8 Editor. Many thanks to the individuals who have contributed sightings to me over the years.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Robert Budliger, Steve Chorvas, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Dennis Dempsey, Jane Graves, Evelyn Greene, Rich Guthrie, David Harrison, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), Barbara Loucks, Ruth & Sandy Lamb, Andy Mason, Frank Murphy, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, David Russell, Cedar Stanistreet, Alison Van Keuren, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh WMA, ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, T Saratoga, SARA; CDWMA – Capital District WMA, RENS; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward, WASH; FtM – Fort Miller, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L, SARA; LG – L George, WARR; MR – Mohawk Ri; NB – New Baltimore, GREE; NR – Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; PISP – Peebles I SP; 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); StP – Stanton Pd, T Coeymans, ALBA; TRd – Tower Rd, SARA; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: 2 Springhill Pd T Hague WARR 12 Jul; CO in 3 Atlas blocks.
Am. Bittern: only 5 reports of singles.
Least Bittern: 2 Hudson 1 Jun (BC); 2 BCM thru Jul (RB); only reports.

Great Blue Heron: max 13 NR 18 Jul.
Great Egret: max 6 Niskayuna Bike Path 31Aug; 5 VF 9 Aug.
Snowy Egret: New St Cohoes 22 Jul; PISP 7 Aug; VF 9 Aug; 2 New St 22 Aug.
Green Heron: 44 reports of singles;

nested in 5 Atlas blocks.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4 Dyke Ave Pd Cohoes 24 Aug, only report.

Black Vulture: 2 Palenville 12 Jul (L. Federman); NB 22 Jul (RG).

Wood Duck: max 18 Dyke Ave Pd Cohoes 22 Aug.

Gadwall: 8 StP 10 Aug.

Hooded Merganser: nesting reported in 6 Atlas blocks.

Com. Merganser: nesting reported in 5 Atlas blocks.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: nested Glen L WARR 2nd year in a row; Coxsackie 27 Jun; 3 reports Jul; 6 reports Aug.

Bald Eagle: Claverack 8 Jun; 2 ad 2 imm NB 28 Jun; Garnet L 11 Jul; imm Waterford 1 Aug; 2 ad 5 imm NB 16 Aug; 2 imm NR 21 Aug; imm Westerlo 27 Aug.

N. Harrier: reported from 15 Atlas blocks.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 21 reports of singles; nested in 4 Atlas blocks.

Cooper's Hawk: 31 reports of singles; nested in 2 Atlas blocks.

N. Goshawk: reported from 8 Atlas blocks.

Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from 15 Atlas blocks.

Broad-winged Hawk: 51 reports of singles; nested in 13 Atlas blocks.

Am. Kestrel: 2 ad 5 imm Waterford 31 Jul; 67 reports of singles; CO in 25 Atlas blocks.

Merlin: Cohoes 30 Aug, only report.

Peregrine Falcon: 7 active nests LG area, 4 y fledged; active nest Dunn Mem Br, failed; active nest Castleton Br, 2 fledged; active nest Rip Van Winkle Br Catskill, 1 fledged (all BL); 1 ad 2 imm Glens Falls 26 Jul-1Aug.

Wild Turkey: reported in good numbers throughout Reg.

Virginia Rail: reported from 11 Atlas blocks in ALBA, COLU, GREE, SARA, WARR.

Sora: BCM 21 Jun.

Black-bellied Plover: New St Cohoes 5 Aug, only report.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 New St Cohoes 4 Aug, only report.

Greater Yellowlegs: New St Cohoes 18 Aug; 2 VF 25 Aug; NB 28 Aug; only reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 NR 24 Jul; 6 New St Cohoes 4 Aug; 11 New St 24 Aug; only reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: no reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: 34 reports of singles; max 6 PISP 25 Aug; CO in 13 Atlas blocks.

Upland Sandpiper: confirmed nesting T Northumberland SARA 1 Jul; Perth SARA 5 Jul; only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: New St Cohoes 5 Aug, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 9 New St Cohoes 4 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 PISP 25 Aug, only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: NR 31 Jul; 5 NB 7 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: 300+ CBL 21 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 37 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 10 reports of singles.

E. Screech-Owl: 12 reports of singles; CO in 1 Atlas block.

Great Horned Owl: 8 reports of singles; CO in 2 Atlas blocks.

Barred Owl: 20 reports of singles; CO in 1 Atlas block.

Com. Nighthawk: reported in 4 Atlas blocks; 3 Gansevoort 23 Aug; 11 Cohoes 24 Aug; 30 Livingston 24 Aug; 3 Albany 25 Aug; 83 Saratoga Springs 28 Aug; 40 Saratoga Springs 30 Aug; 72 Saratoga Springs 31 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: Biers Rd T Coeymans ALBA 2 Jun; 5 Stanton Rd T Coeymans ALBA 2 Jun; Warrensburg area 14 Jun;

Thurman 23 Jun; Claverack 4 Jul; only reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 61 banded plus 40 returns JL thru (RY).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 34 reports of singles; CO in 13 Atlas blocks.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 45 reports of singles; max 6 Austerlitz 9 Jul; reported nesting in 43 Atlas blocks.

Pileated Woodpecker: 86 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singing m near CDWMA late Jun; Gallupville 27 Jul, early migrant?; reported from 6 WARR Atlas blocks.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 Austerlitz 11 Jun; 4 SNHP 18 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 Plateau Mt 1 Jun; 2 Twin Mt 8 Jun.

Alder Flycatcher: max 5 SNHP 18 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: max 3 Schodack 2 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 8 Austerlitz 26 Jun.

E. Phoebe: max 8 Ghent 2 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 Austerlitz 11 Jun.

Warbling Vireo: max 6 Austerlitz 11 Jun.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.

Purple Martin: CO in colonies at L. Lonely, Saratoga Harness Track, Saratoga L., all SARA; only reports.

Tree Swallow: 461 nestlings banded at 7 colonies in FULT, MONT, SARA, SCHE, SCHO (RY).

Bank Swallow: 40+ nesting pairs Poolsburg.

Cliff Swallow: CO in 12 Atlas blocks.

Carolina Wren: 30 reports of singles; CO in 4 Atlas blocks.

House Wren: max 6 SNHP 18 Jun.

Winter Wren: 36 reports of singles.

Marsh Wren: max 20 Athens Marsh 1 Jun.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 locations on Plateau Mt 1 Jun.

Veery: max 23 PISP 24 Jun.

Bicknell's Thrush: 22 Plateau Mt 1 Jun; 14 Twin Mt 8 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: 13 reports of singles.

Wood Thrush: max 16 PISP 24 Jun.

Gray Catbird: max 13 Kinderhook 2 Jun.

N. Mockingbird: 49 reports of singles; CO in 20 Atlas blocks.

Brown Thrasher: 25 reports of singles; CO in 11 Atlas blocks.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 5 SNHP 18 Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Duaneburg 21 Jul.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Claverack 13 Jun.

Nashville Warbler: 20 reports of singles; arr BMT 21 Aug.

N. Parula: 6 reports of singles.

Yellow Warbler: max 11 Kinderhook 2 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 Austerlitz 5 Jul.

Magnolia Warbler: 39 reports of singles.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 48 reports of singles.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 66 reports of singles; max 6 Austerlitz 11 Jun.

Blackburnian Warbler: 51 reports of singles.

Pine Warbler: 12 reports of singles.

Prairie Warbler: 48 reports of singles; CO in 5 Atlas blocks.

Blackpoll Warbler: reported from 5 Atlas blocks.

Cerulean Warbler: 6 PISP 2 Jun; 5 Max V Shaul SP SCHO 23 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 Claverack 9 Jul.

Am. Redstart: max 7 Austerlitz 17 Jun; 28 PISP 22 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: singing m Bemis Heights 25 Jun (Kathy Schneider/Cris Winters).

Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Alander Mt

COLU 8 Jun, only report.
Ovenbird: max 11 Austerlitz.
N. Waterthrush: 11 reports of singles; 2 Bear Swamp 21 Jun; 2 Edie Rd 1 Jun; CO in Block 5781B.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 21 reports of singles; CO in 7 Atlas blocks.
Mourning Warbler: reported from 5 Atlas blocks.
Hooded Warbler: Alander Mt COLU 8 Jun; Holt Preserve 14 Jun; 4-5 Beaver Dam Rd T Berne ALBA thru.
Wilson's Warbler: PISP 25 Aug; BMT 27 Aug; only reports.
Canada Warbler: 18 reports of singles; CO in 1 Atlas block.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Max V Shaul SP SCHO 23 Jun; 85 reports of singles; CO

in 11 Atlas blocks.
E. Towhee: max 6 SNHP 18 Jun.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Ghent 26 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: reported from 8 Atlas blocks.
Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from 4 Atlas blocks.
Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.
Swamp Sparrow: max 10 BCM 14 Jul.
N. Cardinal: max 3 Kinderhook 2 Jun.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Austerlitz 18 Jun.
Indigo Bunting: 53 reports of singles.
Orchard Oriole: 43 reports of singles; pr Cary Rd 14 Jun (DH).
Evening Grosbeak: reported many locations in WARR.

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik
86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704
BochnikM@cs.com

June was wet, with normal temperatures. Rainfall for the month varied from 5.2" in Poughkeepsie to 6.6" in White Plains. Normal rainfall in these areas is around 3.8". July was very dry, putting the Region back into drought conditions. Only 1.1" of rain fell on White Plains, and Sullivan County had only 1.6" for the month. Locally heavy thunderstorms in Dutchess County on 19 and 23 July helped that county's rainfall to 3.8", but they were still short of the normal 4.7". July was quite hot, averaging 3°F hotter than normal. Some trees and shrubs started to turn yellow by the end of the month. August continued to be hot, coming in at 2° hotter than normal. Poughkeepsie had 27 days 90° or hotter for the season, with two long heat waves. One lasted for seven days, 29 July–4 August, and the other for nine days, 11–19 August. It remained dry for most of August until heavy rains on the 29th brought rainfall to near normal for the month.

The dry weather lowered many reservoirs, resulting in some good shorebird habitat. Bill Wallace found a Baird's Sandpiper in the dried-up East Branch Reservoir bed in Brewster, Putnam County on 20 August. The following day a Wilson's Phalarope appeared, along with an additional Baird's. The three birds were last reported on the 24th. I found a Semipalmated Plover with a three-colored leg band in Larchmont on 27 July. Erica Nol reported that her student, Linh Nguyen, banded this bird, an adult female, on the nest on 29 June 2002 at Akimiski Island, Nunavut, Canada.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found in Chelsea by Dot Fleury during the last week of June and was seen by others on 1 July. Other notable species included Least Bittern, Glossy Ibis and King Rail, all found at Marshlands Conservancy.

In Atlas work this summer, John Tramontano and others confirmed breeding for a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Town of Hamptonburg on a tract of land just purchased by the Orange County Land Trust. Dutchess County had its first breeding record for Northern Parula on Deep Hollow Road in the Hamlet of Amenia, Town of Dover. A pair was found feeding young in a nest on 14 June. This area also has breeding Blue-headed Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco. Once again a **Kentucky Warbler** was at Vassar Farms in June. Two Henslow's Sparrows were at the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge on 8 June, with one remaining on 18 June. No evidence of breeding was found. Most surprising was that both Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were confirmed breeding in Sullivan County.

CONTRIBUTORS

Anne Altshuler, John Askildsen, Trudy Batterly, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonanno, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Mary Ann Cairo, Kris Conklin, Dot Fleury, Carol & Ken Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Dick Gershon, John Haas, Kevin Holcomb, Sue Infante, Kelli Jewell, Steve Kahl, Al Merritt, Alan & Barbara Michelin, Linh Nguyen, Erica Nol, Drew Panko, Eleanor Pink, Carena Pooth, Peter Relson, Eric Reubel, Ed Spaeth, Sheldon Spencer, John Tramontano, Bill Wallace.

ABBREVIATIONS

EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; GSBC – Greenwich Summer Bird Count; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PJBC – Putnam June Bird Count, mid June; PNR – Pawling Nature Reserve; RNC – Rye Nature Center; RTWFT – Ralph T Waterman Bird Club Field Trip; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: EGR 16 Jun (TBu).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 Bashakill 4 Jun.

Double-crested Cormorant: 39 PJBC.

Am. Bittern: 1-3 Bashakill thru Jun.

Least Bittern: MC 13 Jun.

Great Blue Heron: max 14 Bontecou L.

Great Egret: 8 Goshen Pds 26 Jul; 4 East Branch Res 22 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: EGR 16 Jun, 8 Aug.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 31 Jul.

Glossy Ibis: 2 MC 15 Jun.

Black Vulture: 2 Hook Mt thru; 9 Thompson Pd 21 Aug; 5 PJBC; many single reports DUTC.

Brant: Beacon 28 Jun (BM, SI).

Am. Black Duck: 7 East Branch Res 22 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: MC 17 Jun.

Green-winged Teal: Goshen Pds 16 Aug.

Com. Merganser: 2 Ten Mile Ri Dover 26 Jul.

Ruddy Duck: Six-and-a-half Station Marsh 1 Jul (MC).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: pr at nest MC thru.

Bald Eagle: 4Jun reports DUTC; L DeForest 29 Jul (FB).

N. Harrier: 1-2 SGNWR thru.

Cooper's Hawk: 8 PJBC.

N. Goshawk: 2 PJBC; Wappinger 14 Jul.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 7 PJBC; 2 Mountainville 27-29 Jul.

Broad-winged Hawk: 9 PJBC.

N. Bobwhite: Dover 25 Jun.

Clapper Rail: MC 6 Jun; 2 MC 15 Jun; MC 8 Jul; 3 MC 13 Aug.

King Rail: MC 6, 13, 16 Jun (TBu); 4 MC 8, 12 Jul (TBu).

Sora: max 2 Bashakill Jun.

Com. Moorhen: max 3 Bashakill 13 Jun.

Am. Coot: 3 Thompson Pd 21 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: 11 MC 27 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: Larchmont 27 Jul see *intro*; 20 MC 27 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: 4 EGR 21 Jun; 5 EGR 10 Jul; 2 MC 12 Jul; MC 27 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: Goshen Pds 26 Jul; 6 Goshen Pds 16 Aug; 11 MC 19 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 11 MC 6, 7 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: Goshen Pds 26 Jul; 2 Goshen Pds 16 Aug.

Willet: Hen I 13 Jun (TBu).

Spotted Sandpiper: Bryan L 15 Jun; 2 Pulvers Comers DUTC; 2 PJBC.

Upland Sandpiper: max 7 SGNWR 8 Jun (SK).

Ruddy Turnstone: 4 EGR 3 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 220 Five Islands P New Rochelle 31 Jul; 135 MC 19 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: 3 Goshen Pds 26 Jul; 12 Goshen Pds 16 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: 1-2 East Branch Res 20-24 Aug (BW, JA).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 MC 8 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: East Branch Res 21-24 Aug (BW, AB).

Laughing Gull: 20 Rye 4 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Chelsea last week Jun (DF), 1 Jul (A&BM).

Com. Tern: 30 Rye 19 Jun; 30 Rye 4 Aug.

Least Tern: 4 MC 1 Jul; 2 MC 10 Jul.

Black Skimmer: Rye 13 Jun (TBu).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: reports each county.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: well reported each county.

Barred Owl: 3 Mianus Ri Gorge 16 Jun (GSBC).

Com. Nighthawk: 37 Mt. Vernon 26 Aug (KJ).

Whip-poor-will: Bashakill 21 Jun; 3 PJBC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Tivoli 1 Jun (RTWFT); Pleasant Valley 7 Jun (EP); Red Hook 14 Jul (BB); CO T Hamptonburg 3 Aug (JT).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 61 PJBC.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reports from DUTC, SULL, ORAN.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Harriman SP 3 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: Harriman SP 3 Jun; 8 PJBC; numerous reports WEST, DUTC.

Alder Flycatcher: MC 6 Jun (TBu); 6

SGNWR 8 Jun; 3 PJBC; 5 Jun reports DUTC.
Willow Flycatcher: max 15 SGNWR 8 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: Harriman SP 3 Jun; ad + y Amenia 12 Jun; 3 PNR 19 Jun; 2 Pound Ridge 22 Jun; 5 PJBC; Mountindale 26 Jun; Willowemoc 21 Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: Turkey Mt P 3 Jun (AB).
Fish Crow: Wurtsboro 24 Jun..
Com. Raven: Croton Res 16 Jun; 6 PJBC; DUTC Jun, Aug reports.
Purple Martin: Rye 15 Jun.
Cliff Swallow: 30 Cross River Res 22 Jun.
Brown Creeper: Harriman SP 3 Jun ; Nannahagen Rd Pleasantville 15 Jun; 1-2 Pound Ridge 20, 22 Jun.; 4 Jun reports DUTC.
Marsh Wren: 5-7 MC thru; 12 PJBC; 4 Great Swamp Pawling 16- 17 Jul.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: Nannahagen Rd Pleasantville 15 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Fishkill Ridge 30 Aug (ES).
Hermit Thrush: reports DUTC, SULL, ORAN.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Vassar Farm 11 Aug (BM).
Nashville Warbler: PJBC.
N. Parula: Vanderbilt 4 Jun; Old Forge Rd Dover 6 Jun; Wurtsboro 24 Jun; 2 with y and nest Deep Hollow Rd Amenia 12, 14 Jun (BB).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: White Plains 3 Jun (DP, TBa); Harrison 18 Jun (GSBC); Pleasant Valley 19 Jun; 2 PNR 19 Jun.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Fishkill 1 Jun; Union Vale 5 Jun; 3 Union Vale 5 Jul.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 7 Mianus Ri Gorge 16 Jun; 6 Amenia 12 Jun; 6 PNR 19 Jun; 22 PJBC; 5 with 3 y Amenia 10 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: Amenia 12, 21

Jun; Wurtsboro SULL 24 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: Armonk 15 Jun (GSBC).
Cerulean Warbler: PJBC; 2 Dover 28 Jun; Dover 16-17 Aug.
Worm-eating Warbler: 30 PJBC; 10 Pound Ridge 7 Jul.
Ovenbird: 10 PNR 19 Jun; 12 Pound Ridge 22 Jun.
N. Waterthrush: Milan 22-23 Jul.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 7 Amenia 12 Jun; 5 Pound Ridge 22 Jun.
Kentucky Warbler: Vassar Farms 3, 4, 13 Jun (PR).
Mourning Warbler: Harriman SP 3 Jun; MC 6 Jun; PJBC.
Hooded Warbler: 1-2 Union Vale 5 Jun, 5 Jul; Dover 6 Jun, 26 Jul; 2 PNR 19 Jun; Pound Ridge 29 Jun; 5 Pawling 15 Jul.
Wilson's Warbler: PJBC; Bontecou L 28 Aug.
Canada Warbler: Amenia 12 Jun.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Savannah Sparrow: max 4 singing m SGNWR 11 Jun.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 4 singing m SGNWR 11 Jun.
Henslow's Sparrow: 2 SGNWR 8 Jun (SK); SGNWR 18 Jun (SS).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 6 Jun (TBu).
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 24 MC 6 Jun; 9 MC, Rye 15 Jun; 6 MC 19 Aug.
Seaside Sparrow: MC, Rye 1-16 Jun (TBu, GSBC); 2 MC 1, 8, 12 Jul, 23, 19 Aug (TBu).
White-throated Sparrow: Haret's Brook Preserve White Plains 10, 19 Jun (DP, TBa), not know to breed in WEST.
Dark-eyed Junco: 3 Amenia 12 Jun, with 2 y 10 Aug (RTWFT).
Bobolink: max 48 SGNWR 8 Jun.
E. Meadowlark: max 42 SGNWR 8 Jun.
Orchard Oriole: 2 Wethersfield 8 Jun; Red Hook 8 Jun; MC 13 Jun, 4, 8 Jul; SGNWR 25 Jun; Beacon 28 Jun.

Pine Siskin: few at feeder Swan L 12 Jun (AA, KC), possibly carrying nesting material; FY Horseshoe L Rd DUTC 5 Jul (KC).

Evening Grosbeak: 3 at feeder Swan L 12 Jun (AA, KC), possibly carrying nesting material; FY at feeder 23 Aug (KC).

REGION 10 – MARINE

Seymour Schiff

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550
syschiff@optonline.net

Alvin Wollin

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

Temperatures in June were approximately normal and rainfall was 0.66" above normal. July, however, exhibited major drought conditions, with only 1.05" of rain falling. August had 4.91" of rain, against a norm of 4.22". Still, for the first eight months of the year, the total rainfall was almost 10" short. Temperatures for July and August averaged more than 2°F warmer than normal. There were 28 days over 90° this season, 12 in July and 14 in August.

Pelagic birds have long been known to summer in waters abutting our Region. Perhaps the number and variety has not been fully appreciated. This summer, an exceptional number of reports were available and we are taking the opportunity to document the phenomenon in considerable detail. There were almost no rarities, but lots of sightings throughout the season. We'll continue this comprehensive coverage this year into the early part of the next season.

PELAGICS SEEN OFFSHORE: On 9 June, Jack Passie found 200 Greater Shearwaters, 50 Sooty Shearwaters and at least 1000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels in the waters south of Montauk Point. Then, on 14 June, he reported an unidentified albatross 23 miles southeast of Montauk Point. The bird circled the shark-fishing party once and continued on its way. Also sighted nearby were a few Greater Shearwaters and a Parasitic Jaeger.

On 15 June, within 15 miles of Montauk Point, he recorded one Northern Fulmar, 200 Greater Shearwaters, 100 Sooty Shearwaters and 1000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. The following day, one mile east of the point, there were ten Greater Shearwaters, one Sooty Shearwater and 100 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. On 22 June, a single Cory's Shearwater was seen among the Greaters 20 miles southeast of Montauk Point. On 21 June, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was in Gardiners Bay.

Offshore on 20 July, a good variety of pelagic birds was seen about 20 miles south of Montauk Point, highlighted by a South Polar Skua that, for 20 minutes, harassed Great Black-backed Gulls feeding on the chum slick. Other birds sighted included 24 Greater Shearwaters, two Cory's Shearwaters and 200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. On 21 July, 13 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were feeding around the one-mile buoy south of Shinnecock Inlet. On 5 August, a trip 20 miles south-southwest of Montauk Point produced one Manx Shearwater and 200+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels.

From 11 June through mid August, trips on the Cross Sound Ferry that runs between Orient Point and New London, CT, produced as many as 10-15 Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Long Island Sound.

PELAGICS SEEN FROM SHORE: On 5 June, an ocean watch from Democrat Point at the western end of Fire Island produced a nice pelagic mix with one Cory's, 12 Greater, ten Sooty and one Manx shearwaters.

On 8 June, off Georgica Pond, onshore sightings produced two jaegers, one an unusually pale-plumaged bird thought to have been a Long-tailed Jaeger and a second bird unidentified as to species. The same day, two Sooty Shearwaters were seen from Montauk Point. Then, on 9 June, three Sooty and one Manx shearwaters were seen off Sagaponack.

On 11 June, an ocean watch from Democrat Point produced 15 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. On 14 June, three Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from Robert Moses State Park. On 15 June, seven Wilson's Storm-Petrels were just off Shinnecock Inlet. On 22 June, two Wilson's Storm-Petrels were reported off Great Kills, Staten Island. On 24 June, a Manx Shearwater was seen from Hither Hills State Park.

On 9 July, eight Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from the Fort Tilden Fisherman's Parking Lot. Then, on 14 July, an adult Parasitic Jaeger landed on the water where it was observed for over an hour.

On 17 July, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was spotted in Jones Inlet. The same day, 25 were off Shinnecock Inlet. On 20 July, a single Cory's Shearwater was seen from Fire Island.

On 2 August, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was cruising by offshore at Georgica Pond. On 3 August, ten Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from Fire Island Parking Field #2. On 24 August, 15 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen over the ocean at Mecox Bay.

Other highlights: This year's Brown Pelicans were first seen in our Region on 17 May. This season, three appeared off Robert Moses State Park on 14 June, followed by many sporadic reports from Staten Island to Amagansett on the South Shore. They were last reported from Eatons Neck on the North Shore on 25 July.

On 4 July, Andy Guthrie, visiting Cow Meadow Park in Freeport, discovered an ibis with a red eye and red facial tissue in a group of Glossy Ibises. There was no white feathering around the bill. This **White-faced Ibis**, in non-breeding plumage, was seen again briefly on the 6th, 7th and 14th. On 6 July, Andy Guthrie, with Gail Benson, Tom Burke and Angus Wilson went from Cow Meadow, where they saw the ibis, to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. There they discovered a second adult White-faced Ibis at the south end of the East Pond in a flock of ~80 resting

and bathing Glossy Ibises. The bird was last seen 14 July.

Dave Kunstler reported on a heron rookery on Goose Island in Pelham Bay Park. Nests counted were: 23 Great Egret, 28 Snowy Egret, 60 Black-crowned Night-Heron, three Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and one Great Black-backed Gull.

A hacking program has been undertaken in Inwood Park, Manhattan, to introduce the Bald Eagle into the local environment. This is the first program in our Region for the introduction of a species not formerly known to have bred here. Chapman, in *Birds of Eastern North America*, published in 1895, indicated that this species was an uncommon permanent resident at Sing Sing, Westchester County, and along the Hudson River north of the city.

In a *New York Times* story of 25 June, Christopher Nadareski, Supervisor of Wildlife Studies for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, reported that 23 of 26 fledgling Peregrine Falcons successfully departed from 12 nest sites around the city. The number of Peregrine Falcons in southeastern New York State has now grown from two pairs in 1983, when Peregrines were considered extirpated here, to 24 nesting pairs. "In the area from Nassau County, the city and south from Albany, we have counted 47 chicks so far this year," Mr. Nadareski said.

On 17 August, **seven** American Avocets were reported at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Some, or all, remained to the end of the season. On the same date, one was reported at Cupsogue County Park. It was last reported 22 August. On 28 August, Ken Feustel, on a sea watch at Robert Moses State Park, saw a first summer Franklin's Gull moving eastward along the beach with Laughing Gulls.

Environmental efforts inevitably produce benefits, often over and above what is intended. The protection afforded by the intensive Piping Plover program along our beaches has probably also resulted in this summer's extensive nesting colonies of Least Terns, which had a good nesting season at a number of South Shore locations. At Jones Beach West End, the park staff counted 100-120 nests, 200-240 adults and approximately 120 fledglings. At Georgica, the sand flat had a large colony, which numbered at least 185 birds. At Mecox, 512 Least Terns were counted; on 20 July, 61 flightless young were present. Later, Southampton tern and plover wardens counted about 100 young. Marty Shea relayed to Hugh McGuinness that Least Terns had a good breeding season at Red Cedar Point in Hampton Bays, where almost 100 nests were found.

On 8 June, a Chuck-will's-widow was reported on the Captree Summer Bird Count. A bird was at Napeague Overlook on 25 June and another was heard singing nightly throughout June in East Quogue. This southern species continues in our area in very small numbers.

On 8 June, Andy Guthrie was surprised to find a **Common Raven** soaring over the parking lot at Jamaica Bay. It was seen in a kettle of Herring and Laughing gulls before moving off. Then, on 24 July, while studying two Peregrine Falcons perched on the water tower at Jones Beach, Al Wollin noticed three corvids approaching, two American Crows and a **Common Raven**. The two crows took off

and the raven soared in spirals above the tower and disappeared to the west. A prior report, along the coast, came from Sandy Hook, NJ. Birders should be alert for this rarity on Long Island.

Few banding operations continue after the peak spring migration. On 29 July, at a banding station at Fort Tilden, Queens, Tom Brown and Jarrod Santora netted a Tennessee Warbler, a most unusual summer visitor or, more likely, a very early migrant. We know of no prior records in the Region at this time of year. A NYSARC report, with accompanying photos, has been submitted.

On 15 August, Guy Tudor and Brian Cassie found a **Loggerhead Shrike** on Grumman Boulevard at its intersection with Line Road. The bird was seen sitting on the fence and flying out onto the runways, where it perched on white metal triangles. It later moved to the east and was last seen 18 August. This species had been a rare migrant, usually with a single sighting annually in the fall and occasionally in spring and winter. It was last seen in our Region in the spring of 1994.

Ken Feustel, Region 10 Atlas 2000 coordinator, reported breeding activity for Blue Grosbeaks in four locations in the area west of Riverhead, consisting of one to two probable breeding attempts and two proven breeding records. He also reported breeding **Summer Tanager** at Brookhaven National Laboratory, confirmed by Jim Clinton, with photos taken of the nest and young by Mike Cooper and others. There was a previous breeding report at this property, which was not accepted by NYSARC due to insufficient data in the submission. If this current report is accepted, it will become the first breeding record for the species in New York State.

CONTRIBUTORS

John P. Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Andrew Bernick, Steven Biasetti, Orhan Birol, Howard Boltson, Tom Brown, P. A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Brian Cassie, James Clinton Sr (JCI), John J. Collins (JJC), Art Cooley, Bob DiCandido, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Michael Farina, Ken & Sue Feustel, Tom Fiore, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Paul H. Gillen, Isaac Grant, Andrew Guthrie, Carl Jaslowitz, Rob Jett, David W. Klauber, Norman Klein, Greg Kunkel, Dave Kunstler, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Joe Manzione, Hugh McGuinness, Shai Mitra, Christopher Nadareski, Lucy-Betti Nash, Chris Nuzzi, Kevin O'Leary, Al Ott, Jack Passie, Jim Pion, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Glenn Quinn, Judy Rabi, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman, Jarrod Santora, Starr Saphir, Seymour Schiff, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit & Rex Stanford, Guy Tudor, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CLP – Clove L P SI; CM – Cow Meadow P Freeport; CP – Central P; DP – Democrat Pt FI; FI – Fire I; FTT – Fort Tilden QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P SI; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long I; MEB – Mecox Bay; MOR – Moriches; 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; SG – Sagaponack; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: several in south shore ocean early to mid Aug.

Horned Grebe: alt plumage Orient Beach SP 30 Jun-6 Aug, partial molt 24 Aug.

albatross sp.: 23 miles SE of MP 14 Jun, circled a shark-fishing party once and continued on its way (JP).

N. Fulmar: S of MP 15 Jun.

Cory's Shearwater: DP 5 Jun; FI 20 Jul; 2 20 miles S of MP 20 Jul; 20 miles SE of MP 22 Jul.

Greater Shearwater: 12 DP 5 Jun; 200 S of MP 9 Jun; few S of MP 14 Jun; 200 S of MP 15 Jun; 10 1 mile S of MP 16 Jun; 20 miles SE of MP 22 Jun; 24 20 miles S of MP 20 Jul.

Sooty Shearwater: 10 DP 5 Jun; 2 MP 8 Jun; 50 S of MP 9 Jun; 3 SG 9 Jun; 100 1 mile S of MP 16 Jun.

Manx Shearwater: DP 5 Jun; SG 9 Jun; Hither Hills 24 Jun; 20 miles SW of MP 5 Aug.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: the most common pelagic bird in our waters, frequently seen in small numbers from shore in both the south shore ocean and LI Sound, larger numbers well off shore, thru; see *intro*.

Brown Pelican: appeared elusive and widespread throughout; 3 off RMSP 14, 22 Jun; Quogue 21 Jun (life guard said he had seen them for several days prior); GKP 22 Jun; 3 JBWE 22 Jun; 2 off SI on pilings at Swinburne I 3 Jul; over the ocean at Old Inlet, E of Bellport Beach 14 Jul; PB 5 Jul; 2 Amagansett 5 Jul; FTT 9

Jul; Rockaway Inlet/BP QUEE 6, 10 Jul; 2 off T Amagansett beach 6 Jul; 5 MOR, 7 Cupsogue 16 Jul; 2 Jones Inlet 17 Jul, 1 on 18 Jul; off Sand City (public beach) Eatons Neck 25 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: 46 nests Argyle L Babylon.

Great Cormorant: Napeague 9 Jun; BP 13 Jul.

Least Bittern: JBWR 11 Aug; Sanctuary Pd Mashomack 2, 22 Aug.

Cattle Egret: up to 3 JBWR thru; pr may have nested on one of the bay islands.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: CM 4, 6, 7, 14 Jul (AG *et al*); JBWR 6-14 Jul (AnW,AG,TB *et al*); this rare species can be easily overlooked among the many Glossy Ibis.

Turkey Vulture: PP 10 Jul; BP mid May to mid Jul, possibly same over FTT and vicinity; SI common in vicinity of Fresh Kills landfill; along Rt 105 Riverhead 24 Aug.

Com. Eider: 2 MP Jun 23.

Black Scoter: 3 fem, 1 m summering Oak Beach Inn flats; East Patchogue 18 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 4 imm hacked Inwood P Manhattan, part of a program to introduce this species into the local environment, no evidence they ever nested in the vicinity; near Wolfes Pd P SI 8 Jul; JBWR 24 Jul, 28 Aug.

Cooper's Hawk: now firmly established in SUFF; at least 4 CO this year and last;

Montauk Co. P 26 Jun.

Peregrine Falcon: 23 of 26 FL successfully departed from 12 nest sites [some in Reg 9] in the NYC area (CN).

Wild Turkey: 16 Calverton Airport 8 Jun; 13 (11 y) Manorville mid Jun; 3 LIPA power line s end Long Pd on Widow Gavits Rd 8 Jul; 2 Calverton 20 Aug.

N. Bobwhite: Watch Hill FI 18 Jul, only report, has not been doing well in Reg.

Black Rail: Captree 8 Jun.

Com. Moorhen: East Quogue & JBWR, only reports.

Am. Golden-Plover: sod fields near Riverhead last week Aug; JBWE; others.

Am. Avocet: 7 JBWR 17 Aug, some thru; Cupsogue Co. P 17-23 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: 13 Aquebogue Duck Farm end Jul; 21 there 6 Aug.

Willet: imm possible western race JBWE 22 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Wading Ri 8 Jun; pr Hulse Landing Rd north of Rt 25A Wading Ri (JCI); FL Gabreski Airport Westhampton (AL).

Whimbrel: reports South Shore LI 23 Jul-late Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: Cupsogue 16 Jul; JBWR 17 Aug.

Marbled Godwit: Dune Rd 17 Aug; 2 east of Ponquogue bridge 17-31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: PBP 15 Aug; Alvahs Ln Cutchogue 18-21, 28-31 Aug; Rt 105 Riverhead 20-28 Aug; JBWR 24-28 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 MEB 23 Aug; 4 MEB 29 Aug; Doctors Path north of Riverhead 21, 24, 28-29 Aug; others.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 700 PB 13 Jul; 450 JBWR 13 Jul; in mid Jul build-up of shorebirds.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 4 Jun, 9-19 Aug; Twin Lakes Wantagh 17 Aug; Alvahs Ln S of Oregon Rd 18 Aug; MEB 26-28 Aug (HMG).

Red-necked Phalarope: Little PB Westhampton Dunes 4 Jul.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 20 mls S of MP 20 Jul (JP).

Parasitic Jaeger: S of MP 14 Jun; FTT 14 Jul.

jaeger sp.: 2 off Georgica 8 Jun.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: 1st summer plumage, moving east along beach with Laughing Gulls, from sea watch RMSP (KF).

Black-headed Gull: JBWR 9 Jun (AnW).

Bonaparte's Gull: several at various times and locations thru.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1st summer plumage SG 20 Jul; ad MEB 28 Aug.

Caspian Tern: Westhampton Dunes 23 Jul; JBWR 10 Aug; MEB 30 Aug.

Royal Tern: sporadically Marine Nature Study Area Jun, Aug; 2 on 30 Jun to max 20 on 1 Aug, up to 8 thru, Little PB Westhampton Dunes; MEB; SHIN; Tobay sea watch; RMSP.

Least Tern: nesting colonies: 100-120 nests, 200-240 ad, ~120 FL JBWE; 185+ Georgica sand flat; 512 Mecox, 61 flightless y 20 Jul, 100 y later; 100 nests Red Cedar Pt Hampton Bays.

Black Tern: BP 13 Jul, 20 Aug; MEB 5, 18, 20 Jul, 11 Aug; PB 16, 23, 27, 30 Jul, 7 Aug; 2 JBWE 23 Jul; Cupsogue & Little PB 16, 23, 27, 30 Jul 23; SHIN 24 Aug; 3 RMSP 28 Aug; others.

Black Skimmer: CP 29 Jun, unusual location.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Chuck-will's-widow: Captree 8 Jun; Napeague Overlook 25 Jun; singing nightly E. Quogue Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Calverton 20 Jun; pr Sunken Meadow SP GC (HB); Suffolk CC Selden (K&SF); CP most of summer.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: calling and seen Farmingville backyard 28 Jul (JM).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Grumman Blvd Calverton 15-18 Aug (GT,BC *et al*); has been rare migrant with only singles seen annually in fall and occasionally

spring and winter; last reported spring 1994.

COMMON RAVEN: soaring over JBWR 8 Jun (AG); JBCH 24 Jul (AW); extremely rare on LI.

E. Bluebird: first recent nesting, in boxes provided by staff PBP.

WARBLERS

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: CO Smithtown (LN); Muttontown Preserve (KO).

Tennessee Warbler: FTT banding station 29 Jul (TB,JS), ph, NYSARC report requested, no prior mid summer records in Reg.

Worm-eating Warbler: CP 14-20 Aug; Northville backyard 16-18 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: CP 20 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: David Wells Preserve Nissequogue 5 Jun; Mt Loretto Preserve SI 22 Jun; off Rt 51 SW of

Riverhead mid Aug; PP 25 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CO nest with y Brookhaven National Lab (JCI), 1st NYS breeding record if accepted by NYSARC.

Vesper Sparrow: singing Grumman property Calverton early-mid Jun; other nearby grasslands.

Grasshopper Sparrow: breeding Grumman facility Calverton; other grasslands eastern SUFF.

Blue Grosbeak: 4 breeding sites n. and w. of Riverhead: y m near Riverhead landfill; pr Roanoke 29 Jun; pr carrying food Grumman property Calverton 30 Jun, not far from UPS building where found nesting 1999; pr with 3 y Co Rds 111 & 58 near Eastport 19 Jul.

Dickcissel: JBWR 25 Aug.



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; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY -adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P -park; Pd- Pond; ph - photographed; Pt -Point; Res - Reservoir;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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John J. Elliott Memorial:

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

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

Elected Committees

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