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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2002

Over the past year, the New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter NYSARC or the Committee) deliberated on a total of 161 reports. The reports involved 91 separate sightings from 2002 and an additional 7 reports from previous years. A total of 95 observers provided written descriptions and/or photographs, with one or more sightings reported from 26 out of the 62 counties in the state. Counties with the most reports were Monroe (50), Nassau (15) and Niagara (13). In all, 145 reports (90%) were accepted, and this impressive statistic testifies to the high quality of the majority of the submissions. The remaining 16 were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because the descriptions were judged as inconsistent with known identification criteria. Multiple reports were received for 30 of the sightings, with 28 diligent individuals sending in two or more reports. Sightings for which there are multiple submissions are invariably stronger than those supported by a single submission. Details in one account help fill in the gaps in another, and where the descriptions overlap they provide confirmation of the specific details. Too often observers assume that someone else will submit a detailed report and forego the responsibility. As a result, well-watched birds may be poorly documented or not reported at all.

All records are sight records unless otherwise indicated. For accepted reports, the names of observers submitting documentation are given in parentheses; 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 that accompanies each species entry, but our emphasis is on crediting contributors. The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-List of North American Birds, Seventh edition (AOU 1998) and all Supplements through the 45th (Banks et al. 2004). Those contributing photographs, video or sketches are given special mention in the narrative. With the rapid advances in affordable camera equipment, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of rare species documented by still photography or video. It is hard to overstate the value of photographs both as tools to identification and as a permanent record of the sighting. Photographs do not need to be 'magazine quality' and a simple 'snap' taken with an instamatic camera can often capture critical information. This year we saw excellent examples of documentation often using unsophisticated camera equipment. The taking of photographs by holding a camera to the eyepiece of a telescope—a technique known as 'digiscoping'—can be remarkably effective. Inexpensive digital cameras are particularly good for this, but the approach also works with conventional single lens reflex (SLR) cameras. There are many web sites that offer advice on digiscoping, and we encourage readers to read the article by Rex Stanford in an earlier issue of this journal (Stanford 2002). Digital images, imported directly from the camera or from scanning of slides or prints, can be sent to the Committee via e-mail. We will also accept copies of video or audiotapes. Please note that all forms of multimedia documentation should be accompanied by a written report.

All of the records reviewed by NYSARC (including written descriptions, photographs, videotapes, and audio recordings), irrespective of acceptance, are archived at Cornell University in Ithaca and are accessible to the public upon request. The Committee may choose to revisit reports in the light of new information.

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. We often receive minimal reports that presume that co-observers will provide the missing details. Sadly, in some cases the more comprehensive reports have not materialized, and the abbreviated reports are not complete enough to stand on their own. Submission of multiple independent reports provides a more compelling and detailed account of the sighting, increasing the likelihood of acceptance. Concern of over-burdening the Committee is not a tenable excuse.

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 detailed commentaries (known as 'review sheets') and cast their votes independently. These are returned to the secretary, and the votes are tabulated. 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 (see McGowan and Burke 2000). If no consensus is reached, the reports are sent out again along with the seven review sheets for a second round of review. 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 round of review.

Another common concern is the length of time it takes for a report to be reviewed and for NYSARC to publish its decision. First, as indicated above, NYSARC receives a large number of reports, and these take a considerable amount of time for the secretary to compile, duplicate and distribute and for each Committee member to review carefully. For a fraction of the 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 keep the lag to a minimum. The continued cooperation of bird clubs and Regional Editors in coordinating or encouraging submissions is greatly appreciated.

How to submit reports. To learn how to prepare and submit a report, please visit the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site:

<http://www.nybirds.org/NYSARC/NYSARCHome.htm>

The site now includes a special on-line version of the reporting form, allowing observers to compose a complete report and attach up to five digital image files electronically. The site also includes a list of species reviewed by NYSARC, information on the composition of the Committee, a gallery of rare or unusual birds photographed in the state, and copies of previous annual reports. NYSARC encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as species previously unrecorded in New York State. We also encourage observers to read the article by Committee member Willie D'Anna on the documentation and reporting process (D'Anna 2003). The Committee is grateful to Carena Pooth and Barbara Butler for redesigning and regularly updating the NYSARC web site. Documentation (written and photographic) or correspondence for the Committee should be sent to:

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NYSARC ACTIVITIES

At the end of December 2003 Dr. Kevin McGowan completed his current term as voting member and rotated off the Committee. We miss Kevin's expertise in the field and museum and wish him success as NYSOA President. The vacated position has been filled by Steve Kelling, another respected figure from the Ithaca/Cayuga Basin birding community. Steve is Director of Information Technologies at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology and has served as Region 3 editor for *The Kingbird* and as regional editor for *North American Birds*. Lastly, the Committee wishes to thank Manny Levine for his guidance in the production of past annual reports and his many efforts to promote the work of this committee. We wish him well in his retirement as Editor of *The Kingbird*. On 6 November 2004, NYSARC met at the Laboratory of Ornithology for its annual meeting. Many items of business were discussed during the six and a half hour meeting, including a number of changes to the review list and regional designations. These will be summarized in a separate article.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2002 REPORT

The highlights of 2002 included the first accepted record for NYS of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*), second records of **Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistisagus*), **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*), and

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*), and fifth record of **Ross's Gull** (*Rhodostethia rosea*). A most interesting and challenging record was provided by a *Dendroica* warbler that closely resembled a Hermit Warbler (*D. occidentalis*) but was felt by the majority of the Committee to more likely represent a hybrid Hermit x Townsend's Warbler (*D. occidentalis* x *D. townsendi*)—see discussion below. The AOU (Banks et al. 2004) has recently split the Canada Goose into two species, separating out the smaller forms into Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Consequently, New York, by reason of having accepted reports of 'Richardson's' Canada Goose in the past, now has a new species on its list. With the additions of Eurasian Collared-Dove and Cackling Goose, the official state list rises to 462 species.

2002 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

2002-70-A One, Irondequoit Bay south, Penfield, **Monroe**, 18 Sep (Kurt Fox).

2002-81-A/B One adult, Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, **Nassau**, 11-15 Nov (Seymour Schiff, Sandy Spitalnik).

The Irondequoit Bay sighting is likely a record early date for Ross's Goose in the state. The report was very thorough and completely allayed any concerns about a possible hybrid Snow x Ross's Goose. Excellent photos of the Zach's Bay bird by Seymour Schiff and by Seth Ausubel establish the identification and rule out the possibility of a hybrid. Both Ross's Geese were associating with Canada Geese though they are typically found with Snow Geese. Since the first accepted record for the state in 1983 (Griffith 1998, pp. 143-144), Ross's Geese have increased dramatically in the East, and multiple birds are now seen annually in New York. Observers should identify this species with an eye toward ruling out the possibility of a hybrid Snow x Ross's Goose, as these hybrids are not infrequent (see Roberson 1993 for further discussion). Although NYSARC plans to remove this species from the statewide review list, descriptions should still be included with all reports to Regional Editors.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

'Black' Brant (*B. b. nigricans*)

2002-45-A One, New Baltimore, **Greene**, 25 Oct (Richard Guthrie, photos by R. Guthrie). This record, documented with excellent photographs, is very unusual in two respects: among the small sample of Black Brant recorded in NYS, this is apparently the first juvenile and only the third recorded away from Long Island.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

2002-13-A Eight individuals, Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR, **Genesee**, 9 Mar (Michael Morgante).

2002-46-A Five individuals, Ring-necked Marsh, Iroquois NWR, **Genesee**, 2 Nov (Michael Morgante).

These reports were submitted and accepted prior to the AOU Check-List Committee's decision to split the white-cheeked geese into two species: Cackling

Goose and Canada Goose (*Auk*: 121: 985-995). The 'Richardson's' form (subspecies *hutchinsii*) of what is now called Cackling Goose has proven a regular visitor to western NYS and LI, and these well-documented reports of small flocks are a welcome contribution to our evolving understanding of the local status of this newly elevated species.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Eurasian race (*A. c. crecca*)

2002-12-A/B One male, Church Rd., Hamlin, **Monroe**, 18 Apr (Kurt Fox, Robert Spahn). This 'Common Teal' was found with 'American' Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*) on a seasonal pool that had formed in a farm field and allowed careful study at relatively close range. These detailed reports carefully established the identification and, importantly, ruled out the possibility of a *crecca* x *carolinensis* hybrid. Although reported annually from the marine portion of NY, this subspecies is very rare elsewhere.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

2002-58-A One adult male, Lake Champlain, Crown Point, **Essex**, 30 Dec (David Hoag). This duck was studied actively swimming and diving within a raft of 250 scaup just on the New York side of the state line. Interestingly, a more sizeable scaup flock containing two adult male Tufted Ducks had been reported from Vermont waters a few days earlier. The observer provided a detailed and convincing description of an adult male, with no evidence of hybridization. Ageing is based on the long, thick head plumes and solid white flanks.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

2002-64-A One adult male, Cumberland Head, **Clinton**, 6 Oct (David Hoag). Observed throughout the day feeding, loafing and occasionally flying with a raft of White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Although the three photographs taken by the observer provided little supplementary information, they hinted at the distinctive sail-like scapulars described in the written report. Although not considered a formal review species, eiders of any species are sufficiently rare on Lake Champlain to merit review.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

2002-79-A One female, Lake Ontario, Webster, **Monroe**, 5 Nov (Robert Spahn). This female eider was studied carefully as it flew along the lakeshore with three female King Eiders (*S. spectabilis*). The Committee appreciated that only a limited amount of detail can be gathered during such fly-by observations and felt the difference in shape and darker brown coloration was sufficient to establish the identification.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2002-52-A/B One, Lake Ontario, **Wayne**, 30-31 Oct (William Watson, Robert Spahn).

2002-63-A/B One, Montauk Point, **Suffolk**, 14 & 24 Dec (Patrick Santinello, Thomas W. Burke, photos by Gail Benson).

The Wayne Co. bird was observed on multiple dates at various distances off the

beach, with Common Loon (*G. immer*) and Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) providing useful comparisons. The Suffolk Co. bird was discovered by Tom Burke on 14 Dec during the Montauk Christmas Bird Count and seen by a number of birders over the following weeks including Patrick Santinello, with the last reported sighting on 27 Dec. The Pacific Loon was studied alongside Red-throated (*G. stellata*) and Common (*G. immer*) Loons. At both locations, the observers noted the absence of white markings on the black back implying these were adult birds and carefully described the crisp border between black and white plumage, thin pointed bill, rounded head and dark smudgy line running from side to side under the chin. Size and posture were also indicative of Pacific Loon. The latter feature and absence of a white flank ruled out Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*). By holding her single lens reflex camera to the eyepiece of a telescope, Gail Benson was able to photograph the rather distant Suffolk Co. bird. Although the images were very small, these provided useful confirmatory information for the written reports, showing the sharp color contrast and diffuse chin strap.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2002-51-A/B One, off Wolfe's Pond Park, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 1-8 Apr (Seth Ausubel, Angus Wilson).

Initially discovered by Lauren and Chris Nuzzi, the grebe remained in the tidal waters offshore until the 9th, during which time the bird was seen by many observers from NY and neighboring NJ. Both reports provided written descriptions supported by photographs by the authors.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

2002-65-A One immature, Hamlin Beach SP, **Monroe**, 23 Nov (Jessie Barry).

2002-71-A One immature, Irondequoit Bay north, **Monroe**, 5 Jan. (Kevin Griffith).

Reports of this species on Lake Ontario are regular in the fall, with most occurring in November and December. Only a fraction of the actual sightings make it to the Committee for review. Still, there have been 31 accepted records from inland parts of the State since 1979, and, with many from Lake Ontario accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee, the NYSARC is considering removing this species from the review list. The report from Hamlin Beach was accompanied by detailed field sketches by Jessie Barry. The Irondequoit Bay sighting established a new record late date for Lake Ontario in New York.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

2002-21-A/C Three birds, mouth of Sandy Creek, Town of Hamlin, **Monroe**, 6 May (Kurt Fox, Robert Spahn), and Niagara Falls, Niagara River, **Niagara**, 14 May (Willie D'Anna, photo by W. D'Anna).

2002-43-A Two birds, Myers Point, Lansing, **Tompkins**, 3 Oct (Mary Walters, photos by Mary Walters).

Reports 2002-21-A/C pertain to a group of three birds seen at two widely separated locations eight days apart. There were other reports on the Buffalo Rare Bird Alert at intermediate locations and dates suggesting that all sightings involved the same birds. Although most sightings of White Pelican in the state have involved single birds, there have been occasional reports of multiples over

the years (Lauro 1998a). While birders need to be aware that escapes of exotic species of white-plumaged pelicans do occur, the photos and descriptions accompanying both of these reports indicated that our native species was involved.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

2002-32-A/C One, Sodus Point, **Wayne**, 21 Jul-8 Aug (Kurt Fox, Robert Spahn, Doug Daniels, photo by Ray Ovelman).

2002-47-A/C One, Sandy Pond, **Oswego**, 27 Jul-1 Aug (Bernie Carr, Brenda Best, Gerard Phillips).

2002-48-A One, Lake Ontario, City of Oswego, **Oswego**, 22 Oct (Barbara Herrgesell).

2002-56-A/B One Oswego Harbor, Oswego, **Oswego**, 24-25 Nov (Antony Shrimpton, Gregg Dashnau, photo by Kevin McGann).

2002-87-A Two immatures, Lower NY Harbor, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 3 Jul (Andrew Bernick).

During the summer of 2002, there was a great movement of Brown Pelicans into inland regions of Eastern North America (*North American Birds* 2002). A detailed review of these sightings by Alan Wormington (Wormington 2002) indicated that at least eight individuals appeared around the Great Lakes, including three in New York. The pelican at Sandy Pond and Sodus Point clearly pertained to the same individual. Unfortunately, the documentation that the Committee received for the Oswego Harbor bird was insufficient to determine if there were two different individuals seen a month apart or even if they were different than the individual seen at Sandy Pond and Sodus Point. Fortunately, a photograph of the Oswego bird in *North American Birds* (Kelling et al. 2002), taken by Jay McGowan (incorrectly attributed to Willie D'Anna) clearly indicates a different individual, lacking a white head patch that the Sandy Pond/Sodus Point bird showed. Wormington considered the Brown Pelican reported on Cayuga Lake to be a third individual but unfortunately, the Committee received no reports of this bird. Although this species is apparently now regular along New York's coast, the two birds seen at New York Harbor are among very few documented sightings submitted to NYSARC.



Figure 1. Brown Pelican, Sandy Pond, Oswego Co., 28 Jul 2002. © Gerard Phillips.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

2002-14-A One adult, Barnes Road, Walworth, Wayne, 30 Apr
(Tracie Shultz, photo by T. Shultz).

This adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron spent a day at a pond near the observer's home. Written details were supplemented with a color photograph (one of twenty) taken by the observer, who also mentioned taking videotape. The date suggests a northward migrant that had overshot its normal summer range.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2002-82-A One, Cow Meadow Park, Freeport, Nassau, 6 Jul (Angus Wilson, photo by Wilson).

2002-83-A One, Jamaica Bay WR, Queens, 6 & 14 Jul (Angus Wilson, photo by Wilson).

Both ibis were encountered briefly as they visited freshwater ponds to drink and bathe in the company of Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*). The Nassau Co. bird was tentatively aged as a second-year, or possibly retarded third-year, on the basis of partial winter-type feathering on the head and the presence of a number of maroon lesser coverts. The Queens Co. bird, first found on the same day as the observations of the Nassau Co bird, was thought to be at least three-years old progressing rapidly towards winter-type plumage. In all three sightings, the White-faced Ibis was only present for a few minutes before taking flight and presumably flying back out to feed in the extensive saltwater marshes surrounding both sites. The written submissions were supplemented by a copy of an article, authored by Wilson, Andy Guthrie and Peter Pyle, on ageing of sub-adult White-faced Ibis (Wilson et al. 2002).



Figure 2. White-faced Ibis,
Cow Meadow Park, Freeport,
Nassau Co.,
6 Jul 2002. © Angus Wilson.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2002-20-A/D One sub-adult, Town of Ripley, Chautauqua, 5 May (Leonard DeFrancisco, Melvin Freeborough, Sally Freeborough, David Feliciano).

2002-68-A One, Braddock Bay Park, Monroe, 30 May (Jason Guerard).

At spring hawk watches on the Great Lakes, this species is looked for in late May/early June. The bird at Ripley on 5 May was quite early but solidly documented by four descriptions. The Braddock Bay bird was seen migrating at a great distance, making plumage observation and age determination difficult.

Committee concerns were eventually allayed by the thorough description of the shape and flight-style, along with appropriate consideration of all similar species.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2002-19-A One adult light morph. Town of Westfield, **Chautauqua**, 18 Apr (Leonard DeFrancisco).

2002-77-A One adult light morph. Lake Ontario Parkway, Town of Parma, **Monroe**, 12 Apr (Robert Spahn).

The Chautauqua Co. bird was spotted as it glided in to join a mixed-species kettle of 130 hawks that was forming over Parker Road. The bird spent several minutes rising in the thermal, allowing careful study by DeFrancisco, an experienced hawk watcher. This Swainson's Hawk and the one observed six days earlier further east in Monroe Co. by the Spahns were both light phase adults. Key identification features presented in the descriptions were whitish bodies, underwing coverts and axillaries, dark flight feathers and solid dark breasts. The long, pointed wings further distinguished these birds from Red-tailed (*B. jamaicensis*) and Rough-legged Hawks (*B. lagopus*). Records of Swainson's Hawk have become more frequent in New York and eastern North America, due perhaps to range expansion and/or increased vigilance on the part of field observers. Spring hawk watches along the eastern shores of Lake Erie and southern shore of Lake Ontario remain the most likely places in the state to encounter this western prairie (and open farmland) specialist.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

2002-39-A One, East Quogue, Southampton, **Suffolk**, 15 Oct (Eric Salzman).

This small, short-billed rail was flushed twice from the salt marsh bordering Weesuck Creek on the northern shore of Shinnecock Bay. During each short flight, the rail revealed squarish white patches on the secondaries, contrasting with the darker wings. Immature Sora (*Porzana carolina*) was considered but has white trailing edges rather than the square patches described and illustrated in the sketches supplied with the written report. The observer described a descending cackling-like call heard at least twice—quite different from the more familiar clicking call of Yellow Rail. However, several literature sources were presented that describe a similar descending cackle from captive Yellow Rails.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

2002-22-A One heard only, Hamlin-Parma Townline Road, Hamlin, **Monroe**,

23 & 26 May (Kurt Fox).

Two rails were heard calling in the early hours of the morning from within the cattail marsh on Brush Creek, close to the Lake Ontario shoreline. On both nights, at least one King Rail responded vigorously to tape recordings of its own species as well as other marsh birds. The descriptions of the calls seemed to rule out Virginia Rail (*R. limicola*), which was also present in the marsh, and the freshwater habitat made Clapper Rail (*R. longirostris*) highly unlikely.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*)

2002-37-A/D One immature, Montezuma NWR, **Seneca**, 23 Sep-12 Oct (Bard Prentiss, William Watson, Willie D'Anna, Kevin & Jay McGowan).

2002-40-A One immature, Town of Peru, **Clinton**, 24 Sep, (William E. Krueger).

2002-41-A One immature, Bashakill WMA, **Sullivan**, 17-23 Oct (John H. Haas).

The third week of September witnessed a mini-invasion of juvenile Purple Gallinules into NYS, and one has to wonder if the Sullivan Co. bird had been present in the area for several weeks prior to its discovery. Indeed the finder, Haas, speculated that a considerable rise in water levels following five days of heavy rains may have brought the bird into sight. The Clinton Co. gallinule was first noticed by Glen Drapeau as he attempted to photograph a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), and then independently the next day by Charles Mitchell and William Krueger. This individual constitutes the northernmost occurrence in NYS, (see Drapeau et al 2002 for more details). The Seneca Co. bird was discovered by Montezuma refuge staff and subsequently enjoyed by many birders. As evidence of the season's 'gallinule fever', Haas estimated that well over a hundred observed the Bashakill bird during its stay. All three gallinules were extensively photographed or video taped, and convincing color photos of the Montezuma bird were submitted by Willie D'Anna, Jay McGowan and Kevin McGowan.

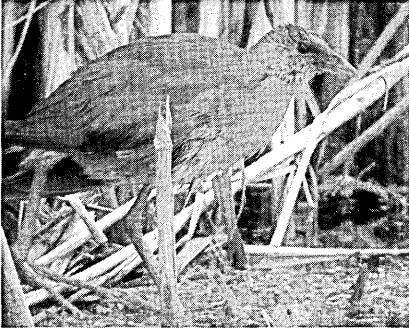


Figure 3. Purple Gallinule,
Montezuma NWR, Seneca Co.,
12 Oct 2002
© Kevin and Jay McGowan.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2002-16-A Two, Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, **Nassau**, 11 May
(Michael A. Farina, William N. Overton, photo by M. Farina).

These stilts remained until 25 May. The written description was supported by a color photo. Another Black-necked Stilt was reported at nearby Cow Meadow Preserve in Freeport 12-27 May but documentation was not submitted. It is possible this represents a third bird.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

2002-36-A Three, May's Point Pool, Montezuma NWR, **Seneca**, 15 Aug
(Bernie Carr).

2002-75-A One, Sodus Point, Sodus, **Wayne**, 11 Aug (Doug Daniels,
photo by D. Daniels).

Undocumented reports of this species have occurred annually in recent summers in Chautauqua County (Morgante 2003) and, even excluding Chautauqua County, it appears to be annual in inland New York. Considering this, as well as the distinctiveness of the species, NYSARC plans to remove American Avocet from the review list.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)

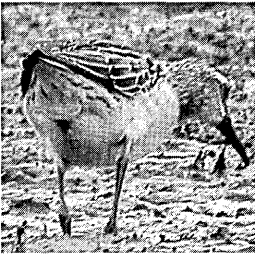
2002-67-A One, Braddock Bay SP, **Monroe**, 15 May (William Symonds).

This brief description managed to hit all of the key fieldmarks including the long, slightly upturned bill, cinnamon underwings and absence of white uppertail coverts. From these details, other godwits (*Limosa sp.*), Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) and the superficially similar Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) could be adequately ruled out.

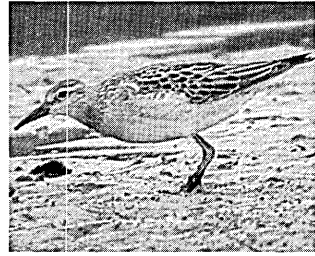
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

2002-38-A/E One juvenile, s. end Irondequoit Bay, Penfield, **Monroe**, 10-13 Oct (Dominic Sherony, Kevin McGowan, Jay McGowan, Willie D'Anna, Bernie Carr, William Watson).

Discovered by Dominic Sherony on the mud flats at the south end of Irondequoit Bay feeding with a group of up to 50 juvenile Pectoral Sandpipers (*C. melanotos*). Excellent color photos detailing the critical field marks were provided by Willie D'Anna, Jay McGowan and Kevin McGowan. The only previous accepted NYS record was of an adult at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 18-24 July 1981 (Burke 1998). Full details of the sighting are given by Sherony (2002).



Figures 4 & 5.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper,
Irondequoit Bay,
Monroe Co.
12 Oct 2002.
© Kevin and
Jay McGowan.



Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*)

2002-61-A/F One (or possibly two) Montauk Point and Hither Hills SP, **Suffolk**, 13-14 Dec (Diana Teta, Shai Mitra, Joe Giunta, Betsy McCully, Brian Kane, Hugh McGuinness).

This remarkable record of a beached bird, discovered at Hither Hills SP by Joe Giunta and Betsy McCully and studied by many participants in the Montauk Christmas Bird Count, occurred just one day after a skua was observed briefly as it passed the Montauk Lighthouse. Collectively, these reports were very challenging for reviewers, not only because of the well-known identification difficulties posed by the skuas, but also because observers who saw both birds concluded that two different individuals were involved. In view of the extraordinary rarity of inshore skuas in NYS, reviewers eventually concluded that the descriptions were not adequate to resolve the question of whether a second individual was in fact involved. In particular, the observation from Montauk Point on 13 Dec involved brief views by two observers of a bird in flight. The identification of this bird as a Great Skua was based mostly on observers' impressions of its large size; the interpretation that it was a different individual

than the one seen the following day was based at least partly on observers' impressions that it lacked the pale dorsal markings evident on the bird of 14 Dec (markings which constitute one of the most consistent distinctions between Great and South Polar Skua). Given these ambiguities, reviewers concluded that the individual and specific identity of the skua seen on 13 Dec could not be resolved with confidence. Descriptions of the bird observed on 14 Dec were adequate to exclude South Polar Skua, but several reviewers raised the question of whether this bird ought to be regarded automatically as an example of the boreal, nominate Great Skua. In view of recent evidence that austral 'Brown' Skuas (still regarded by the AOU as conspecific with boreal breeders) might occur in the North Atlantic (Votier et al. 2004; Hess 2004), several reviewers pointed to weaknesses in the documentation for this record: lack of photographs, uncertainty regarding the bird's age (its fully black bill suggested it was not a juvenile), and dorsal splotching less extensive than that expected for adults of the nominate form. It is entirely possible that austral 'Brown' Skuas will ultimately be proven to occur with some regularity in the North Atlantic, and that the AOU will come to recognize these as specifically distinct from boreal Great Skuas. Thus the Committee is unanimous in encouraging observers to document all observations of skuas as thoroughly as possible.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

2002-86-A One juvenile intermediate or dark-intermediate type. Lake Ontario, off Fort Niagara SP, Youngstown, **Niagara**, 30 Mar (Willie D'Anna).

This March sighting of a juvenile suggests that the bird may have over-wintered on Lake Ontario, an almost unheard-of occurrence on the Great Lakes. The jaeger was observed for ten minutes chasing and being chased by first-winter Herring Gulls. The similar Parasitic Jaeger was ruled out by the observation of white at the bases of the greater primary underwing coverts as well as at the bases of the primaries and whitish uppertail coverts in combination with overall fairly dark plumage. Although many birders typically identify jaegers mainly by jizz (size, shape, and flight style), David Sibley cautions, "The temptation to use shape and flight style for identification is almost overwhelming, but I am convinced that birders would be better off ignoring them entirely" (Sherony and Brock 1997).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

2002-7-A/B One in adult basic plumage, Niagara River, **Niagara**, 5, 13, 20, 26 Jan & 2, 18 Feb (Brendan Klick, Willie D'Anna).

2002-66-A/D One adult basic, one third-basic plumage, Niagara River, **Niagara**, 23 Nov-8 Dec (Willie D'Anna, Michael Morgante, William Watson, photos by Willie D'Anna).

The adult seen in January and February may have been a continuing bird that was documented in December 2001 (NYSARC 2003). It was last reported on 18 Feb, establishing a record late date for the Niagara River. The reports from November and December 2002 document an adult seen on 23 Nov and a third basic seen on several dates from 23 Nov to 8 Dec. This species has been reported every year on the Niagara River since its initial occurrence in 1992. Most sightings are at or near the power plants, where these individuals were seen. However, sightings upriver around Niagara Falls are increasing, though most are only seen on the Canadian side of the river at that location.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

2002-10-A/C One adult, Neversink Reservoir, **Sullivan**, 20 Feb (Valerie M. Freer, Marge Gorton, Renee Davis, John Fritz, Shai Mitra; video stills by John Haas).

2002-92-A One adult, Seneca Meadows landfill, Seneca Falls, **Seneca**, 23 Feb (Jay and Kevin McGowan; video still by Jay and Kevin McGowan and photo by Steve Kelling). These well-documented records possibly refer to the same individual, in which case they would collectively constitute just the second record of this species for NYS. For more details of these sightings see Freer et al. (2002) and McGowan and McGowan (2002).

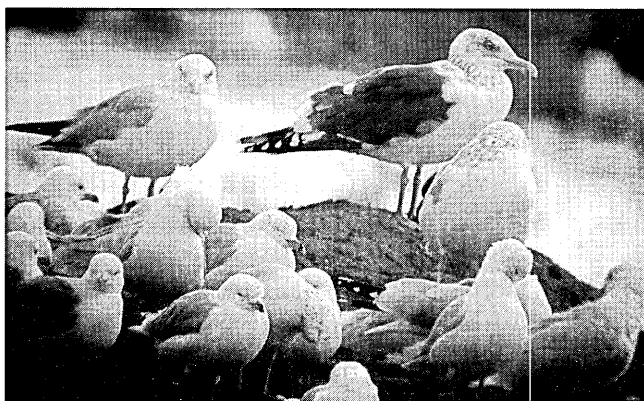


Figure 6. Slaty-backed Gull, Seneca Meadows Landfill, Seneca Co., 23 Feb 2002. © Steve Kelling.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)

2002-89-A One in adult basic plumage, base of Horseshoe Falls, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 2 Dec (Willie D'Anna).

This bird was viewed in the gorge against the backdrop of Niagara Falls, marking the second record for this gull on the Niagara River and fifth record for NYS. Unlike the Niagara River's first, which was seen off and on for over a month, this individual disappointed many birders by staying only one day.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*)

2002-34-A/B One adult, Woodlawn Beach SP., SW of Buffalo, **Erie**, 18 Aug (Gerry Rising, William Watson).

Although Least Tern is not on the review list, it is exceptionally rare on the Great Lakes, as well as at most inland locations in New York. The Committee appreciates reports of certain locally very rare species that are not on the review list. Apparently, this tern had been ill, judging by its lethargic behavior, and some Ontario birders reported finding it dead on 19 Aug (Dave Mudd, personal communication to W. D'Anna). Unfortunately, the specimen was not recovered, and subsequent searches were unsuccessful at finding it.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)

2002-60-A One, Gerritsen Creek, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 21 Dec (Eric Salzman).

This Thick-billed Murre in basic plumage, seen at close range and for an extended

time period during the Brooklyn Christmas Bird Count, was very well described. The details of the bill, face, neck, the overall shape, and other field marks ruled out both Common Murre and immature Razorbill. The species has occurred recently off Montauk Point Suffolk Co. but is much more unusual anywhere else in the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2002-26-A/F One, Walker-Lake Ontario Rd. Hamlin, **Monroe**. 9 Jun-11 Jul (William Watson, Kurt Fox, Richard Guthrie, Kevin & Jay McGowan, Willie D'Anna, Robert Spahn, photos by K. McGowan and W. D'Anna).

The photos, description and calls leave no doubt that the bird found by Brett and Sheryl Ewald was a Eurasian Collared-Dove and not a Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Kingbird* 53: 99-102). The Ewalds found this dove while searching for the White-winged Dove (2002-27-A/E) discovered on the same day (8 Jun) by Mike Davids. Eurasian Collared-Doves have been reported in the state before, and the question of origin always remains an issue to be debated and studied. This bird had no obvious evidence of prior captivity, although its simultaneous arrival with a White-winged Dove and the lengthy stay of the Eurasian Collared-Dove raised concerns among some Committee members. This species is commonly kept by pigeon breeders, and there have been releases of caged birds in many parts of North America. That said, the remarkable range expansion of this species in the past weighed heavily on the Committee's acceptance of this sighting as a vagrant for the first fully acceptable state record (see Romagosa and McEneaney 1999).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2002-27-A/E One, Walker-Lake Ontario Rd. Hamlin, **Monroe**. 8-13 Jun (William Watson, Kurt Fox, Willie D'Anna, Jeanne Skelly, Robert Spahn, photos by W. D'Anna and J. Skelly).

Mike Davids found this dove in a predominantly agricultural area of western New York on 8 Jun (*Kingbird* 53:100). This bird was also observed around a farmhouse by many people and was well documented with descriptions and photos. It was last reported on 18 Jun. Its occurrence is consistent with the increase in sightings of this species in the state in the past decade and constitutes the first record for Region 2. The concurrent appearance of White-winged Dove and Eurasian Collared-Dove in the same yard raised some concerns within the Committee, but neither were banded and no captive source for the birds in the area could be found.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)

2002-44-A/B One immature male, Robert Wagner Park, **New York**. 19-24 Nov (Arie Gilbert, Karen Fung, photos by K. Fung).

Female and juvenile hummingbirds are very difficult to identify. The long wings protruding beyond the tail of the sitting bird described by Arie Gilbert, and well photographed by Karen Fung, plus other features, left no questions concerning the identification. Discovered by Ben Cacace, this is only the second NYS record of this species, which was added to the NYS list in 2001, following the acceptance

of two immature males found together in early December at Fort Tryon Park, Manhattan, New York Co. (*Kingbird* 53:291).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2002-88-A One female, Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers, **Westchester**, 28 Oct-29 Nov (Michael Bochnik, photos by M. Bochnik).

The identification of female and juvenile *Selasphorus* hummingbirds is always problematic, and the fact that Allen's has not been recorded in NYS does not make it any easier because it has been found as a vagrant along the east coast. This bird was observed for a period of one month. The excellent photographs of the bird combined with a thorough description of the tail feathers ruled out Allen's Hummingbird.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2002-8-A One, Camp Dudley Rd., **Essex**, 24 Feb (Jim Wilkinson).

This grayish flycatcher with a peach colored lower breast and black tail was found on a late winter afternoon. The Committee accepted the record based on the quality of the description and sketch made at the time of the observation. This report is even more unusual in that it is later than the previous late date for this species of 9 Feb.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

2002-54-A One, Breezy Point, **Queens**, 25 Nov (David Klauber).

2002-59-A One, Jones Beach SP, **Nassau**, 21 Nov (John Fritz).

Late November is typical timing for this rare flycatcher. These two reports were similar in their descriptions and could possibly refer to the same bird. The second report was accompanied by an excellent photo by Al Wollin, showing a very pale breast, an all dark bill, and the overall shape of an Ash-throated Flycatcher. The undertail was also studied and indicated Ash-throated.

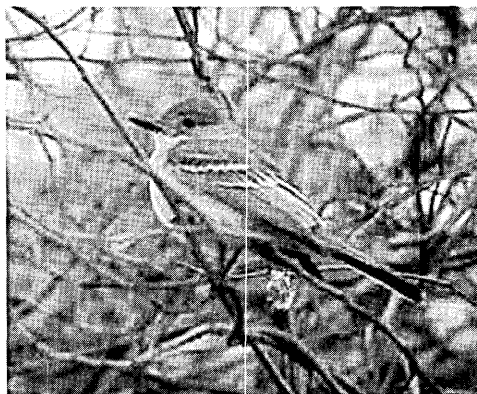
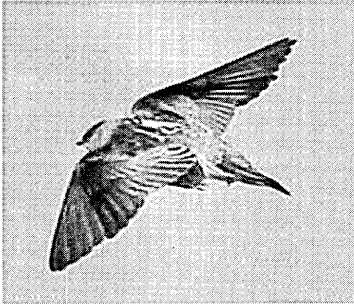


Figure 7. Ash-throated Flycatcher, Jones Beach, Nassau Co., Nov 2002. © Al Wollin.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

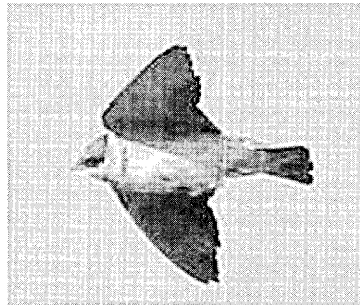
2002-84-A One, Grumman Airport, **Suffolk**, 15 Aug (Guy Tudor).

Discovered by Guy Tudor and Brian Cassie whilst searching for orchids and dragonflies on Grumman Boulevard where it borders the airfield. The shrike was studied as it perched on the fence line and flew out into the surrounding grassland in search of food. Remaining in the area until 18 Aug, this rarity was enjoyed by many local birders. The description touched on the smallish size, darker gray back, stubbier all black bill, and fairly wide mask. Although there are no late summer records of Northern Shrike in the state, all shrikes should be scrutinized with care. Loggerhead Shrike has become extremely rare on Long Island (last regional record in 1994), and the Committee was disappointed that only one report was received for this well-watched bird.



Figures 8 & 9.

Cave Swallow, Breezy Pt., Queens Co.,
24 Nov 2002. © Angus Wilson.



Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2002-49-A/C One, Niagara River at Goat Island, **Niagara**, 16-17 Nov (Michael Morgante, William Watson, Willie D'Anna).

2002-50-A One, Breezy Point, **Queens**, 24 Nov (Angus Wilson, photos by A. Wilson).

Since the early 1990's Cave Swallows have been annual late fall visitors to Cape May, NJ, and, in more recent years, to New York as well. The bird found at Goat Island by Willie D'Anna was a first for the Niagara River and was present until 21 Nov, when it was reportedly seen on the Canadian side of the river. The three submitted descriptions were thorough and, with accompanying photographs by Willie D'Anna of the bird perched, leave no doubt as to the identification. The bird associated with a flock of over 100 late Northern Rough-winged Swallows and a couple of Tree Swallows. The Cave Swallow found at Breezy Point by Angus Wilson was accompanied by a single Tree Swallow and lingered for only one day. The description was accompanied by several diagnostic photographs of the bird in flight. Cave Swallows staged a major incursion into the Northeast during the fall of 2002, with some 100 birds in Connecticut alone on the day

before the Breezy Point sighting. Despite these impressive numbers, there were only two other coastal New York reports the same weekend, neither submitted to NYSARC. Another was reported at Hamlin Beach S.P. on Lake Ontario. Although it is presumed that most late fall Cave Swallows belong to the Mexican race, *P. f. pallida*, subspecific identification in the field is very difficult (Curry and McLaughlin 2000; McNair and Post 2001).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)
Audubon's race (*D. c. auduboni*)**

2002-25-A One male, Goat Island, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 27 Apr
(Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, video stills by Betsy Potter).

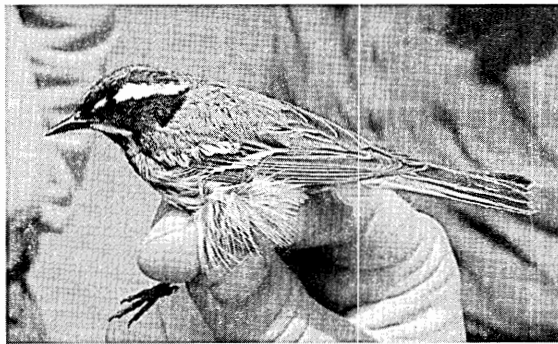
This singing bird was accompanied by over one hundred "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers on Goat Island. The description and video stills indicate a male in breeding plumage. This represents the second record of this western form for Region 1 (Lauro 1998b).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

2002-15-A/B One male, Kaiser-Manitou Banding Station, **Monroe**,
30 Apr & 1 May (Betsy Brooks, Charlie Eiseman, photos by Martha Zettel).

Superb digital color photos taken of the bird in the hand after being banded allowed for easy acceptance by the Committee. The photos even show the tiny spot of yellow above the lores. This warbler was trapped on three separate occasions (twice on May 1) and aged as second-year (i.e., about ten months old) by bander Charlie Eiseman. Most NYS records for this bird are from fall.

Figure 10
Black-throated
Gray Warbler,
Kaiser-Manitou
Banding Station,
Monroe Co.,
30 Apr 2002.
© Martha Zettel.



Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)

2002-11-A/C One male, Massapequa Preserve, Massapequa, **Nassau**, 14-18 Apr
(Andrew Guthrie, Rex & Birgit Stanford, Sean Sime, photos by A. Guthrie,
R. Stanford and S. Sime).

2002-72-A One female, West Spit of Braddock Bay, Hilton, **Monroe**, 13 Apr
(Brett Ewald).

The Massapequa bird was discovered by Pat Jones, remained until 19 Apr, and was seen by many additional observers during this time. Plumage characters were

consistent with a male in breeding plumage. Andy Guthrie's detailed notes carefully excluded Black-throated Green Warbler (*D. virens*) and Golden-cheeked Warbler (*D. chrysoparia*). Even Hermit x Townsend's hybrid (*D. occidentalis x townsendi*) was considered and rejected, because no obvious indication of Hermit ancestry was discernible. Written documentation was further strengthened by excellent color photographs from Andy Guthrie, Rex and Birgit Stanford and Sean Sime. The Monroe Co. bird was studied carefully for about 10 minutes as it moved through a stand of deciduous trees and vines at the western edge of the marsh at Braddock Bay. The relatively dark olive back, more solid face mask and yellowish wash to the flanks and underparts were consistent with a female Townsend's Warbler rather than a dull female Black-throated Green Warbler. Although tentatively aged as an immature (i.e., second-year), several members of the Committee felt that good photographs or more extended study would be necessary for reliable ageing. Townsend's Warbler is less than annual in NYS and the discovery of two individuals within a day of each other is notable.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

2002-30-A One. N Quaker Hill Rd., Pawling, **Dutchess**, 11 May (Sibyll Gilbert).

2002-74-A One. Ellicott Rd., **Chautauqua**, 16 Nov (James Berry, Robert Sundell).

The description of the Dutchess Co. bird included details of the throat, white belly, heavy black streaks on side of face and down sides of belly, prominent white wing bars, and grayish upperparts and was deemed sufficient for acceptance after two rounds of review. The more complete description of the Chautauqua bird was convincing to the Committee, and the observation of an "entirely white supraloral stripe" suggests the interior subspecies, *albilora*. Yellow-throated Warbler has established a pattern of late fall occurrences in the northern USA and Canada, into which this bird fit nicely. Since first found nesting in New York in 1984 (Baird 1984; Andrie and Carroll 1988, p. 384), Yellow-throated Warbler has occurred irregularly in the summer months along the Delaware River and at Allegany S.P. and somewhat regularly elsewhere in spring and late fall.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2002-29-A One male, Kaiser-Manitou Banding Station, Hilton, **Monroe**, 23 May

(Betsy Brooks, photo by Betsy Brooks).

This bird was captured, banded, and photographed at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Plumage and measurements ruled out Hepatic (*P. flava*) and Scarlet Tanagers (*P. olivacea*).

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)

2002-57-A One, Village of Atlantic Beach, **Nassau**, 14-15 Dec (Seth Ausubel).

The description clearly indicates a Clay-colored Sparrow, probably hatching year. The description of the markings on the face and breast and the presence of a median crown-stripe distinguish this sparrow from the principal contender, hatching year Chipping Sparrow (*S. passerina*). The buffy supercilium and the crown stripe separate this bird from the extremely rare Brewer's Sparrow (*S. breweri*). The late date is noteworthy as there are only two previous December records for NYS.

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

2002-28-A One, Carncross Rd., Savannah, **Wayne**, 7 Jun (Kurt Fox).

2002-33-A/B One, Town of Champlain, **Clinton**, 30 Jul-1 Aug (Charles Mitchell, William Krueger, photos by Suzy Johnson).

2002-90-A One hatching-year bird, Kaiser-Manitou Banding Station, Hilton, **Monroe**, 10 Oct (Betsy Brooks, photos by B. Brooks).

The Monroe Co. bird was caught, banded, and photographed by staff of the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. The Clinton Co. reports document a fascinating and extremely significant event—the first evidence of breeding behavior for this species in NYS. The initial reports were very brief and came close to going unaccepted. Fortunately, follow-up information was obtained which offered impeccable details concerning a persistently singing male observed along a portion of the Lake Champlain shore on seven dates, 30 Jul through 24 Aug (though silent after 9 Aug). Documentation includes descriptions of plumage and song by observers familiar with both species of sharp-tailed sparrows, and useful photographs by Suzy Johnson. The bird's songs were compared directly in the field with recordings of both species of sharp-tailed sparrows as well as LeConte's Sparrow. Prior to the Clinton Co. reports, this Committee was unaware of any breeding records of the Acadian race *subvirgatus* away from estuarine settings, with the exception of some freshwater marshes close to the coast or lower St. Lawrence Valley. Thus, we were stunned to learn that this taxon presently breeds on Ile aux Fermiers, in the St Lawrence River, just 40 miles from the location of the present bird (Krueger 2002). These facts are significant not only on their own merits, but also in view of the new perspective they lend to the analysis of records of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in upstate New York. Heretofore, drab specimens of this species from upstate New York were almost automatically assigned to the race breeding on the Hudson Bay plain (*alterus*) on the (evidently erroneous) assumption that *subvirgatus* was completely unexpected in the interior. Assignment of the drabest specimens to *alterus* has always been problematic because most sources describe that race as closely resembling nominate *nelsoni* from the northern Great Plains (e.g., Rising and Beadle 1996); now the possibility that *subvirgatus* might occur regularly in the interior, at least in the Hudson and Champlain Valleys, must be considered very seriously.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2002-23-A/E One female or immature male, home of Chris Gates, Greece, **Monroe**, 11-15 May (Kurt Fox, Willie D'Anna, Dominic Sherony, Robert Spahn, Jeanne Skelly).

These thorough reports, supplemented with photographs by Willie D'Anna, provided convincing evidence for the identification. Painted Bunting is extremely rare in the western part of the state.

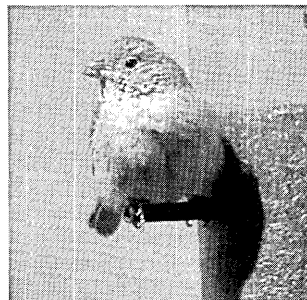


Figure 11.
Painted Bunting, Greece, Monroe Co.,
15 May 2002. © Willie D'Anna.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

2002-69-A/B One male. Townline Road at Moul Rd. Hamlin, Monroe. 8 Apr (Dominic Sherony, Robert Spahn).

This male Brewer's Blackbird was discovered by Steve Taylor near a cattle pen at a location where this species has been occasionally reported over the past few years. The descriptions ruled out Rusty Blackbird (*E. carolinus*) and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Given the rarity of this species in the state and potential confusion with other icterids, the Committee would like to encourage observers to photograph these birds whenever possible.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

2002-9-A One. Webster, Monroe. 17 Feb (Don Traver).

This bird was part of a group of 50 or so redpolls that frequented the observer's feeding station for a few days. The Hoary was identified by its overall paleness, just a few thin wispy flank streaks, a buffy wash on the head, completely unstreaked undertail coverts, and a "flat" face with a smaller bill than shown by the Commons.

2002 REPORTS ACCEPTED IN REVISED FORM

This represents a new category of acceptance to accommodate reports that were submitted as a particular species but, after deliberation by the Committee, could only be accepted under a broader banner.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*)

2002-85-A One. Central Park, New York. 13 Nov (Sandy Spitalnik).

The vast majority of vagrant hummingbirds designated as 'Rufous/Allen's' in eastern North America are individuals suspected to be Rufous (*S. rufus*), but for which the level of documentation is deemed insufficient to rule out Allen's (*S. sasin*). In contrast, this record pertains to an individual that was suggestive of Allen's Hummingbird: its photographed rectrices appeared in some instances to be rather narrow and prompted an experienced hummingbird bander from the Southwest to favor Allen's. Even so, the bird was not measured, and the available details were otherwise judged insufficient to fully document a first record of Allen's for NYS. For additional discussion of hummingbird vagrancy in NYS see Mitra and Bochnik (2001).

Shrike species (*Lanius* species)

2002-80-A One. Braddock Bay SP, Monroe. 7 May (Jason Guerard).

Originally submitted as a late occurrence of Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*), the Committee felt that the description of this bird, viewed only at a good distance, lacked sufficient detail to adequately rule out other shrike species, in particular Loggerhead Shrike (*L. ludovicianus*), a distinct possibility at this date.

Hermit Warbler/Hermit x Townsend's Warbler
(*Dendroica occidentalis/occidentalis x townsendi*)

2002-42-A/G One hatching year male. Jones Beach SP, Nassau. 28 Nov-1 Dec

(Andrew Block, Arie Gilbert, Richard Guthrie, Rex Stanford, John Moyle, Seth Ausubel, Sy Schiff, photos by R. Stanford and S. Ausubel).

Studied by scores of birders, copiously documented, and hotly debated, this Thanksgiving rarity discovered by Andrew Block will long be remembered by birders in New York State and beyond. The bird closely resembled a hatching-year male Hermit Warbler, but the presence of some yellow on the breast below the black bib raised the possibility of Townsend's Warbler ancestry. In the days and weeks that followed, many questions about the identification were raised on internet and elsewhere. DiCostanzo (2003) summarized some of these early discussions, and the Committee wishes to express its thanks to the many individuals who provided information, analysis, and other kinds of assistance during the evaluation of these reports. Block and Connor (2003) provide a description of the bird and an account of its discovery.

In evaluating these reports, NYSARC considered issues such as the definition and characterization of hybrids, the limits of variation among typical ('pure') Hermit Warblers, and the evaluation of the plumage characters of the Jones Beach bird in relation to both of these. Of the several characters of the Jones Beach bird that were invoked at one time or another as evidence of hybrid ancestry (dorsal hue, crown pattern, flank streaking, ventral yellow), only the last proved, after careful analysis, to be really unusual among hatching-year male Hermit Warblers. The question became a probabilistic one, weighing the likelihood of hybrid ancestry against a natural variation away from typical plumage as explanations for this individual's appearance.

Studies of hybridization between Hermit and Townsend's Warblers, such as conducted by Rohwer and Wood (1998), have demonstrated that birds showing various combinations of plumage features of the two species occur frequently in three hybrid zones in Washington and Oregon. Eckert (2001) presents a series of excellent photos of such birds. To the best of our knowledge, first generation hybrids probably show a combination of face and head pattern like Hermit, and breast and flank pattern like Townsend's. This is the plumage that Sibley (2000) attributes to 'typical hybrids;' it is a combination described as frequent by Dunn and Garrett (1997) and by Eckert (2001); and it is consistent with an intermediate score on Rohwer and Wood's (1998) quantitative hybrid index. But some individuals show just the opposite combination (face and head like Townsend's, breast and flanks like Hermit), and others show just about every other conceivable permutation. We simply do not know how each combination corresponds with a particular kind of ancestry (e.g., first generation hybrids, later generation hybrids, and backcrosses between any of these and each parental form). Although the Jones Beach bird differed from the birds described and depicted as 'typical hybrids,' the possibility remains that its plumage might be consistent with some degree of Townsend's ancestry. This situation is similar in many ways to the hybridization of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers that occurs in NYS and elsewhere in the Northeast, which produces a variety of plumage

combinations that are impossible to attribute uniquely to particular parental combinations (Parkes 1951).

Another important question is whether 'pure' Hermit Warblers can show variation toward the appearance of Townsend's Warbler. Rohwer and Wood (1998) collected reference samples for both species, consisting of breeding individuals from the core of each species' range, away from the zones of hybridization. They found that 3% of these Hermit Warblers showed plumage features such that they would have been regarded as hybrids had they been collected near the contact zones. Analysis of study skins by NYSARC members revealed the following: only one specimen (a hatching year male collected in California on 21 Aug 1896) among ca. 250 Hermit Warblers of all ages at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City showed as much or more yellow on the breast as the Jones Beach bird (this specimen also showed some fairly dusky, broad streaks along the flanks, a further suggestion of mixed ancestry); two of ca. 35 hatching-year Hermit Warblers at the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) in Chicago showed yellow feathers on the breast in the same location as the Jones Beach bird (although far less extensive); and one adult male out of ca. 45 adult Hermit Warblers at FMNH showed more yellow on the breast below the black bib than the Jones Beach bird, but less yellow than is shown for adult male first-generation hybrids in Dunn and Garrett (1997). This last bird closely resembled a Hermit Warbler in all other respects.

On the basis of Rohwer and Wood's research and our own museum work, it seems that birds resembling the Jones Beach bird might occur among Hermit Warblers, but the possibility of hybrid origins in these variants cannot be ruled out, a situation reminiscent of the Spotted Towhee vs. Spotted x Eastern Towhee hybrid discussed in last year's Annual Report. In conclusion, although the Jones Beach warbler could possibly have been an unusual variant Hermit Warbler, the Committee concluded that a hybrid origin was more likely and certainly could not be ruled out, and thus acceptance of this bird as NYS' first Hermit Warbler proved impossible. This uncertainty does not diminish the significance of the record, which remains one of just a handful of documented occurrences of Hermit Warblers and Hermit-like hybrids in the East.

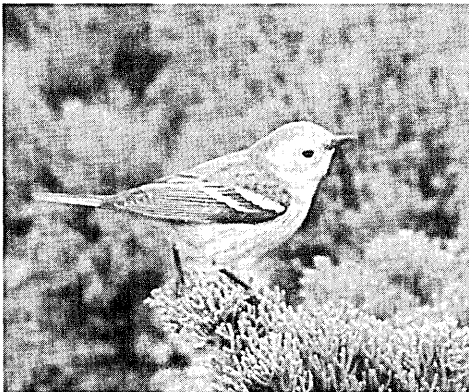


Figure 12
Hermit/Hermit x
Townsend's Warbler,
Jones Beach, Nassau Co.,
30 Nov 2002.
© Rex Stanford.

2002 REPORTS ACCEPTED BUT ORIGINS UNCERTAIN

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

2002-3-A Two adults, three immatures, Little Sodus Bay, Fair Haven, Cayuga.
18 Feb (Bill Purcell).

The Committee accepted identification of these five birds (two adults, three immatures) as Trumpeters but believe they are the result of introduction efforts in Ontario and New York. Typically, though not always, birds from Ontario are banded and wing-tagged and are most frequently seen in Western New York. Unmarked birds, such as these five, are more likely in Central New York. See Carroll and Swift (2000) for a discussion about these introduction efforts.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

Small mainland Alaskan race (*B. h. minima*)

2002-6-A One, Waryas Riverfront Park, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess.
28 Jan (Chester Vincent).

Although Cackling Geese of the nominate form (*hutchinsii*) occur regularly in NYS, there are very few documented reports of *minima* from the Northeast. This sighting was supported by excellent photographs documenting the goose's tiny size, strikingly tiny bill, and generally very dark plumage. Thus, the Committee regarded the identification as well-substantiated. Nesting on the outer coast of western Alaska, principally the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the majority of *minima* winter in California's Central Valley. Small numbers have wintered in western Oregon in the last few years. *Minima* are fairly common in captivity. In the absence of an established pattern of vagrancy of this form to eastern North America, the Committee felt that the possibility of captive origin could not be excluded with confidence.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2002-1-A One, Marratooka Lake, Suffolk, 25 Jan (Paul H. Gillen, Jr.).

2002-1-B One, Grumman Pond, Suffolk, 1 Jan (Michael R. Wasilco).

These reports, which probably pertained to the same individual, received some support within the Committee for outright acceptance as naturally occurring vagrants. The status of this species in the Northeast remains very contentious, however, and several reviewers concluded that the possibility of captive origin could not be excluded with confidence. Barnacle Geese were also reported from Iroquois NWR (Region 1) and multiple locations in Kings and Queens Counties (Region 10) in early March, but no reports were submitted to NYSARC.

2001 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

2001-81-A One immature, Lake Ontario, west of Irondequoit Bay outlet, Irondequoit, Monroe, 25 Dec. (Robert Spahn).

Immature Northern Gannets are seen annually on Lake Ontario during late spring and early winter from Hamlin Beach SP and occasionally from other locations

along the lake as far west as the Niagara River. The observer provided a reasonable description of this immature Northern Gannet resting on the water.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*)

2001-80-A One, Ellenville, **Ulster**, 3 Jan (Renee Davis).

The observer provided a thorough description of a Northern Parula, probably an immature female. The absence of any red feathering on the center of the breast argues against a male, and the eye arcs and limit of the yellow on the belly rule out Tropical Parula (*P. pitiayumi*). The date exceeds the previous latest date (23 Dec) for NYS. The Committee wondered if recent mild early winters have led to increased numbers of lingering Neotropical migrants.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

2001-84-A One Hamlin Beach SP, Town of Hamlin, **Monroe**, 12 Dec (Dominic Sherony). The bird was part of a large flock of redpolls that reportedly fed for a few weeks on the beach of this Lake Ontario park. It was first found by Dave Tetlow. The complete description ruled out the possibility that this was a pale Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*).

2000 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

2000-32-C One adult, Pike's Beach, **Suffolk**, 16 Jul (David Klauber).

Two previous reports on this bird were accepted by NYSARC, and for some reason this report was not evaluated at that time. The NYSARC extends its apologies to the observer and thanks him for bringing the omission to our attention. The combination of dark legs, reddish face, and white chin; the details of the spotting on the flanks and upper breast; the coloration of the back and scapulars; and the bright white braces on the back—all indicate that this was an adult Little Stint. The observer's description clearly eliminated potential confusion species, notably Red-necked Stint (*C. ruficollis*) and Sanderling (*C. alba*). A Red-necked Stint was present at the same locality the day before, and Sanderling is frequently confused with both stints during fall migration.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*)

2000-84-A One, Energy Information Center, Lake Ontario, Town of Scriba, **Oswego**, 29 Dec (Kevin McGann).

This belated report involved an immature seen by only one person but whose vivid recollection was convincing to the Committee. There were three other sightings on Lake Ontario that same winter, all in Ontario (Roy 2002). One of the Ontario birds collided with power transmission lines, died, and the specimen was preserved at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Another was observed in a very weakened condition and was assumed to perish as well. Ivory Gulls usually do not stray far from the pack ice. In colder winters a few may venture to southern Canada and northern US. There is evidence that climate change is having a significant negative effect on the breeding success of Ivory Gulls in the Canadian arctic (Gilchrist and Mallory 2004).

1987 REPORT ACCEPTED

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

1987-1-A One, Mashomack Preserve, Pine Plains, Dutchess, 12 Jan (Barbara Butler). During the winter of 1987, a Gyr Falcon spent several weeks in northern Dutchess Co., and was observed by many people. Two written descriptions were submitted to NYSARC, but unfortunately these lacked sufficient detail to support the identification to species and were not accepted. While researching a book on the birds of Dutchess Co., Barbara Butler discovered a photograph of the Gyr Falcon taken by Jeff Kirk on 20 Jan 1987. This was submitted together with a newsletter account written by Mary Key that provides more details of the bird. Taken as a whole, the reports adequately describe an adult light-phase Gyr Falcon.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Several factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. By far the most common is that the material submitted was considered insufficient or too vague to properly document the occurrence and/or eliminate similar species. For example, descriptions prepared entirely from memory (sometimes weeks, months, or years) after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably, and the Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes on uncommon or rare birds. If it is at all possible, these notes should be taken while the bird is under study or, if not, then immediately afterwards. It is very helpful to include a photocopy of your field notes along with the typed or neatly written report. This helps the Committee to know what was seen at the time of the observation, before field guides or other sources of information were consulted. If you feel your handwriting is illegible, especially with the excitement of finding a good bird, it is a good idea to add a key with your report that explains or decodes your notes. Crude field sketches are often very useful in illustrating what you saw and should always be submitted as part of the report, even if they are drawn on a napkin or a parking ticket!

Advice on report preparation is available on the NYSARC web site, and in several published articles. We recommend the article by Willie D'Anna (2003), as well as the benchmark article by Dittmann and Lasley (1992). The key elements to a good report are (i) the description of the bird with as much detail as possible; (ii) the names and contact details of the observers; (iii) location and date of the sighting; and (iv) 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 type of analytical information, you invariably build upon the basic description and thus 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, audiotapes 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 is especially important. Sometimes it is worth considering and discussing exotic possibilities. Escaped waterfowl, birds of prey, parrots and finches are relatively common and can resemble North American species. Always keep in mind that these reports form part of an archive of data that will be visited by birders and researchers years from now.

It is relatively uncommon for records to be rejected because the bird was clearly mis-identified; more often reports simply fail to provide enough information to exclude other possibilities. 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. We do not reject records because the observer is unfamiliar to us or has had records rejected in the past. 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.

2002 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

2002-5-A Fifty-five individuals, Oneida Lake, Oswego, 12 Mar.

In recent years individuals and small groups of Trumpeter Swans have been seen in the western half of the State, the result of various introduction efforts in Ontario and, to a lesser extent, in New York. The species is successfully breeding in the wild in Ontario and New York, but a flock of 55 birds would be a record count several times over the previous high. At the same time, the locality where these swans were seen is east of where the similar Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*) occurs in large numbers. At the time that these swans were found, internet reports identified them first as Trumpeter Swans, but later reports stated that they were Tundras. In the end, the Committee decided that this report did not clearly rule out Tundra Swan and was therefore insufficient to support such an extraordinary number of Trumpeters.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

2002-78-A One female, Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 8 Oct.

Three observers studied this duck for several seconds as it flew westwards along the lake at a distance of 300 yards or more. The identification as a Common rather than King Eider (*S. spectabilis*) was based largely on the tapered profile of the head with little supportive information. Several members felt that the description was not adequate to separate the two expected species of eiders and the discussion of other possible duck species had insufficient details.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

2002-4-A One, Jamaica Bay, **Queens**, 11 May.

Observed briefly without optics as it flew past the observer. The Committee felt that the description did not adequately eliminate immature Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), which can show a similar whitish throat and neck.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

2002-17-A/B One, Ripley Hawkwatch #2, **Chautauqua**, 11 Apr.

This buteo was observed flying past the Ripley hawk watch, accompanied by four Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), three Red-tailed Hawks (*B. jamaicensis*), two Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*), and two American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*). Documentation was provided by a very experienced hawk watcher and one other of the four observers present. Apparently, no photographs or video were obtained. The bird was described as an immature, larger than a nearby Red-tailed Hawk, with a white head, body, throat, belly, and unbanded tail and dark commas near the "wrists" of the wings. The upperwings had whitish "windows" across the primaries, white spots on the wings and back, and a white "U" visible at the base of the tail. The second observer noted dark bands and pinkish in the tail. The discrepancy in the tail descriptions was a concern to Committee members, and pinkish in the tail suggested the possibility that this was a Krider's Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis kriderii*), a rare but regular migrant at Great Lakes hawk watches. Though the Committee thought the detail in these reports admirable, they decided that such an exceptional record needed even stronger documentation. Ferruginous Hawk has never been recorded before in New York, and it is extremely rare in the East. Wheeler (2003, pp. 300-301) lists sightings from only the following Eastern states and provinces: Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ontario, and Wisconsin.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

2002-55-A One, Lake Edwards, Perinton, **Monroe**, 9-10 Dec.

2002-93-A One, Lake Edwards, Perinton, **Monroe**, 13 Dec.

2002-73-A One, Landfill near Fairport, **Monroe**, 6 Feb.

Identification of Thayer's Gulls is a unique challenge to birders in eastern North America. The main problem is distinguishing true Thayer's from the dark end of the Kumlien's (Iceland) Gull spectrum. After considerable debate, the Committee felt that none of these reports provided sufficiently detailed descriptions to firmly rule out Kumlien's. Several members of the Committee feel that high quality photographs are essential to adequately document both adult and sub-adult Thayer's Gulls out-of-range. The Committee appreciates that this is very difficult at top gull sites such as the Niagara River.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2002-62-A Two, Hamlin Beach SP, **Monroe**, 5 May.

These two *Sterna* terns were observed flying westward along the lakeshore and consequently allowed only brief study. The identification was based in part on the observer's perception of a more compact structure than expected for Common

Tern (*S. hirundo*). However, the Committee members felt that critical details of the wing tip pattern were not sufficiently well described to establish the identity.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2002-18-A One, Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, **Jefferson**, 23 Feb.

This bird was seen for only a few seconds and without optics as it flew in front of the observer into a stand of conifers. The bird's head was not seen well, and the identification was based in large part on the shape and color of the wings. Consequently, the Committee felt that other birds of prey could not be ruled out given these limited details.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

2002-31-A One male, Attica, **Wyoming**, 13 Jun.

This bird appeared at the observers' oriole feeders. It was described as a male bird that appeared quite different than the Baltimore Orioles (*I. galbula*) which usually frequented the feeders. A prominent black eye-stripe was noted, but there was no mention of a black throat patch nor more white in the wings than on a Baltimore. The bird was said to be more red-orange on the throat and breast than a Baltimore, but the Committee felt that this was not a helpful distinction, since there is variability in Baltimore in this feature. When studying a possible Bullock's Oriole in New York, birders must consider the great variability of Baltimore Oriole. Lee and Birch (1998) discuss the field identification of these two orioles. The possibility of hybrid Bullock's x Baltimore Orioles also complicates identification.

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*)

2002-35-A One, Binghamton, **Broome**, 4 Sep.

Although some of the details were consistent with an immature or possibly female Blue Grosbeak, Committee members were concerned that Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) could not be ruled out from the information provided.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2002-76-A One, Ellison Park, **Monroe**, 11 Jul.

Although Yellow-headed Blackbird is not on the review list, the Committee appreciates reports of unseasonable occurrences of less than common species such as this. This sighting is especially intriguing since Yellow-headed Blackbird has never been recorded breeding in New York. Unfortunately, this bird was heard only and the call only described as "raspy" and "whining". Although the description is consistent with the call of this species, it also does not rule out other species. For example, Red-winged Blackbirds occasionally make calls that could be described similarly. The observers were paddling a canoe through a cattail marsh at the time, and despite some effort, were unable to see the bird. There was no mention of any follow-up visits, which might have proved fruitful had the bird been on a territory. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are regular breeders in Ontario within 200 miles of New York (James 1991).

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

2002-2-A One, Hamlin Beach SP, Town of Hamlin, **Monroe**, 5 Jan.

2002-24-A One Westport, **Essex**, Jan.-Mar.

Although a Hoary Redpoll was documented at Hamlin Beach on 12 Dec 2001 (see 2001-84-A, above) and reported several times after that date, the Committee was not convinced that the present report referred to a Hoary Redpoll. The report was brief and the statement that “the bird was not very light” was not indicative of a Hoary Redpoll. The Westport bird was one of a group of redpolls that frequented the observer’s feeding station for much of the winter. Photos supplied with the report were unconvincing, and some Committee members believed that the bird was actually a pale Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*). Birders need to be aware that some Common Redpolls are paler and will stand out in a flock. Thorough study and the observation of several field marks are usually needed to identify a Hoary Redpoll.

1954 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis Carduelis*)

1954-3-A One Prospect Park, Brooklyn, **Kings**, spring (possibly April).

This 48 year-old report included very few specific details. Although an introduced population of European Goldfinches thrived on LI for several decades, the population was almost extirpated by the time of this observation. Furthermore, this report does not pertain to the area inhabited by the last survivors of the LI population (southeastern Nassau/southwestern Suffolk Counties), but rather to urban NYC—which to this day still hosts individuals of this species that have escaped from captivity. Given these various obstacles, there was limited support within the Committee for acceptance of this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee,

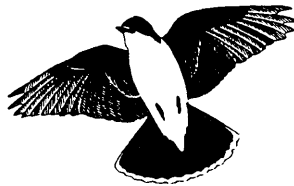
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AN UNUSUALLY PLUMAGED CERULEAN WARBLER SINGING A NORTHERN PARULA SONG IN DUTCHESS COUNTY, NY

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While conducting breeding bird surveys at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site in Hyde Park on 4 June 2004, Carena Pooth (CP) heard the classic song of a Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) in a large sycamore tree. The bird sang the same song over and over again, while CP sat on the steep hill next to the tree, watching for activity. After a few minutes, CP saw a small bird moving about high in the tree. Her vantage point was excellent, as she was about 25 feet above the tree's ground level and about 100 feet away. The parula song, an ascending, buzzy trill ending with an abrupt note, was repeated over and over and over. To CP's great surprise, when the bird finally emerged from the dense foliage, it looked like a Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) rather than a Northern Parula. It continued to sing, and CP could see clearly through her binoculars that what appeared to be a Cerulean Warbler was, indeed, singing the Northern Parula song.

CP was able to look at the bird for several minutes. A few things just didn't seem right about its plumage. Although the bird looked overall like a Cerulean Warbler (blue above and white below, with wingbars and a blue/gray necklace), the head appeared round and completely blue, like a Northern Parula's, with what appeared to be an indistinct eye-ring. There was no visible streaking on the flanks and the necklace, though clearly evident, was a bit weak. The underside of the bird looked creamy white.

After hearing about CP's sighting on the internet, Rodney Johnson (RJ) went to see the bird on 5 June. He located the bird immediately and spent about two hours watching and listening to it. RJ found that the bird was singing the Northern Parula song, except that during a period of about five minutes it sang the first 2-3 buzzy notes of a Cerulean song. Twice it sang only the first two notes of the Cerulean song, and then after a brief silence it sang sets of three Cerulean notes. Then it went back to the parula song.

RJ noticed the same plumage anomalies that CP had noted on the previous day. The bird perched in a willow "for what seemed like an eternity for any warbler," according to RJ, so he had the opportunity to study it at some length. RJ noted that the broken eye-ring was more defined than it would be on a Cerulean of any age. There was no eye line or supercilium evident and the malar region lacked the white that extends between the nape and cheek, as is normally characteristic of a Cerulean Warbler at any age.

During the first 15 minutes that RJ observed the bird, he noticed a typical female Cerulean in the same area. This is the only female Cerulean Warbler that has been reported at this site.

CP visited the Vanderbilt site on 12 and 20 May; 4, 7, 13, and 21 June; and 2, 12, and 22 July. On 12 May she heard a Northern Parula song but did not see the bird that was singing it. She concluded that this was a migrating Northern Parula. After 12 May, she observed neither Northern Parula nor Cerulean Warbler until 4 June. RJ saw the bird in question on 5 June and looked for it again (unsuccessfully) on 6 June. The bird was not heard or seen again until 21 June, when CP once again heard the Northern Parula song in the same tree. On that occasion, the bird descended to within 15 feet of CP so that she could once again observe its unusual plumage characteristics, including what now was a clearly visible broken eye ring. After 21 June there were no further reports of this bird or any other Ceruleans or Northern Parulas at the Vanderbilt site. Two other birders visited the site on June 23 but did not hear or see the bird.

RJ had worked at the Vanderbilt site in 2003, leading a team that was removing invasive trees. He spent a considerable amount of time that year on the hill from which CP first heard and saw the Cerulean Warbler this year. In 2003, RJ did not see or hear Cerulean Warbler or Northern Parula at Vanderbilt. CP had also worked on spring bird surveys at Vanderbilt in 2002 and 2003. The only observation of Northern Parula or Cerulean Warbler that she recorded during those years was of a Northern Parula that she heard and saw in the very same sycamore tree exactly two years before this year's 4 June sighting.

There are a few intriguing accounts of observed or possible Northern Parula/Cerulean Warbler associations elsewhere. Patricia Lindsay and Tom Vezo (1995) reported a male Northern Parula and a female Cerulean Warbler tending the same nest in Long Island in June 1994. While not excluding the possibility, Lindsay and Vezo cautioned against immediately assuming hybridization in this case, saying that there could be some reason why the Northern Parula began bringing food to a nest that was not its own. More recently, there have been reports of suspected "Parulean" hybrids in Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Eastern PA Birdline of April, 19, 2002 reported that "a possible Northern Parula X Cerulean Warbler hybrid was also seen [near the Bethlehem Boat Club Launch]. The bird was singing a Northern Parula song." A year later, in May 2003, a more detailed description of a bird seen at the same location was posted: "Also seen was a bird presumed to be a Northern Parula X Cerulean Warbler hybrid. The bird 'basically looks like a Northern Parula, but it doesn't have any yellow on the breast or throat. It also lacks any hint of a chestnut or black breast band. Instead, the underparts are all white with a distinct bluish band across the upper breast like a Cerulean. It also appears to be mostly blue on the upperparts without an olive wash.'" And once again in 2004, each of the May 6 and May 13 transcripts of the Eastern PA Birdline includes a one-line report of a Northern Parula X Cerulean Warbler hybrid at the same location.

The Ohio bird, known locally as "the Toledo warbler" was found by Rick Nirschl and seen by at least five others (Nirschl *et al.* 2004 and Busam 2004). This bird was singing songs of both Cerulean Warbler and Northern Parula. Some excellent photographs were posted on the online Toledo Area Rare Bird Alert forum (Stiefel 2004 and Zwiebel 2004). Based on these images (see Figs. 1

and 2), this bird appeared very similar to the Vanderbilt bird, although the Ohio bird lacked the necklace that was quite evident on the New York bird. Nirschl wrote a detailed account of the Toledo warbler for *The Ohio Cardinal*, concluding that it very possibly was a hybrid Northern Parula X Cerulean Warbler (Nirschl, 2004).

The internet has once again served as an efficient medium for timely communication and discussion of unusual bird sightings. Knowing that "Paruleans" have been observed in two other states and having been able to read the discussions and study the photographs of the Ohio bird online, we cannot help wondering whether the Vanderbilt bird was a hybrid. Dutchess County, NY has a few locations where Cerulean Warblers are known to have bred, and the first (and only) confirmed nesting of Northern Parula in the county was recorded in 2002 (about 15-20 miles east of Vanderbilt NHS). Might this year's oddly plumaged Cerulean be a descendant of the Northern Parula that was observed in the same tree at Vanderbilt on 4 June, 2002?

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NORTHBOUND MIGRATORY PHENOLOGY OF NORTHERN FLICKERS IN THE ADIRONDACKS

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Spring migration arrival of the Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) in New York's Adirondack region is synchronous with the emergence of ants from their subterranean winter dormancy, typically during the middle of April. The dates at which ants emerge from their winter chambers, and at which flickers migrate north in spring, correspond to the corresponding the 42° F temperature isotherm at which ants emerge from their winter chambers, and at which flickers migrate north in spring 42° F. Data from future years may indicate whether temperature or date per se best predicts these events.

Phenology is the study of the influence of climate on seasonally cyclic natural phenomena such as the flowering and fruiting of plants and the migration of birds. I have been documenting the arrival of spring in the Adirondacks for many years and have collected data on many quintessential spring events, such as the breeding of wood frogs, the arrival of migratory birds (e.g., Eastern Phoebe and Tree Swallow), the emergence of plants (e.g., coltsfoot), and the appearance of over-wintering butterflies (e.g., Compton's Tortoiseshell and Mourning Cloak). For some of these events I have data stretching back a full 12 years.

About 7 years ago I began documenting the first appearance of ants in spring as they emerged from the subterranean chambers in which they spend the winter. A few years later I began to see a pattern developing between the emergence of ants and the arrival of the Northern Flicker on my lawn to feed. It seemed logical that this correlation would be a strong one, since the diet of the flicker is high in ants.

Alexander Martin (1961) reports that half the animal diet of the Northern Flicker consists of ants and beetles. Bent (1964, p. 277) reports that 61% of this species' food consists of animal matter; that about 75% of the animal food (45% of the all food) consists of ants; and that ants were found in 524 of 684 stomachs examined, about 77% of the total. These data suggest that this species likely eats more ants than any other bird in our region.

I have only a few years of data supporting a correlation between the phenology of ants and flickers, but I thought it would be valuable to report it so that others can continue to test this relationship to either confirm or reject what I am tentatively suggesting here.

In the spring of 2004, medium-size ants with black heads and abdomens and maroon thoraxes were observed on 21 Apr, and small light brown ants (pavement ants) on 22 Apr. That year the flicker arrived on our lawn almost on the same date, 20 Apr. Viewed with binoculars it appeared to be feeding on very small things, more than likely ants. In the spring of 2003 small light brown ants first appeared on 17 Apr, and the flicker was seen feeding in our lawn on the previous day, 16 Apr. In the spring of 2002 small light brown ants appeared on 13 Apr, and the

flicker was first seen feeding in our lawn on 18 Apr. That year I noticed it was feeding on large white beetle grubs, but it also could have been feeding on ants as well. For three consecutive years therefore the emergence of ants and the appearance of flickers coincided very closely.

Benson (1962) says that much has been written of birds and their migration. But day lengthening alone does not control their rates of movement; temperature and food supplies are guiding factors. Let's look at this a little more closely. I have seven years of data for the emergence of small light brown ants in Elizabethtown, New York at an elevation of 990 feet above sea level. The average emergence date is 19 Apr, with a range from 10 Apr to 27 Apr. We can determine the approximate temperature isotherm at which these ants emerge in the spring using local climatological data. From Burlington, Vermont, almost directly across Lake Champlain from Elizabethtown, the average temperature for 19 Apr is 45° F. The April temperature in the village of Elizabethtown however is on average about one degree F cooler than in Burlington (National Weather Station BTV Elizabethtown Normals). In addition the village of Elizabethtown is at about 600 feet above sea level and my observations were made at about 990 feet above sea level, so we must make another correction for elevation. I've observed that flowering of dandelions are about three (3) days later at elevation 990 feet than at 600 feet above sea level. This is what is usually reported for the advance of spring up mountainsides— one day for each 100 feet elevation (Kudish 1975). If we look at this same average climatological data for Burlington, three days in April is equivalent to about 2 degrees F difference in temperature. So that means that these ants emerge at about 42° F.

Does this make sense? Let's cross-check our estimates with other biological events, which we know occur at a particular temperature. Those who keep ants for a hobby say that you should hibernate your ants at 4-6 degrees Celsius, which corresponds to 40° to 43° F. As 42° F is right in the middle of that range, we have good agreement there. In addition Ludlum (1980) says that spring across the northeast quarter of the United States does not begin until the daily mean temperature has risen to 43° F, the thermal point at which early vegetation begins to come out of dormancy. The first flowering plant in the North Country to come out of dormancy is coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*). My 12 year average for coltsfoot bloom at 990 feet elevation in the Adirondacks is 18 Apr, which corresponds to the 42° isotherm—another near-perfect correlation. So yes, these calculations make sense.

Still, the data I have presented so far do not prove that temperature itself is the factor that determines flicker migration. What is needed is a series of years in which the arrival of flickers corresponds more closely to the temperature (and the emergence of ants) than to the average date of 19 Apr. In other words, in years in which flickers precede their long term average, the isotherm should precede that date also, and vice versa.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SUMMER 2004

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THE WEATHER

Effects of the weather are obviously felt by birds throughout the year, but perhaps the most critical period is the summer breeding season, when adverse weather events can affect an entire generation. This year a common theme was expressed throughout most of the state: it was cool and wet. June was relatively dry in most areas, but temperatures in many Regions were a degree or more below average, with the extreme in Region 2 where the average was 3.1 degrees below normal, making it the 6th coldest June in the last 100 years. The cool weather continued into July, supplemented by extremely heavy precipitation in most Regions. A number of Regions reported precipitation totals close to or over double the monthly norm, and rainfall totals of 7" or more were reported from several. August reverted back to more typical rainfall across most of the state, although Regions 3, 4, 5 and 8 experienced above average precipitation.

BREEDING BIRDS

The unusual weather elicited commentary regarding the impact on breeding success from a number of Regional Editors, but, perhaps surprisingly, observers had a range of opinions on the overall impact. Bobolinks and Wild Turkeys were thought to be down in numbers in Region 4 due to the cool, wet weather. Conversely, several reports mentioned that the impact on breeding birds was less than might be expected. One possible reason discussed in various Regional reports was more readily available food due to increases in insects and fruit and seed crops; the wet weather may have helped grassland species in another way by delaying the cutting of farm fields. The latter phenomenon may have been responsible for an apparent uptick in Region 2's Bobolink population. Other grassland species noted in higher numbers were Vesper Sparrow in Region 2 and Sedge Wren in Region 6. The 14-23 male Sedge Wrens counted in Fort Drum, along with a few others elsewhere, added up to the best summer showing since 1997 in the Region, one of the state strongholds for this scarce breeder. Breeding Bird Atlassing efforts also led to observations of moderate numbers of grassland species in a few locations, such as Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows in Booneville in Region 5 and various species in Region 8's Saratoga County. Overall, however, the depressing decline of grassland breeders across the state continued this summer. As mentioned by Region 5 Editor Bill Purcell, the habitat required by these birds is often the first to be developed or converted to incompatible farmland. In the Region 8 report, Will Yandik also discusses the pressures on breeding birds applied by the continuing expansion of suburban sprawl, an issue across the state. Region 10 Editor Shai Mitra highlights some of

the same concerns, and notes that given the reality of limited conservation resources, any choice risks limiting other options; on Long Island this includes the relative neglect of declining woodland breeders as compared to the even more pressured colonial nesting waterbirds and shorebirds on the coast.

Understandably, given that Summer 2004 represented the final year of the state's Breeding Bird Atlas project, several Regional reports featured the results of last minute "blockbusting" efforts and in some cases preliminary comparisons between the current project and the previous effort twenty years ago. The Region 8 report in particular lists a number of changes, many of which mirror statewide trends, and also voices the hope that the information gleaned from the Atlas and similar "citizen science" projects, while not perfect, can be used to better understand long-term trends and drive current and future conservation efforts. Atlassing efforts surely led to a number of the notable breeding reports during the season. In Region 1, Yellow-throated Warblers fledged young in the same area of Alleghany State Park where the same observer had found a nest during the original Atlas project. Other noteworthy breeding records from Region 1 included Prothonotary Warblers at historic breeding locations in Tonowanda WMA and Iroquois NWR and the first confirmed nesting record of White-eyed Vireo in the Region. Region 2 hosted a nesting pair of Sandhill Cranes at Savannah, and there were four reports of five Sandhills in Region 3, including one where nesting activity was seen in the spring, although no positive confirmation of nesting was reported. Prothonotary Warblers also nested in Region 5. Boreal Chickadees were found in northern Herkimer County in Region 6 and somewhat out of normal range in Warren County in Region 8. Clay-colored Sparrows seemed to level off after recent increases, with birds noted at previous locations in Region 1, Region 3, and Region 6, but little evidence of further expansion. In several Regions, winter finches lingered long enough to be suspected of or confirmed as breeding; confirmations included Pine Siskin in Regions 4 and 5; Red Crossbills in Regions 3 and 4; and Evening Grosbeak in Region 5. An intriguing sighting was a singing male Common Redpoll in Region 7 on 5 Jun; this species has been recorded breed within a couple of hundred miles to the north in Quebec. Raptors were well represented with highlights including good numbers of Northern Goshawks in Region 1; Merlins in six Regions and widely reported Bald Eagles, with nesting anticipated for both species in new Regions and locations. The Region 10 report discusses the expansion of Cooper's Hawk as a breeding species. Turkey Vulture has also become fairly regular in summer in the Region, but given the lack of suitable habitat, breeding seems a remote possibility. A Saw-whet Owl first found in spring in Region 6 lingered until 2 June; also in the Region was a Long-eared Owl heard calling from a spruce plantation on 18 Jun. Both are possible breeders, but no nesting activity was reported. Trumpeter Swans were present in Region 2, where they nested, and for the tenth consecutive summer were at Perch River in Region 6. An increase in breeding Black Terns in Upper and Lower Lakes WMA in Region 6 was encouraging, although nesting numbers elsewhere in the state were low. Southern species nudging into the state included Blue Grosbeak and Summer Tanager in Region 10. A female American Three-toed Woodpecker was unusually accommodating virtually all summer at Ferd's Bog in Region 7, but no evidence

of breeding was noted during the season. Breeding species generally reported as down in numbers included Black Tern, Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's Sparrow, Common Moorhen, American Black Duck, Cerulean Warbler, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, and Red-headed Woodpecker; while on the positive side, Common Raven, Double-crested Cormorant, Pied-billed Grebe, and Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were generally up.

Perhaps the most interesting breeding reports were two spring records first reported this season. In Region 7, a hen Spruce Grouse was flushed from a nest with six eggs on May 27, and in Region 10, a May sighting of adult Common Eiders with young and active nests came from South Dumpling and Flat Hammock Islands in Long Island Sound; these islands were also the site of the state's first confirmed breeding records in 2000.

WATERFOWL/WATERBIRDS

A number of lingering waterfowl were reported; it seemed to be an especially good year for unseasonal inland scoters, as the second Regional summer record of Black Scoter was found in Region 1 and the first Regional summer record of Surf Scoter was round in Region 6; the latter is perhaps the first inland summer occurrence since the 1946 record listed in Bull's Birds of New York. Black Scoter was also reported in Region 2 and White-winged Scoter was reported in Regions 2, 3, and 5. Common Goldeneyes were in Regions 2 and 3. Red-throated Loons were found in Region 2; Region 5, a first seasonal record; and Region 10. Horned Grebes were found in Regions 5 and 7, and Eared Grebes were present in Batavia, Region 1, for the fifth consecutive summer, with three there on 28 August.

Tubenoses were lackluster in Region 10, with only modest numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels and Sooty Shearwaters reported, as well as a few on-shore Manx and Greater Shearwaters; Cory's Shearwaters numbers were especially disappointing with only one report for the season. More exciting Regionally was the second record of Manx Shearwater for Region 9, on Long Island Sound in Rye. The autumn jaeger migration began on Lake Ontario with a bang on 30 Aug with two Long-tailed Jaegers at Wilson providing Region 1's first summer records; on the same day in Region 2 to the east a Regional high count of 30 Parasitic Jaegers constituted the bulk of the monthly total of 40. Dedicated lakewatching on Lake Champlain in Region 7 proved rewarding as well, with one Parasitic Jaeger and three Long-tailed Jaegers in the last week of August. Notable non-breeding gulls were typically lacking; a handful of apparently summering Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in Region 10 and a possible early migrant snuck into the summer period on 31 Aug in Region 3. Noblewood Park in Region 7 continued to be productive, with up to 750 Bonaparte's Gulls present during August joined by up to six different Little Gulls, with at least 1-2 present daily. Little Gull was also reported in Regions 1, 2 and 5. Caspian Tern numbers maxed out at Little Galloo Island in Region 6, with 600 adults and young counted. In Region 10, the highest count of Royal Terns was 60 along Dune Road in mid-August; Sandwich Terns continued their sporadic coastal appearances with single sightings in June and August. Outside of the Region 6 breeding areas, 33 Black Terns staging at Sandy Pond in Region 5 was the highest total.

SHOREBIRDS

Shorebird migration across the state didn't seem overly exciting; the wet weather decreased available habitat along lake shores and reservoir edges, but provided useful, albeit often temporary, habitat in flooded fields. In Region 1 a productive long-standing flooded field in Newfane held up to 200 shorebirds at times, including Wilson's Phalarope and a good Regional count of 23 Stilt Sandpipers; other highlights included Red Knot and Regional high counts of 9 Baird's Sandpipers and 13 American Avocets. The shorebird flight in Region 2 received "mixed reviews"; high points included a good count of 160 Whimbrel at Hamlin Beach on 22 August and the first Livingstone County record of the species. A state record early Buff-Breasted Sandpiper was found 29 July at the Geneseo Airport. Three of twelve Baird's Sandpipers at Hamlin Beach on 22 August were aged as adults, an unusual occurrence for this species which is typically represented in New York (and the East in general) only by juveniles. Montezuma NWR in Region 3 was typically productive; highlights there included Red Knot and Red-necked Phalarope and good numbers of most regularly occurring species, although American Golden Plover and Solitary and Upland Sandpipers were reported in lower than normal numbers. Tri-Cities Airport in Region 4 produced White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers, among others. Region 5 hosted a maximum of 9 Red Knots, the best Regional showing since 1992, as well as Western and Baird's Sandpipers, among others. Noblewood Park in Region 7 was productive again, with 16 shorebird species noted, including Whimbrel and Red-necked Phalarope. In Region 9 the Liberty Marsh impoundments at the Walkill NWR continued to provide good habitat; highlights there included two American Avocets, and Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers. The nearby Pine Island Turf Farm held American Golden Plover and Baird's, Pectoral, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Also notable in the Region was the first Dutchess County record of Whimbrel. Region 10's migrant shorebirds were mainly the expected species; the Regional report notes that an early summer report of widespread breeding failure among shorebirds led to increased scrutiny of the numbers of southbound juveniles. The general opinion was that numbers of juveniles were in fact down, but the extent of any decrease, on an overall or per-species basis, is difficult to gauge due to the lack of year to year breakdowns of adults versus juveniles by exact count or percentages.

SUMMER WANDERERS AND RARITIES

The usual variety of summer wanderers were present, mostly lingering migrants or nonbreeding strays, with the occasional appearance of true rarities. In the last category was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Hamburg, Region 1, on 7 Jun, reminiscent of last year's spate of mid-summer reports; unfortunately, like those birds, this one also stayed only a single day. The Region also hosted another out-of-season flycatching vagrant with a Western Kingbird in Eden on 28 August. The shorebirds at Newfane were joined for several weeks by a Franklin's Gull. Additional rarities for the Region were Golden Eagle and Kentucky Warbler. There were reports in Region 2 of 1-2 American Swallow-tailed Kites and two

separate late August reports of Mississippi Kite; unfortunately, there was no indication that reports to the records committee are forthcoming for any of these. Also in Region 2, a Black Vulture at Manitou in early June was outside the normal early spring pattern of occurrence in western New York. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded at Kaiser-Manitou on 2 August could represent a southbound migrant or a non-breeding wanderer. In the latter category was an immature male Dickcissel defending a territory, and apparently a female Song Sparrow, for a week in Region 3. Similarly short-staying singing male Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Parula and Yellow-breasted Chat were also in the Region. Brief appearances were made by two Chats in Region 5 as well, where there was also a summer report of Bay-breasted Warbler, a possible breeder in that area. In Region 7 the rarity highlight was a Black Skimmer that spent five days at Westport, becoming the first Regional and Essex County record, and one of only a handful away from the coast. To the south, another out-of-place larid was the immature Laughing Gull found near the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers in Region 8, the 12th Regional record. Last season's Sedge Wren in New Paltz, Region 9, remained until 6 Jun. It was regularly singing and was seen building a nest, but there was no evidence of a second bird. Interestingly, on the last day of its stay, a pair of Sedge Wrens was reported about a mile away. In Region 10, the best reported rarity was a briefly seen flyover Long-billed Curlew on 15 Aug at Shinnecock Inlet on the south shore of Long Island; the bird was not relocated despite extensive searching in the area that day. Unfortunately, it appears that no documentation of this record was submitted to the Regional Editor or to NYSARC. A number of possible breeding warblers were reported from Shelter Island, Long Island in early June. These included Northern Parula, Hooded Warbler, and Canada Warbler, which rarely breed on Long Island, and Northern Waterthrush, which has never been recorded. Although no breeding was confirmed, future birds will hopefully be monitored for nesting activity, especially given the presence of breeding populations in New England, across Long Island Sound to the north. The wet weather seemed beneficial to the state's heron population, as both locally breeding species and wanderers were reported in good numbers. Stray waders included Little Blue Herons in Regions 2, 7, and 9; and good numbers of Great Egrets upstate, exemplified by the dozens noted in Region 8 over the course of the summer, compared to three reports last year. A Cattle Egret in Region 6 was the second summer record there; this species and Glossy Ibis were reported in both Region 3 and Region 9. American White Pelicans were scattered across the state. Region 2 hosted one at Braddock Bay on 26 Aug. Additional White Pelicans turned up to the east on Oneida Lake, where separate observers spotted two birds on the same day; in Region 6, where a breeding plumaged bird was seen near Little Galloo Island in eastern Lake Ontario, and in Region 10, where two birds seen sporadically in the vicinity of Captree State Park were followed by an individual that spent a month on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay. More expected is the annual incursion, in varying numbers, of Brown Pelicans in Region 10. This year's moderate influx began on 5 Jul, with several seen at Democrat Point, and ended in early August. Interesting observations included an unusual sighting off of the barrier beach in Oceanside, and an attempt to calculate the flight speed of a flying pelican, seen initially at

Robert Moses State Park and subsequently at Jones Beach to the west. Finally, a Eurasian Collared Dove was found at Jones Beach on 25 Aug. This species, which has been expanding in southern and western North America, has been reported several times in the state but as yet has not been accepted on the formal list due to continuing concerns about the possibility that at least some of the sightings may involve escapes of this commonly kept cage bird.

MISCELLANEOUS

Some oddities reported during the season included a melanistic Northern Rough-winged Swallow in Region 1 and an unusually plumaged Cerulean Warbler, singing a Northern Parula song, which initially the specter of hybrid origins (see article by Pooth and Johnson in the present issue of *Kingbird*). The Region 10 report discusses an interestingly plumaged subadult Little Blue Heron, which looked similar in some respects to Little Egret, including having two long head plumes. Some investigation, conducted partially through the "Frontiers of Identification" listserv, concluded that the bird was in an unusual molt status not pictured in field guides, highlighting the fact that almost every reference material is inherently limited and cannot depict all variations in even common species. A conjunctivitis outbreak in Purple Finches was noted at a Jenny Lake, Saratoga County banding station in Region 8. It remains to be seen whether this will be as widespread as the recent outbreaks in House Finches; hopefully, observations at feeders during migration and over the winter will turn up limited expansion of the disease.

BIRD OF THE SEASON

The Bird of The Season (BOTS) is usually a tough choice, often as a result of competing crowd-pleasing rarities, first state records, or other significant events. My decision this season is equally difficult, but for slightly different reasons. While there were a number of rarities of statewide or regional significance, there was a distinct lack of "megas" that would make obvious selections. Nor were there breeding records as noteworthy as some of the first state records in recent years, such as Common Eider, Wilson's Phalarope and Sandhill Crane. In addition, the few rarities that would rise to the level of a true BOTS were, unfortunately, either poorly documented or, to all evidence, not documented at all, making them unsuitable candidates in my opinion. My choice then is to offer in place a Birders, rather than Bird, of the Season—a grateful nod to the Breeding Bird Atlas volunteers, in particular the Regional coordinators, who have spent countless hours collecting and compiling the data required for the project.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June was dry but cool. The average temperature was 63.6°F, 2.2° below average. Only 2.02” of rain fell, 1.8” below normal. July was very wet and cool. The average temperature was 69.0°, 1.8° below normal. Rain was frequent and heavy, with 6.04” of precipitation, 2.9” above the average. It was the cloudiest July on record, very unusual for summer near the Great Lakes. The cool and cloudy weather continued in August, but at least it was dry. The average temperature was 67.2°, 1.9° below normal. There was 1.86” of precipitation, 2.01” less than usual. It was the third coolest summer on record and the cloudiest in 89 years. Weather data was excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

The fifth summer of the Atlas 2000 project produced some interesting reports and observer feedback. The most notable reports included confirmed breeding of Yellow-throated Warblers and White-eyed Vireos. In early June, Tim Baird found **Yellow-throated Warblers** near the Administration Building in the Red House Section of Allegany State Park. Baird and others continued to monitor nesting activity and an adult feeding a fledgling was observed on 18 July. This year's nest was in the same area as one of the nests found during the first atlas project in 1984 (also located by Baird). This species was occasionally reported in the same location during the gap between the two atlas projects, but nesting was never confirmed. An even bigger surprise was the discovery of a Yellow-throated Warbler at Chestnut Ridge Park in Erie County, approximately 40 miles north of Allegany State Park. I found a persistently singing male on 11 July, and many observers were able to see the bird through 1 August. No evidence of nesting could be found and it was apparently an unmated male. This species was unprecedented in Erie County during the summer months. A pair of **White-eyed Vireos** was found building a nest at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown. Solon Morse and Jim Berry documented the activity and many other birders were able to see the pair and active nest. This was the first confirmed nesting of this species in Region 1.

Atlas efforts turned up **Northern Goshawks** in at least four locations, more than the usual number of summer reports. This species is present in low numbers in the southern tier and is probably also slightly under-reported there. A bigger surprise on the raptor front was an adult **Golden Eagle** found by Region 1 Atlas Coordinator Richard Rosche in the Town of Alma, Allegany County, on 4 June. This species is unexpected but not without precedent in summer, including one sighted during the first atlas project and one reported in Allegany County several summers ago.

Merlins returned to the SUNY Buffalo south campus starting on 29 July, with up to four found roosting by the end of the summer. It was mentioned here in last summer's report that there was some possible breeding evidence in a nearby neighborhood. However, a follow up this spring with the source of the report indicated that last summer's nest was likely that of a Cooper's Hawk. Given the affinity Merlins have for this area, in addition to some early summer reports in recent years, it is still worth checking this populated area for evidence of breeding.

Several birders commented on the absence or low density of Eastern Meadowlarks in habitat where this species is expected. As an example, I could not locate a single individual of this species within four contiguous blocks in eastern Chautauqua County that had many fields with suitable habitat. Some other birders lamented on the now increased rarity of finding nesting Common Moorhens and Blue-winged Teals. The exploding population of Canada Geese is perceived as the primary cause for reduced nesting of these wetland species, but that answer is certainly not definitive.

Double-crested Cormorant nests continue to increase around Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Mark Kandel of NYSDEC and Bill Watson have been tracking the nesting colonies and occurrence of this species in Western New York since 1992. This year they reported that the number of nests was a few shy of 1000. Primary nesting colonies include several locations on the Buffalo waterfront, Strawberry and Motor Islands, near Buckhorn Island State Park and Niagara Falls.

There were some good finds this summer beyond the breeding species, including some unexpected rarities and some species that are now expected. For the fifth consecutive summer, both **Eared Grebe** and **American Avocet** were reported and these species are now expected rarities. Three Eared Grebes were found on 28 August at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, where the species has been nearly annual since the mid 1990s. An impressive count of 13 American Avocets, a Regional maximum, was tallied at Dunkirk Harbor on 10 August and another group of five was sighted there on 31 August.

Brett Ewald observed four jaegers on the morning of 30 August on Lake Ontario as viewed from the Town of Wilson. He identified two of these birds that were traveling together as **Long-tailed Jaegers**. This species is unprecedented in the Region during the summer months and a NYSARC report is strongly encouraged for this sighting. The sightings coincided with a strong showing of jaegers that day in Region 2.

A **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported from a feeder in the Town of Pomfret, Chautauqua County, on 20 August. The bird was reportedly photographed but no details were provided. A NYSARC report is strongly encouraged for this sighting. For the second summer in a row, a **Western Kingbird** was reported. This year's bird was found in the Town of Eden on 28 August by Bob Andrie and subsequently videotaped by Mike Zebehazy. Doug Happ found a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in the Town of Hamburg on 7 June. This very rare vagrant could not be relocated during subsequent searches. This sighting represents only the third occurrence of this species in the Region.

There were more shorebird reports than usual this summer, mostly attributed to the discovery of a flooded field in the Town of Newfane. Up to 200 shorebirds frequented this field through much of July and early August. Highlights from this location included a **Wilson's Phalarope**, a group of 23 **Stilt Sandpipers** and a **Franklin's Gull** that lingered for several weeks after being found on 1 August. Most of the other shorebird reports came from Dunkirk Harbor and Batavia WWTP. Besides the previously mentioned avocets, a **Red Knot** was a notable find at Dunkirk Harbor and a new Regional maximum of nine **Baird's Sandpipers** was the highlight from Batavia.

Pine Siskins were reported from six locations in June. Early summer reports are occasional, but six in one year is exceptional and likely attributed to breeding activity in the spring.

Other highlights for the season included **Black Scoter**, **Whip-poor-will**, **Sedge Wren**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler** and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; CHMUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; LESP – L Erie SP CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE; PG – Pt Gratiot CHAU; RTPI – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Jamestown CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds NS, E Aurora ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Mute Swan: 2 ad + 8 yg WTSP 5 Jun (TO), new breeding location, only report.
Am. Wigeon: BWWTP 17 Jul; OOWMA 4 Aug; Wilson NIAG 18 Aug; only reports.

Am. Black Duck: 2, 6 BWWTP 13 Jun, 28 Aug; Wilson NIAG 9 Aug; SPNS 14

Aug; 2 Newfane NIAG 28 Aug; more summer reports than in recent years.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Newfane NIAG 31 Jul; max 110 BWWTP 28 Aug.

N. Shoveler: BWWTP 13 Jun; max 41 BWWTP 28 Aug.

N. Pintail: BWWTP 28 Aug; only report.

Green-winged Teal: BWWTP 4 Aug; 16

Newfane NIAG 18 Aug; max 45
BWWTP 29 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: 3, 5 BWWTP 26
Jun, 28 Aug (WW), nearly annual in
summer at this location.
Greater Scaup: Wilson NIAG 28 Aug
(BE), early.
Lesser Scaup: 6 BWWTP 26 Jun thru
(WW), good count for summer; 4 Wilson
NIAG 28 Aug (BE).
White-winged Scoter: Buffalo NR 3 Aug
(MH, MM!); 8 Wilson NIAG 24 Aug
(BE); 25 GHSP 31 Aug (WW!, JP),
record summer count; unusual in summer.
Black Scoter: Wilson NIAG 28 Aug
(WD!), 2nd Regional summer sighting.
Com. Merganser: NF 11 Jul (WW), only
report.
Red-breasted Merganser: TWMA 9 Jun
(PFH), unusual location for date.
Ruddy Duck: 98, 318, 290 BWWTP 26
Jun, 17 Jul, 28 Aug, regularly summers at
this location.
Com. Loon: Buffalo NR 22 Jun (GD),
unusual location for date; 1, 2 Wilson
NIAG 21, 22 Aug; unusual in summer.
Pied-billed Grebe: Birdsall ALLE 3 Jun
(EB), uncommon breeder in ALLE;
CHMUA 19 Jun; 1 ad + 3 yg Tillman
WMA 23 Jun, regular breeding location.
EARED GREBE: 3 BWWTP 28 Aug
(WW!), fifth straight summer and nearly
annual since mid 1990s at this location.
Double-crested Cormorant: 118 Motor I
NR 2 Jun (WW); 250 Buffalo Harbor
ERIE 15 Jun; 356 nests Buffalo Harbor
ERIE, 88 nests GI, 46 nests BuSP 21 Jun
(MK), increasing nest numbers overall;
max 971 BuSP 25 Aug (WW).
Am. Bittern: TWMA 3 Jun (STO); Tift
NP 28 Aug; only reports.
Least Bittern: TWMA 3 Jun (STO), only
report.
Great Egret: max 21, 28 Motor I NR 25
Jun, 29 Jul (WW); Tillman WMA 23 Jun;
Concord ERIE 17 Jul; Newfane NIAG 7
Aug; Attica WYOM 15 Aug; 3 TBNP 19
Aug; 7 BWWTP 28 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 3 INWR
22 Aug; WTSP 29 Aug; DH 31 Aug; only
reports away from NR.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Tift NP 17 Jul; Wilson NIAG
24 Jul, 1 Aug; DH 3-19 Aug; SPNS 12
Aug; Ripley CHAU 18 Aug; only reports
away from nesting areas.

Bald Eagle: imm Alma ALLE 15 Jun;
imm Tift NP 24 Jul; imm Wilson NIAG
3, 21 Aug; imm Hanover CHAU 15 Aug;
imm DH 15 Aug; imm Wilson NIAG 21
Aug; all reports away from nesting areas.
N. Goshawk: Poland CHAU Jun (JB);
Alma ALLE 7 Jul (RR); Willing ALLE
13 Jul (RR); Allen ALLE 20 Aug (EB);
more reports than usual due to Atlas
effort.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Wilson NIAG
22 Aug (BE); summer, fall migrants
rarely noted in Reg.

GOLDEN EAGLE: ad Alma ALLE 4
Jun (RR), very rare in summer.

Merlin: 4 Buffalo ERIE 29 Jul thru
(PY!), similar return date to roosting area
as last summer.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad + 2 yg Buffalo
ERIE 15 Jun thru (BB).

Com. Moorhen: BWWTP 26 Jun; 2
family groups Tift NP 21 Jul; decreasing.

Am. Coot: 9 ad + 2 yg INWR 9 Jun; 5
Buffalo Harbor ERIE 13 Jun.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 Newfane
NIAG 14 Aug; 5 Wilson NIAG 28 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 Newfane
NIAG 24 Jul.

AM. AVOCET: 13 DH 10 Aug (DM),
record high; 5 DH 31 Aug (DM); annual
at this location in recent summers,
NYSARC reports still encouraged.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Wilson NIAG 12
Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Wilson NIAG 13
Jul; max 90 Newfane NIAG 1 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Newfane NIAG
20 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Tillman WMA 30

Jun; 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 15 Aug (MM); nocturnal migrant Buffalo ERIE 17 Aug (PY).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr Newfane NIAG 22 Jul; DH 15 Aug; BWWTP 28 Aug.
Red Knot: arr DH 27 Jul (DM), only report.
Sanderling: WTSP 1 Aug; 2 DH 15 Aug; only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr BWWTP 17 Jul; max 26 Newfane NIAG 28 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr BWWTP 14 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 DH 17-19 Aug (DM, JG), only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2, 1 DH 21, 25 Aug (TM, DN); max 9 BWWTP 28 Aug (WW), record count for Reg.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 16 Newfane NIAG 24 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 3 Newfane NIAG 31 Jul (WD); max 23 Newfane NIAG 2 Aug (JP), good count.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Newfane NIAG 24 Jul; max 9 Newfane NIAG 1 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: Burns ALLE 23 Jun (EB); max 38 Newfane NIAG 23 Aug (JP).
Am. Woodcock: 1 ad + 4 yg crossing a street in mid-day Alfred ALLE 20 Jun (EB).
Wilson's Phalarope: Newfane NIAG 27, 28 Jul (JP, JL, WD), rare.
jaeger sp.: 2 Wilson NIAG 30 Aug (BE), rarely reported in summer.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 2 Wilson NIAG 30 Aug (BE); first Reg summer report, NYSARC report encouraged.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: Newfane NIAG 1-20 Aug (JP, JL), rare.
Little Gull: ad Wilson NIAG 28 Aug (WD), good find.
Bonaparte's Gull: 5 BWWTP 13 Jun (KF), unusual for date.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Wilson NIAG 24 Jul (WW!), first Jul record for Reg.

Caspian Tern: 3 LESP 13 Jun; 11 Wilson NIAG 24 Jul; 3 INWR 12 Aug; SPNS 14 Aug; max 12 DH 15 Aug.
Forster's Tern: DH 12-14 Aug (JG), only report.
Black Tern: max 3 INWR 9 Jun.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 5 INWR 6 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: OOWMA 3 Jun (STO); arr 2, max 28 Amherst ERIE 14, 24 Aug; 5 other reports ERIE (max 3).

Whip-poor-will: Bear L CHAU 1 Jun, very rare in summer, probable late migrant.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Pomfret CHAU 20 Aug, reportedly ph but no details provided, NYSARC report encouraged.

Red-headed Woodpecker: LESP 12 Jun; TWMA 5, 27 Jun; PG 18 Jun-15 Aug; Newfane NIAG 24 Jul; FMCSF 12 Aug; Hamburg ERIE 30 Aug; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: E Pembroke GENE 29 Jun (GS), slightly north of typical range.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Ward ALLE 1 Jun (EB); arr Newfane NIAG 20 Aug (JP); Wilson NIAG 24, 25 Aug (WD).

Acadian Flycatcher: 4 ad + nest Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 20 Jun (MM); 7 other reports.

W. KINGBIRD: Eden ERIE 28 Aug (RA! MZ!), very rare.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Hamburg ERIE 7 Jun (DH!), 3rd record for Reg.

White-eyed Vireo: 2 + nest RTPI Jun (SM, JB), first confirmed breeding in Reg.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Ellington CHAU 12 Jun (MM); Wilson NIAG 26 Jun (DR); good Atlas finds.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Tonawanda ERIE 27 Aug (PFH).

Com. Raven: Bennington WYOM 8 Jun (KF); 3, 5 Ellington CHAU 25 Jun, 2 Jul (MM!); 2 Pike WYOM 26 Jun (KF); Wilson NIAG 22 Aug (WD!), very rare in NIAG; only reports away from ALLE, CATT.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: melanistic Buffalo ERIE 13 Jun (MM).

Cliff Swallow: 2, 6 Buffalo ERIE 13 Jun, 3 Aug; 2 Tillman WMA 23 Jun, unusual location; 80 ad, 78 nests N Tonawanda NIAG 23 Jun; continues to increase along NR and Buffalo waterfront.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Hartland NIAG 13 Jun; Cheektowaga ERIE 10 Jul; NF 16 Jul; unusual locations.

Carolina Wren: 7 reports.

Winter Wren: CHMUA 19 Jun; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 20 Jun; 2 ad + 3 imm Concord ERIE 26 Jun; Wilson NIAG 17 Jul (WD); only reports away from ALLE, CATT.

SEDGE WREN: TWMA 9 Jun (WW!); max 4 INWR 30 Jun (PHi).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Ellington CHAU 25 Jun (MM); Independence ALLE 14 Jul (RR); good Atlas finds.

Swainson's Thrush: 2 Alma ALLE 25 Jun (RR); 3 ad, 1 yg AISP 18 Jul (PY).

N. Mockingbird: Hanover CHAU 1 Jun; Independence ALLE 9 Jun; 2 ad, 1 juv Silver Creek CHAU 25 Jul; good Atlas finds.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Newfane NIAG 16 Jun (WW); Lewiston NIAG 10 Jul (NS); only reports.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Evans ERIE 12 Jun; Stockton CHAU 15 Jun; Newfane NIAG 16 Jun; CHMUA 19 Jun; Ellington CHAU 2 Jul; more reports than Golden-winged.

Tennessee Warbler: arr WTSP 24 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: AISP 2 Jul; Andover

ALLE 3 Jul; 2 Alfred ALLE 20 Jul; Ashford CATT 4 Jul; Franklinville CATT 1 Aug; good Atlas finds.

N. Parula: max 8 AISP 6 Jun (PY), impressive count for rare breeder in Reg.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr FNSP 20 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 24 Aug.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 2 ad, nest, fl AISP 6 Jun-18 Jul (TB! WW! NYSARC), nest in red pine (60') in dense tuft of needles; unmated male Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 11 Jul-1 Aug (MM! NYSARC mob), unprecedented in ERIE in summer.

Pine Warbler: 2, 4 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 5 Jun, 12 Jul (MM! JP); Brant ERIE 12 Jun, 2 Jul (RR); AISP 28 Jun (WW!); Wilson NIAG 20 Aug (WW!); increasing.

Prairie Warbler: Ellington CHAU 4 Jun, 2 Jul (MM!); 7 Pike WYOM 26 Jun (KF); only reports outside ALLE, CATT.

Black-and-white Warbler: AISP 6 Jun; Alfred ALLE 20 Jun; arr BuSP 9 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-3 TWMA 5-20 Jun (PFH, JP); INWR 9 Jun (PFH); historical breeding locations.

N. Waterthrush: arr Amherst ERIE 6 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 12 Strykersville WYOM 8 Jun (KF), counted while hiking two large gullies.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: AISP 3 Jun (FG!), rarely found in summer.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Fredonia CHAU 14 Aug.

Canada Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE 14 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 2 Andover ALLE 1-30 Jun (EB); 3 Yorkshire CATT 13 Jun (JP); previously documented locations.

Vesper Sparrow: Andover ALLE thru 20

Jul; Ashford CATT 4 Jul; Cheney CHAU 19 Jul; Humphrey CATT 22 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2-4 Andover ALLE thru 20 Jul; Newfane NIAG 7-30 Jun; Pomfret CHAU 12 Jun; Royalton NIAG 13 Jun; Hartland NIAG 13 Jun; 3 Tillman WMA ERIE 27 Jun; Ischua CATT 17 Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: max 6 Lancaster ERIE (MM, MK); Andover ALLE 20 Jul (EB); only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: Lyndon CATT 1 Jul; 2 Ward ALLE 11 Jul; 4 Alfred ALLE 20 Jul; only reports.

E. Meadowlark: noted absent or in decreased numbers in several Atlas blocks.

Orchard Oriole: 1-4 Silver Creek CHAU 2-18 Jun (CH); ad m Alma ALLE 4 Jun (RR), good Atlas finds.

Red Crossbill: 2 Almond ALLE 23 Jun (EB), only report.

Pine Siskin: Portland CHAU 2 Jun (CH); AISP 6 Jun (PY); Colden ERIE 9 Jun (KL); Cherry Creek CHAU 12 Jun (MM); Mayville CHAU 13 Jun (TL); 5 E Aurora ERIE 17 Jun; likely related to spring breeding.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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It was a summer to remember, if you could indeed call it a summer. June was most delightful, with plenty of sunshine and cool days. The average temperature was below average by 3.1° at 62.7°F. It was the sixth coolest June in the last 100 years. Precipitation fell on about half of the days in the month but only totaled 3.11", which was 0.25" below normal. July kicked in with a precipitation total of 6.36". This was a whopping 3.43" above normal. It ranked fourth in wetness in the last 100 years. Temperatures were below normal by 2.4° at 68.3°. Despite a few warm and sunny days, August averaged 66.0°, 2.0° below normal. Precipitation was a mere 0.14" above normal. Rain fell on nearly half of the days.

This report always traverses an array of seasons. The late spring flights, the summer breeding season and the early fall migration. This year's late spring flight was not particularly well documented. The usual late season shorebirds were tallied, but not much else in the way of tail-end spring migration was reported.

The cool, wet season didn't seem to hamper the breeding birds too much. The fruit and berry crop, on the other hand, benefited greatly and exhibited a banner year. This contributed to the available food supply and provided an ample food source for nesting passerines. Significant numbers of passerines were noted in early July feeding young and in the middle of July again singing. As a result, the end of the month witnessed fresh broods of young.

A pair of Trumpeter Swans once again inhabited a nesting site in western Wayne County. Canada Geese and Mute Swans were once again widespread and plentiful. Blue-winged Teal was again noted in very low numbers along the west lakeshore, but more were discovered in the marshes along the east lakeshore. American Black Duck numbers continued to be low. **Black Vulture** and Merlin were reported in June, hinting at the possibility of some future nesting, which mirrors a trend in the state. The Peregrine Falcons in downtown Rochester fledged five young. A plus for the season was the successful nesting of the Sandhill Cranes in Savannah, though later verbal inputs suggested the young were again finally lost. Black Tern again went unreported as a nester. Common Raven reports were up in the hilly regions south of Monroe County. Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will went unreported as breeding species. Nesting Sedge Wrens were located in the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex. On the down side were Golden-winged Warbler and possibly Cerulean Warbler. Hooded Warblers were well represented in woodlots. Clay-colored Sparrow did not repeat last year's surprising breeding totals. Observers commented that Vesper Sparrow and Bobolink numbers were up in some areas and that Pine Siskins probably bred. Interesting non-breeders were also reported during the season. These included both Red-throated and Common loon on Lake Ontario, as well as White-winged and Black scoter. Of special interest was a female Common Goldeneye at an inland pond, though it was only seen on one day. Little Blue Heron is a plus at any time.

The fall migration didn't seem to materialize early this year. The usual waterfowl were noted at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch. An American White Pelican put in a brief appearance at Braddock Bay on 26 August. Red-necked Grebe was represented by two reports from Hamlin Beach. Totals from the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch and Hawk Banding Program were average to slightly below average. A total of 4264 Red-tailed Hawks was tallied in August, along with 374 Broad-winged Hawks in the reverse migration that follows similar patterns to the spring flights. The raptor highlight of the season was a pair of **American Swallow-tailed Kites** first reported by a Town of Murray resident. Dave Tetlow, responding to the report, then had a naked-eye sight observation out his window of a bird that was more than likely one of the two, followed shortly by a point-blank single bird flying low over a neighbor's house on Hogan Point. The site was about 15 miles NE of the original sighting. Two immature **Mississippi Kites** were also reported during the season.

The shorebird flight played to mixed reviews. Early in the season reports were low. Despite the rainy season, habitat was scarce due to generally high waters along lakes and streams. The bulk of the reports came from the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch, a farm pond in Perinton and the persistent puddle at Geneseo Airfield, the latter monitored regularly by Jim Kimball. This last location produced Livingston County's first Whimbrel as well as a state record early Buff-breasted Sandpiper in July. Other good Livingston County records from that site were Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Wilson's Phalarope and Caspian Tern. August saw improved habitat and an increase in shorebird activity. Shorebird highlights included 28 Upland Sandpipers at Geneseo Airfield on 13 August, 160 Whimbrels

at Hamlin Beach on 29 August and 12 Baird's Sandpipers at Hamlin Beach on 22 August. Parasitic Jaeger reports from Hamlin Beach totaled a record high 34 on 30 August. The monthly total was 40 individuals.

A weak flow of passerine migrants produced little in the way of fall migration records. August saw a fair number of dispersals as well as some early migrants. A record early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station on 2 August. The Chimney Swift roost in York began in earnest with a maximum of 127 on 9 August. Nineteen species of warblers were reported, with Prairie Warbler being the only real highlight in this early period. Early White-throated and White-crowned sparrows were reported in August from Greece and Manitou respectively.

The June species total was 175, which is just about the ten-year average. July's total of 160 species was slightly below the ten-year average. The August total of 188 was well above the ten-year average of 173.4. Eleven new species for the year were added during the season. This brought the Region 2 species total to 277. This again was above the ten-year average of 271.9.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay MONR; C – T Chili MONR; CH – Charlotte, Ontario Beach MONR; G – Greece MONR; GE – Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HL – Honeoye L LIVI; IC – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece MONR; M – Manitou MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds P MONR; PA – T Parma MONR; PE – Perinton MONR; PN – Penfield MONR; R – City of Rochester MONR; S – Savannah WAYN; W – T Warsaw WYOM.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: 2 + nest WAYN
12 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: max 33 HB 20 Aug.

N. Shoveler: arr BB 23 Aug.

N. Pintail: CH 30 Jun.

Green-winged Teal: arr 3 GE 2 Aug.

Redhead: arr 3 HB 3 Aug.

Greater Scaup: HB 6 Jun, late; arr 3 HB
22 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: Cranberry Pd G 1-30 Jun;
arr HB 22 Aug.

White-winged Scoter: 3 HB 3 Jun, late;
max 8 HB 6 Jul.

Black Scoter: HB 20 Jul, only report, rare in summer.
Long-tailed Duck: HB 6 Jun, late.
Bufflehead: HB 1 Jun, late.
Com. Goldeneye: f R 10 Jun, unusual date and location.
Com. Merganser: arr HB 31 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: G 23 Jun, late.
N. Bobwhite: MP 12 Jun, probable released or escapee.
Red-throated Loon: HB 3 Jun.
Com. Loon: 1-2 HB all Jul.
Horned Grebe: arr HB 20 Aug.
Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 8 Aug; HB 17 Aug.
Am. White Pelican: BB 26 Aug (JB, CC, RG).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 428 HB 20 Aug.
Great Egret: R 30 Jun; 2 G 7 Jun.
Little Blue Heron: ad H 31 Jul (DT).
BLACK VULTURE: M 8 Jun (DN, RMa).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: imm HP 20 Aug (DT).
MISSISSIPPI KITE: imm BB 23 Aug (DT); imm PA 27 Aug (DT).
Bald Eagle: total 35 BB hawkwatch Aug.
N. Goshawk: imm migrant BB 11 Jun; total 6 BB hawkwatch Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 BB 9 Aug; 1 BB 14 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 153 BB 10 Aug.
Rough-legged Hawk: HB 1 Jun (WS), late.
Merlin: BB 11 Jun; 2 HB 30 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 2 ad & 2 colts S 8-18 Jun (BP, mob); MP 20-24 Jun (JS, CM).
Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 HB 13 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr H 1 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last PE 7 Jun; arr PE 25 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Scottsville MONR 1 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr GE 6 Jul; max 200 GE 18 Jul (JK).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 PE 12 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: max 28 GE 13 Aug.
Whimbrel: arr HB 16 Jul; 1-2 GE 27-28 Jul (JK); max 160 HB 29 Aug (WS).
Red Knot: arr CH 20 Aug (RSD, KG), only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: last Sodus Pt 6 Jun; arr 2 GE 26 Jul (JK).
Sanderling: arr 11 HB 26 Jul; GE 3 Aug (JK), unusual location.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 9 H 20 Jul.
Western Sandpiper: arr HB 22 Jul; HB 22 Aug (DT).
Least Sandpiper: arr 4 PE 6 Jul.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr GE 1 Aug; max 3 ad & 9 juv HB 22 Aug (DT, WS).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 18 Jul.
Dunlin: arr H 16 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 8 GE 28 Jul.
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: arr E 29 Jul (FM, CC, JK), state record early; PA 29 Aug (GC, DS); 1-2 H 29-30 Aug (DT); 2 PA 31 Aug (mob); good year.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr PE 6 Jul.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr GE 18 Jul; GE 30 Jul; GE 13 Aug.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr HB 17 Aug (WS, DT, RS); 34 HB 30 Aug (DT), record high for Reg; 40 total HB Aug.
jaeger sp: total 5 Aug.
Little Gull: arr HB 15 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 97 HB 5 Aug; Conesus inlet LIVI 15 Aug (DP); GE 17 Aug (JK); unusual locations latter two.
Com. Tern: max 47 HB 30 Aug.
Forster's Tern: max 3 HB 22, 24 Aug.
Black Tern: imm BB 6 Aug (DT); imm HB 22 Aug (DT, WS).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: last G 10 Jun; arr G 15 Aug; max 16 PN 28 Aug.
Chimney Swift: max 127 York 9 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last HB 15 Jun; arr M 2 Aug (C&RM), record early.

Acadian Flycatcher: C 3-22 Jul (RS, JS), new location; 3 calling W 2 Aug (JK), interesting location.

Com. Raven: ad HL 12 Jun; ad & yng HL 18 Jun; ad C 17 Jul; ad & yng Springwater LIVI 21 Jul; ad Naples ONTA 23 Jul; G 19 Aug; good summer for this increasing corvid.

Sedge Wren: 3+ S 8-18 Jun (BP, mob).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last G 1 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: arr M 2 Aug, early.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: arr Durand-Eastman P MONR 16 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: f BB 29 Aug (GC, DS).

Bay-breasted Warbler: last IC 2 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: last G 1 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: last IC 2 Jun; arr BB 29 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 Warsaw WYOM 28 Jun-1 Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: Sonyea LIVI 27-30 Jun (ST, mob); 2 Byron 14 Jul (KG); only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: ad G 12 Aug, unusual time of year.

White-crowned Sparrow: ad M 2, 7 Aug (C&RM), banded, very interesting date.

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES REGION

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The summer was cooler and wetter than normal. June started off the cool temperatures, averaging 1.9°F cooler than normal. July was 0.8° cooler than normal and August was just 0.3° cooler than normal. June, with less than 3" of precipitation, was actually drier than normal. Both July and August, however, saw more than 7" of rainfall each, doubling the normal and making it the second wettest July-August period since 1879.

The Ithaca June Count, after returning last year, did not happen this year. That fact, along with time constraints preventing me from taking advantage of other data sources, such as eBird, discouraged me from doing any of my usual summer to summer comparisons. Since most of the missing data affects primarily land bird data, I will mention some possible swings in waterbird numbers. These will be based on raw numbers, not normalized by birder effort, since the missing effort in the data is primarily toward land birds and normalizing causes virtually all of the water bird numbers to show significant increases.

There were several interesting waterfowl observations. A single Snow Goose enjoyed the waterways and lawns of Stewart Park in Ithaca for most of

August. Gary Chapin and Dominic Sherony spotted a Lesser Scaup and a Bufflehead at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in late July. Julie Horton discovered two White-winged Scoters diving in Seneca Lake near the Geneva Chamber of Commerce building on 16 August. At least one of them remained through 24 August. The male Common Goldeneye present at Stewart Park at the end of May lingered through the first week of June. Mark Chao discovered two Red-breasted Mergansers making a one-day visit to Myers Point in Lansing. Waterfowl species that seemed to be up in numbers included Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck and surprisingly, in light of the swollen rivers of July and August, Common Merganser. Canada Goose and Wood Duck appeared to be down in numbers.

Non-breeding, probably immature, Common Loons were present in relatively high numbers, with flocks noted in July on both Seneca and Cayuga lakes. Pied-billed Grebes were enjoying a successful nesting season at Montezuma as the summer season ended. Julie Horton found an American White Pelican at Kashong Point, Seneca Lake, but the bird did not stay for others to see. In spite of, or perhaps because of, cormorant harassment programs at nesting colonies, the number of cormorants in the Finger Lakes Region was nearly double last year's number. Interesting waders included Timothy Smith's Cattle Egret at the Big Flats Bird Sanctuary and the Glossy Ibis found and photographed by Rupert McGrath.

The most interesting raptor note was the return of the Peregrine Falcon to its roost on Bradfield Hall on the Cornell University campus on 24 June after a three-month absence.

Like Pied-billed Grebes, moorhens and coots both were having excellent breeding success at Montezuma as the season ended. Sandhill Cranes were prevalent in the Region. Jay McGowan and Bard Prentiss spotted two in the Knox-Marcellus Marsh in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. Bob Guthrie reported one near Branchport, where two had been reported in spring exhibiting nesting behavior. Mickey Scilingo spotted one flying over Cayuga Lake near Ithaca. Kris West, a Nature Conservancy scientist and past intern with the International Crane Foundation in her native Wisconsin, was surprised to be seeing one from time to time along I-86 in Big Flats on her trips to the Arnot Mall.

The best shorebirds of the season were the Red Knots at Montezuma's Benning Marsh, first reported by Bill and Shirley McAneny. Scott Haber and Michael Harvey found a Red-necked Phalarope at Montezuma's Mays Point. Several shorebird species were up in numbers this summer, including Killdeer, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Least and Stilt sandpipers, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher and Wilson's Snipe. Down in numbers were American Golden-Plover, Solitary and Upland sandpipers. An early Lesser Black-backed Gull barely made it into the summer season with its 31 August appearance at Montezuma. The Ring-billed Gull colony in the Chemung River in downtown Elmira managed to fledge most of its young before the heavy rains of July. Nevertheless, a few remaining flightless young had just enough room on the island's peak to escape the high water while the fledged juveniles and the adults evacuated to the hockey arena roof. A pair of Herring Gulls also fledged one young at the colony.

There were no nesting Common Nighthawks or Whip-poor-wills reported. Only one Red-headed Woodpecker could be found. Joel Baines found four very early Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the Town of Ithaca 14 August. Another showed up in Sapsucker Woods about a week later.

Steuben County produced both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" warbler hybrids. A singing male Golden-winged Warbler was apparently on territory in Lansing, but eventually disappeared. Likewise, for a male Northern Parula in Robert Treman State Park and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve.

The Clay-colored Sparrows returned to their site in Caroline and apparently nested successfully. An immature male Dickcissel with a not-quite-right song defended a territory and a female Song Sparrow from other Song Sparrows for the first week of June at the Reynolds State Game Farm. Jay McGowan found a family group of Red Crossbills in the Town of Orange while he was blockbusting for the Breeding Bird Atlas on 30 June. Another Red Crossbill visited the feeders at Sapsucker Woods for two days in early July. Several observers reported Pine Siskins at their feeders in June. These reports ended with three separate reports on 4 July. Karen Burns had a single male Evening Grosbeak visit her feeder in Junius for one day in mid-June.

CONTRIBUTORS

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WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

SNOW GOOSE: StP 31 Jul-23 Aug (CT).

Canada Goose: max 28 RivP 31 Aug. low.

Gadwall: max 10 MNWR 1 Jun (JMGo, BP), high.

Mallard: max 1000 MNWR 28 Aug (BEw), high.

Green-winged Teal: arr 2 MNWR 1 Aug; max 15 MNWR 5 Aug.

Redhead: max 27 MNWR 1 Jun (JMGo, BP), high.

Ring-necked Duck: MyPt 31 Jul (MCh), only report.

LESSER SCAUP: MNWR 24 Jul (GCh, DSh).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: 2 Seneca L Geneva ONTA 16-24 Aug (JuHo).

BUFFLEHEAD: MNWR 24 Jul (GCh, DSh).

COM. GOLDENEYE: Ithaca 6 Jun (MDe).

Com. Merganser: max 49 RivP 15 Aug (B&JO), high.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER: 2 MyPt 23 Aug (MCh).

Ruddy Duck: max 25 MNWR 9 Jun. high.

Ruffed Grouse: max 16 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 6 Jun (MDe), high.

Com. Loon: 17 Farleys Pt CAYU 24 Jul (DSu); max 19 Elm Beach SENE 26 Jul (fide MVil), high.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 51 MNWR 28 Aug (BEw), high.

HORNED GREBE: Seneca L Geneva ONTA 4 Jul (FB).

AM. WHITE PELICAN: Kashong Pt YATE 22 Aug (fide JuHo).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr MNWR 25 Jul; max 101 MNWR 28 Aug.

Great Egret: MNWR 16 Jun; arr MNWR 6 Jul (MVic), early; max 51 MNWR 28 Aug (BEw), high.

CATTLE EGRET: Big Flats Bird

Sanctuary CHEM 12 Jun (TS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr MNWR 26 Jun; max 13 MNWR 4 Aug.

GLOSSY IBIS: MNWR 8 Jun-10 Jul (RM, ph).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Merlin: arr MNWR 13 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: arr Cornell U 24 Jun (NP), early; max 2 MNWR 27 Aug.

Com. Moorhen: max 51 MNWR 28 Aug (BEw), high.

Am. Coot: max 201 MNWR 28 Aug (BEw), high.

SANDHILL CRANE: max 2 MWC 1 Jun (JMGo, BP); Branchport 14 Jul (BG); East Shore P 27 Jul (MiSc); Big Flats 10 Aug thru (KW!).

Black-bellied Plover: max 5 MWC 1 Jun; last Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 2 Jun; arr 5 MNWR 13 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: MNWR 31 Aug (JEl, PH), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: last 3 MWC 1 Jun; arr MNWR 9 Jul, early; max 50 MNWR 28 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 MNWR 6 Jul; max 110 MNWR 13 Aug (St&SuF), high.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Neimi Rd Pds TOMP 6 Jul; max 157 MNWR 15 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 Jul; max 2 SaW 22 Aug. low.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 7 MyPt 4 Aug. low.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 28 Jul; max 7 MyPt 13 Aug.

RED KNOT: arr & max 5 MNWR 31 Jul (B&SM); 4 MNWR 1 Aug (J&KMGo, ph).

Sanderling: arr MyPt 26 Jul; max 8 StP 13 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 3 MNWR 1 Jun; arr MNWR 9 Jul (AM&TJ), early; max 308 MNWR 15 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last MWC 1 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 10 Jul; max 308 MNWR 15 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last & max 2 MWC 1 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 15 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 15 Aug; max 10 MNWR 24 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 George Rd flooded field TOMP 20 Jul; max 70 MNWR 15 Aug.

Dunlin: 70 MWC 1 Jun (JMGo, BP), only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 21 Jul; max 27 MNWR 12 Aug (JMGo), high.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 MNWR 6 Jul (MVIC), early; max 23 MNWR 15 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 10 MNWR 15 Aug (KR), high.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 24 Jul (MCh, MVic), early; MNWR 28 Aug.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: MNWR 22 Aug (SH, MiHa).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 4 MNWR 24 Jul; max 5 MNWR 7 Aug (MCh, JMGo), high.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: MNWR 31 Aug (JEl).

Great Black-backed Gull: arr MyPt 27 Jun (MCh), early; MNWR 20 Aug.

Caspian Tern: arr MNWR 22 Jun, early; max 71 MNWR 1 Aug.

Com. Tern: max 6 MNWR 13 Jun; last 2 MNWR 22 Jun; arr 2 East Shore P TOMP 24 Jul.

Forster's Tern: arr East Shore P TOMP 24 Jul; StP 13 Aug.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: max 17 Elmira 17 Aug, low.

Mourning Dove: max 5 Danby 28 Jun, low.

Barred Owl: Hector 24 Jul (SA), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: last SaW 10 Jun; arr Auburn 25 Jul (FB), early; max 25 Southport 29 Aug.

Chimney Swift: max 17 RivP 16 Aug, low.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Dryden 21-31

Jul (DH).

N. Flicker: max 2 Enfield 5 Jul, low.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 Ithaca 18 Jul, low.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr SaW 12 Aug (SH), early.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Dryden 3 Aug; max 2 SaW 21 Aug.

Fish Crow: max 28 StP 15 Aug (KR), high.

Tree Swallow: max 24 Union Springs 24 Aug, low.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 6 MyPt 13 Aug, low.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 2 Red Spring Rd Woods STEU 12 Jun, low.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: arr & max 4 Ithaca 14 Aug (JBai!), early; SaW 22 Aug (MCh, CT).

Swainson's Thrush: arr Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU 16 Aug (J&SGrg), early.

Gray Catbird: max 7 Keuka Outlet Trail YATE 6 Jun, low.

Cedar Waxwing: max 21 Union Springs 24 Aug, low.

WARBLERS

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:

Cornell Plantations Teeter Rd Preserve TOMP thru 9 Jun (JMGo, BP).

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER:

Campbell 30 Jun (JMGo).

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER:

Bradford 13 Jun (MP).

Tennessee Warbler: SaW 21 Aug (SH), only report.

N. PARULA: Lansing 1 Jun (JGrn); last Treman SP 16 Jun (BEv).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Cornell U 31 Aug (SH, MH).

Bay-breasted Warbler: SaW 21 Aug (SH), only report.

Worm-eating Warbler: Lock Creek TOMP 26 Jun (MA, TD, JEl, SH, SI,

CM), only report.

Wilson's Warbler: arr & max 3 SaW 29 Aug.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:

Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve
TOMP 5-6 Jun (JBr, KMGa).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: max 2
Caroline 4 Jun-7 Aug (AMJ).

DICKCISSEL: Reynolds State Game
Farm TOMP thru 6 Jun (AD, CS, FW).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 94 RivP 15
Aug, low.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 3 Bare
Hill YATE 13 Jun, low.

Orchard Oriole: MyPt 1 Jun (JMGo,
BP), only report.

RED CROSSBILL: max 4 Orange 30
Jun (JM); SaW 7-8 Jul (ML mob).

Pine Siskin: last & max 3 Dryden 4 Jul.

Am. Goldfinch: max 16 Danby 28 Jun,
low.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Junius 15 Jun
(KBU), only report.

House Sparrow: max 10 Danby 28 Jun,
low.

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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A major factor of the summer weather pattern was the wave after wave of fronts accompanied by local violent storms rather than region-wide storms. Throughout the very wet summer there seemed to be a great disparity in precipitation, with some locations having 3-4" of rainfall, as evidenced by localized flash flooding, and others getting minimal to no rainfall. The official weather at the Binghamton Weather Service had June with an average temperature of 62.4°F, 1.5° below normal. There was 1.54" of rain, 2.26" below normal. Abnormally wet fields in Tioga County did not seem to agree with having a below normal amount of precipitation. This could very well have been because of localized differences. If June seemed wetter than average for some, July was to the ultimate extreme, with an average temperature of 66.8°, 1.9° below normal, and 7.68" of rain, 4.19" above normal, a record for the Binghamton weather station. Locally, the last week of July produced nearly 6" of rainfall. August continued the trend of cool, wet weather, with an average of 66.2°, 0.4° below normal, and 4.19" of precipitation, 0.94" above normal.

The effects of the weather had their mixed blessings. For the second year in a row farmers were prevented from cutting many of the hay fields until late, which likely benefited some species. Whether that could have been enough to offset nesting problems caused by the cool damp weather is doubtful. Reports for two species, Wild Turkey and Bobolink, which would have benefited by delayed cutting do not indicate large numbers. Usually flocks of 20 to 40 immature with a few hen Wild Turkeys are reported. None were reported this year. Fruit production on two vines, wild grape and Virginia creeper, seemed to be up,

providing fall and winter food. After the torrential rains of late July, the mosquito population exploded. The large numbers present throughout the day must have provided more food for swallows. However, the whole bird population must have been tormented by the biting hordes. If there was a chance for West Nile virus transmission, then this summer was it. Since few reports of dead birds were in the media, several assumptions could be made: it was old news and the media was not interested in reporting it, the populace was not encouraged to report them, or the susceptible birds were removed from the population, leaving a population with higher immunity. Hopefully, it is the latter assumption that is correct. Lastly, the abundant rainfall produced wetlands where there had been none for years or made vernal pools become longer lasting. The Great Blue Herons, Green Herons and Great Egrets took full advantage of the increased and improved habitat conditions.

For the second year in a row, Merlins nested in Broome County. Gail Kirch sent in a report that a novice birder, Deanna France, had found falcons near her home in Endicott. Gail confirmed the sighting on 4 May, being able to view courtship and copulation of the pair. Shortly after, Deanna observed the female in an old crow's nest about 50 feet up in a white pine. Deanna continued the observations and saw three fledglings leaving the nest during the third week of July. They stayed in the area until 5 August.

Although immatures of some species were reported, there were only two other reports that confirmed successful nesting by raptors in the southern and western areas of the Region. On 12 June the Tioga Bird Club observed two juvenile and one adult Great Horned Owls west of Owego while on a canoe trip on the Susquehanna. Victor Lamoureux reported an adult Eastern Screech-Owl and two young on 22 and 23 June in Vestal. Tom Salo found nests and fledglings of Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk in Chenango and Otsego counties.

No reports were received of any nesting Bald Eagles, but there were many reports of individuals from throughout the Region. On the above-mentioned TBC canoe trip, one adult and two immatures were found east of Tioga Center. One adult was observed by Jeannette and Cutler Baldwin on Jud Spencer's lake east of Owego for about a week in August. Tom Salo and Andy Mason reported observations in the east and northeastern part of the Region. Members of the Broome County Naturalists' Club had sightings in each of the three months in various parts of the county. It appears that Bald Eagles are taking up residence in all parts of the Region and, hopefully, nesting will take place in all areas in subsequent years.

The Tri-cities Airport west of Endicott in Broome County was the hotspot for shorebirds, with Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Semipalmated, Least, White-rumped, Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers being seen at various times throughout August.

To see birds usually found north of the Region during the summer, Matt Young spent time in the Town of Pharsalia, Chenango County, where he observed Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins throughout the summer. He confirmed nesting of both species in the area.

Uncommon species noted were the previously mentioned Baird's

Sandpiper, a Black-crowned Night-Heron observed by Don Quataert at the Binghamton University Nature Preserve and an Orchard Oriole banded by Bob Pantle 26 July in the Town of Candor, Tioga County. Swainson's Thrushes were found at two locations in Chenango County. Two uncommon warblers were reported. Don Windsor, Andy Mason and Jon Weeks each found Hooded Warblers in June. A Northern Parula was seen by Matt Young in the Town of Pharsalia on 12 July. A common species but an uncommon occurrence was reported by Jo Ann Salo; she observed a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeding a recent fledgling on 18 July.

Species noted that seemed to be less abundant were: Wild Turkey, American Woodcock, Eastern Screech-Owl, Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin and Northern Mockingbird. Tom Salo also reported on the only sighting of an American Bittern. It tried nesting in a dry upland hay field in the Town of Oxford, Chenango County. Unfortunately, mowing destroyed the nest. Species noted that seemed to be abundant or showing an increase were: Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Raven, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren and House Wren. The total number of species reported for the season was 162, which was the same as last year.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bing – Binghamton BROO; BrPd – Brick Pd, Owego TIOG; DP – Dorchester P BROO; EIP – Ely P, Binghamton; En – Endicott BROO; JC – Johnson City BROO; JP – Jones P, Vestal BROO; NB – New Berlin CHEN; Ow – Owego TIOG; Ox – T Oxford CHEN; PC – Port Crane BROO; PWMA – Pharsalia WMA CHEN; RP – Roundtop P, Endicott BROO; SR – Susquehanna Ri; TBA – T Barker BROO; TBU – T Burlington OTSE; TC – T Conklin BROO; TCA – Tri-cities Airport BROO; TT – T Tompkins DELA; UL – Upper Lisle BROO; Ve – Vestal BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Wood Duck: max 24+ BPd 28 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: max 4 BrPd 19 Jun;
12 other reports, widely reported.

Wild Turkey: max 9 T Nanticoke BROO
18 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 6 SR
BROO; only reports from BROO.

Am. Bittern: Ox 3 Jun (TS), only report
Great Egret: arr 5 UL 17 Jul thru.
Green Heron: max 9 BrPd 25 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron:
Binghamton U Nature Preserve 9 Jun
(DQ), uncommon.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr TT 6 Jul (AM).
Bald Eagle: max 6 TT; ad, 2 imm SR
TIOG 12 Jun.
N. Goshawk: confirmed breeding Ox 11
Jun.
Red-shouldered Hawk: FY T Coventry
CHEN 21 Jul (TS).
MERLIN: 2 ad, 3 imm En thru 5 Aug
(DF, GK), out of known breeding range.
Peregrine Falcon: Bing 6-12 Jul, only
report.
Virginia Rail: confirmed breeding OTSE
(TS); Virgil CORT 5 Jun (MY).
Semipalmated Plover: DP 6 Aug; TCA
25-26 Aug; only reports.
Greater Yellowlegs: Rt 12A BROO 13-
17 Aug, only report.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: TCA 8-25
Aug (mob); max 5 TCA 19 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: TCA 21-31 Aug
(mob); max 8 TCA 21 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: TCA 23 Aug
(MP), only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: TCA 21-31 Aug
(mob); max 2 TCA 21 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 5 TCA 19
Aug.
Am. Woodcock: 2 Sherburne CHEN 7
Jul (HK), only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: DP 29 Jul-15 Aug,
only report.
Caspian Tern: SR Ve 19 Aug, only report

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 5 Jordanville
OTSE 14 Jun (HK); many reports.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: confirmed
breeding T Freetown CORT 18 Jun; many
reports.
E. Screech-Owl: ad & 2y Ve 22 Jun; T

Ow last week Aug; only reports.
Great Horned Owl: ad & 2 FL SR TIOG
12 Jun.
Barred Owl: only 5 reports, scarce.
Com. Nighthawk: En thru Jun; only 4
other reports; scarce.
Chimney Swift: max 150 Holy Trinity
Church Bing 5 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: f feeding
FL TBU 18 Jul (JS); many reports,
numbers appear to be up.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 BBS OTSE
13 Jun (AM); 13 other reports.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 7 banded
BROO Aug (GK); 1 other report.
Alder Flycatcher: max 5 DELA thru Jul;
many reports; numbers appear to be up.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 2 Westover
BROO 14 Jun; both TS & AM report high
occurrence.
Red-eyed Vireo: 93 banded BROO Aug
(GK).
Am. Crow: 53 BBS OTSE 13 Jun.
Fish Crow: Ow no date, only report.
Com. Raven: max 4 Oakley Corners
TIOG 21 Jun; numbers reported up and
more widespread.
Purple Martin: TIOG Jun & Jul (TBC);
2 T Union BROO 26 Jun; only reports.
Bank Swallow: max 20 T Kirkwood
BROO 3 Jul; TS found several colonies
along Unadilla & Chenango Ri.
Cliff Swallow: confirmed breeding T Ow
no date (C&JB); 3 other reports.
Carolina Wren: entire Reg (mob);
numbers high.
Winter Wren: 5 reports, numbers low.
Marsh Wren: N Norwich CHEN 6 Jun
(DW), only report.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 Ve 8
Aug; few reports.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 3 Ve 26
Jul; few reports.
Veery: 8 BBS OTSE 13 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: confirmed breeding
PWMA 10 Jun thru (MY).
Hermit Thrush: max 3 JP 23 Jun NCBC.

N. Mockingbird: ad & 2 juv Glen
Aubrey BROO 5 Aug; few reports.
Cedar Waxwing: 14 BBS OTSE 13 Jun.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: RP 28 Aug
(BG, BH), only report.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: JC 21 Jun (MP),
only report.
Nashville Warbler: T German CHEN 5
Jun; T Maine BROO 24 Jun; TT DELA
29 Jun; TC 2 Jul; RP 28 Aug; only
reports.
N. Parula: PWMA 13 Jul (MY), only
report.
Yellow Warbler: 31 BBS OTSE 13 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 12 BBS OTSE
13 Jun.
Magnolia Warbler: PWMA 4 Jun; two
other reports of high numbers from n & e
in Reg; none reported from sw.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 2
PWMA 30 Jun (NCBC).
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 4
PWMA 30 Jun (NCBC).
Blackburnian Warbler: max 1 + 3 yg
TBa 27 Jun; one reporter commented that
numbers seemed to be up.
Pine Warbler: max 4 NB 17 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: 2 JPK 23 Jun; 2 FY NB
(HK).
Am. Redstart: max 3m & 1f EIP 26 Jun;
numbers appear to be high.
Ovenbird: max 8 BROO 11 Jun.
N. Waterthrush: Chenango Valley SP
BROO 5 Jun; Greenwood P BROO 6 Jun;

JC 13 Jun; TIOG no date; CHEN no date;
only reports.
Louisiana Waterthrush: PC 11 Jul;
CHEN no date; only reports.
Mourning Warbler: PWMA 4 Jun;
regular CHEN Jun; FY TBu 26 Jun; few
reports from BROO & TIOG.
Com. Yellowthroat: 29 BBS OTSE 13
Jun; 42 banded BROO Aug (GK).
Hooded Warbler: Smyrna CHEN 15 Jun
(DW); 2 Walton DELA 23 Jun (AM); 2
TBa 27 Jun (JW); m PC 16 Aug; RP 28
Aug; only reports.
Canada Warbler: reported regular
CHEN, OTSE (TS); only 5 other reports.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: ad & juv JP 23 Jun; ad
& juv PWMA 30 Jun; 2 TC 13 Jul; T
Lisle BROO 6 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: T Colesville
BROO 11 Jun; TC 14 Jun.
Bobolink: max 24 TBa 7 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: max 6 T Lisle &
Nanticoke BROO 6 Aug; reported
missing in DELA.
Orchard Oriole: juv banded T Candor
TIOG 26 Jul (BP), first at that station in
40+ years.
RED CROSSBILL: confirmed
breeding PWMA thru period (MY),
nesting activity seemed to be centered
around Norway spruce.
PINE SISKIN: PWMA reports thru
(MY), found in many Atlas Blocks; at
feeder Solon CORT 4 Jul (MY).

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The summer was wet and cool, but some observers noted that there were no extended periods of very cool weather and that the rainfall often consisted only

of short, partial-day deluges. This seemed to allow most species to have a normal breeding year, and there was even an observation that the wet year led to an increase in insects, which helped adult birds feed young.

The temperature for June averaged 63.7°F, 2.1° degrees below normal. There was 2.42" of precipitation, 1.29" below the average. In July the temperature was 69.5°, -1.4°, with 6.95" of precipitation, 4.02" more than usual. The August average of 68.6° was 0.6° below normal and the 5.1" of precipitation was 1.54" above normal.

With the increase in the Snow Goose population, it is becoming routine to find a summer bird such as the one in northern Oneida County this season. However, a small southbound flock at the end of August was very early. Brant and Red-breasted Merganser lingered on Oneida Lake into June, while Ring-necked Duck on an isolated Adirondack lake was a possible breeder somewhat south of the usual range. August sightings at Sandy Pond and Lake Ontario included Horned Grebe, Northern Shoveler, White-winged Scoter and a Common Goldeneye, the latter being seen over the entire month.

While doing Common Loon surveys on Honnedaga Lake, Gary Lee encountered a bird that at first he could not identify, but he was able to paddle close enough to see that it was an adult Red-throated Loon, a first seasonal record for the Region. Separate observers saw two American White Pelicans in flight on Oneida Lake on the same day, but there were no further reports.

Participants will be happy to see the Breeding Bird Atlas wind down after five years, but the project covered areas that are rarely visited by birders otherwise. One such spot is in Oneida County where the grasslands and wetlands of Boonville and Ava are home to species such as American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Sora, Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Marsh Wren and Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows, all needing the specialized habitat.

Highlights for raptors this season included Peregrine Falcons fledging young in Syracuse, a few more Merlins in the breeding season and Bald Eagles, which have established a population at Stillwater Reservoir although nests have been hard to find. It's hoped that a pair of Bald Eagles renovating a heron nest at Three Rivers WMA may provide a breeding record for Onondaga County in 2005. American Kestrel continues to be a concern despite the breeding success noted in Boonville. Northern Harrier habitat is being lost as agriculture declines.

Delta Lake and the Salmon River Reservoir remained high throughout the season, offering no mud flats for shorebirds. The high water level on Lake Ontario reduced available roosting and feeding areas at Sandy Pond, but the area was still used by migrants. Two sites near the Great Swamp Conservancy land in Madison County, a sod farm and a flooded field, also provided shorebird habitat. A small number of Red Knots were the best since 1992. There were also sightings of Western, Baird's, White-rumped and Stilt sandpipers.

There was a single Little Gull report. A pair of Common Terns nested on an old bridge abutment on the Oswego River, but the nest failed, most likely due to gull predation. Black Terns staged at Sandy Pond in August, but breeding pairs remain very low. The Common Nighthawk count in Syracuse recorded a total of 70 over the last 19 days of August, the lowest in the 11 years of the count.

Atlas workers reported Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers in several Adirondack wetlands and Northern Saw-whet Owl and Boreal Chickadee near the Oswegatchie River in far northern Herkimer County. There were several reports of Black-backed Woodpecker in northern Herkimer County and also one report of American Three-toed Woodpecker, a species that is believed to nest north of Old Forge but in fact is rarely reported in that mostly roadless area.

Acadian Flycatcher was found at a new location in Hannibal, but the species doesn't appear to be making any inroads past the western edge of the Region. After being drained in 2003, a large pond in the Three Rivers WMA that was being invaded by purple loosestrife is now populated by cattails and had Marsh Wren this year.

Matt Perry reported that several species of warblers and vireos have declined as nesters in his part of southern Oneida County, but it is difficult to get much of a reading on breeding warblers Region-wide. For most species there seems to be little decrease in distribution across Atlas blocks, but that certainly doesn't address numbers of a species per block. There was a summer report of Bay-breasted Warbler near Stillwater Reservoir and Prothonotary Warblers continue to breed in Big Bay Swamp on Oneida Lake. Two Yellow-breasted Chats were seen, each for one day only.

Vesper Sparrow was seen in several locations and there was a nice concentration of both Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows in Boonville. It's unfortunate that their preferred habitat is often the first to be used for housing or planted for other agricultural purposes. Pine Siskin fledglings were documented by Matt Young in southern Madison County, but there were few siskins elsewhere. In the same area, Matt also had a single Red Crossbill and an unusual breeding record for Evening Grosbeak, a species in decline statewide as a breeder.

The fruit, nut and seed crop was mixed this year, but "abundant" was not used to describe anything. The berry crop was fair, with cherries, highbush cranberry and wild raisins good. There was generally poor nut and seed production from trees, although ash was good in spots. There were some spruce cones but most pines were barren. Additional plant species noted included the hawthorn and apple crop as about average, European buckthorn and tartarian honeysuckle good and viburnums producing virtually nothing, due largely to an insect blight that is currently affecting most viburnum species. There was below average production of sumac fruit and wild grape.

For the season, 204 species were recorded, a very good total. It will be interesting to see if there will be a decline in numbers next year, in the first year with no Atlas work being done. Highlights were American White Pelican, Ring-necked Duck, White-winged Scoter, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, **American Three-toed Woodpecker**, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-breasted Chat and Red Crossbill. Misses included Short-billed Dowitcher, Sedge Wren, Clay-colored Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CM – Clay Marsh; DeR – DeRuyter; DL – Delta L; Geo – Georgetown; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy MADI; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SCH – T Schroepel; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pd; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: T Western 19 Jun; 15 southbound over Geo 28 Aug, early.

Brant: OnonL 12 Jun (MR), late.

Am. Black Duck: max 7 Cicero 19 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: possible nesting Fabius; yg SCH 17 Jul; max 15 DL 23 Aug; low numbers.

N. Shoveler: 2 SPd 8 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: Boonville 25 Jun; 3 SPd 14 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: 2 Twin Lakes T Ohio 12 Jun, south of expected breeding area.

White-winged Scoter: 5 LOL 8 Aug.

Com. Goldeneye: SPd 4 Aug thru.

Red-breasted Merganser: last 10 Jun Cleveland; max 16 SPd 22 Aug.

RED-THROATED LOON: 1 alt plumage Woodhull L HERK 30 Jun, apparently short-stopped, 1st Reg summer record (GL).

Com. Loon: good nesting year in HERK despite high water (GL, TSA).

Horned Grebe: 1 alt plumage LOL 8 Aug, 4th summer record.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: 2 OneiL 8 Jul (JCa, JCo).

Double-crested Cormorant: Woodhull L 5 Jun; 40 SPd 8 Aug; Fourth L 25 Aug.

Am. Bittern: CM 27 Jun; 3 locations Boonville-Ava Jun.

Least Bittern: 1 per day CM Aug.

Great Blue Heron: 85 active nests WM

heronry.

Great Egret: max 6 GSC 1 Aug; singles Utica, WM, OnonL, Van Buren, Camillus, Durhamville.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: GSC 4 Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: nesting on 2 cell towers Oswego Ri.

Bald Eagle: pr TRWMA thru, probable breeders for 2005; common Stillwater & Moshier Falls Res.

N. Harrier: ads & 3 yg Ava into Aug.

N. Goshawk: nest Third L Creek.

Golden Eagle: ad Big Moose L HERK 9 Jul (R&SS), only report

Am. Kestrel: 8-10 family groups Boonville-Ava Jul; max 10 Little Falls 14 Aug.

Merlin: nesting both ends Stillwater Res and North Bay of Big Moose L; 1 Woodgate 19 Jun; 2 Camillus 16 Aug; 1 Van Buren 19 Aug; 1 Durhamville 31 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 4 fl Syr 19 Jun thru.

Sora: calling Ava 28 Jun, 7 Jul.

Black-bellied Plover: Sullivan 28 Aug thru.

Semipalmated Plover: 9 ad SPd 11 Aug; 8 juv SPd 14 Aug; max 10 GSC 15 Aug.

Killdeer: max 110 Sullivan 27 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 SPd 8 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 60 GSC 1 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Waterville 19 Jul; max 3 GSC 1 Aug & 3 SFNS 8 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: 5 per day SPd Aug; max 10 GSC 1 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: in 3 Atlas blocks Boonville-Ava, probably more numerous there.

Ruddy Turnstone: SPd 29 Aug.
Red Knot: 7 alternate plumage SPd 1 Aug; max 9 alternate plumage SPd 3 Aug; 1 juv SPd 22 Aug.
Sanderling: max 55 SPd 1 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 20 SPd 3 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: basic plumage SPd 8 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: max 38 SPd 11 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: SPd 11 Aug; GSC 15 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 3 SPd 22 Aug; SVB 25 Aug, unusual there.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 GSC 29 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: 3 ad GSC & 2 ad SPd 1 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: 6 reports Boonville-Ava, ample habitat.
Am. Woodcock: max 4 GSC 1 Aug.
Little Gull: 2nd-yr SPd 4 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: 28 SPd 1 Aug; max 119 SVB 25 Aug.
Caspian Tern: DL 30 Jul; max 98 SPd 1 Aug.
Com. Tern: pr nesting Oswego Ri Phoenix 5 Jun (GD); 5 DL 30 Jul; max 50 SPd 3 Aug.
Black Tern: max 33 SPd 1 Aug; gone by end of Aug.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Oswegatchie Ri 22 Jul.
Com. Nighthawk: 1 N Syr 18 Jun; max 24 Syr 28 Aug; total 70 Syr 13-31 Aug count period.
Whip-poor-will: no reports away from Constantia.
Red-headed Woodpecker: pr Volney 11 Jun, with fl 22 Jul; pr Kirkland 7 Jul; fl Van Buren 8 Jul.

AM. THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: 3 Polack Swamp HERK 20 Aug (TSa).
Black-backed Woodpecker: Little Safford Pd 25 Aug; 2 reported north of Stillwater Res Jun.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Gull L outlet 17 Jul; Big Creek wetland 22 Jul; Oswegatchie Ri 22 Jul; Carter Station 23 Jul; single migrants SCH 20 Aug & SFNS 26 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last WH 7 Jun; max 3 Gull L outlet 17 Jul.
Acadian Flycatcher: Hannibal 26 Jun; breeding pr WH thru.
E. Kingbird: max 22 SPd 15 Aug.
Fish Crow: Liverpool 12 Jun, 28 Jul.
Horned Lark: max 6 Pompey 18 Jul.
Purple Martin: max 24 Cicero 21 Jul; numbers continue to decline along Oneil; 8 SPd 15 Aug.
Tree Swallow: max 900 SPd 15 Aug.
Bank Swallow: max 60 SPd 15 Aug, low.
Cliff Swallow: nesting on mall bldgs Clay thru Jul.
Barn Swallow: max 103 CM 7 Aug.
Boreal Chickadee: Oswegatchie Ri 22 Jul; Independence Ri 15 Aug.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Fayetteville 29 Aug, only likely migrant noted.
Carolina Wren: pr Marshall 29 Jun; nest Waterville 30 Jun; both at > 1200'.
Marsh Wren: SCH 15 Jun, 8 Jul; TRWMA 8 Jul, areas with emerging habitat; 3 Boonville 23 Jul.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: nesting McCauley Mt Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 Boonville 17 Jul, north of expected range.
E. Bluebird: fls up 25 % over 2003 (JR), tied to milder winter to our south.
N. Mockingbird: Old Forge thru.
Brown Thrasher: Old Forge thru.
Cedar Waxwing: 550 Pulaski 6 Jun, large flock for such a late date.

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler: Hannibal 26 Jun.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Hastings 26 Aug.
Yellow Warbler: max 90 SPd 15 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: juv SPd 15 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr SPd 15 Aug.
Pine Warbler: Lysander on N Victory BBS was new.
Prairie Warbler: near Rome 25 Jun, not found again; SPd 15 Aug.
Palm Warbler: SVB 28 Aug, early.
Bay-breasted Warbler: S of Stillwater Res 30 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 4 Jun.
Am. Redstart: arr SPd 1 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: 3 pr Big Bay Swamp WMA.
Ovenbird: arr SPd 15 Aug.
N. Waterthrush: SPd 15 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 SPd 22 Aug.
Canada Warbler: arr SPd 15 Aug.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: W Winfield 23 Jul (BA); SFNS 31 Aug (MP).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Jun-Jul reports: 1 Rome, 1 Kirkland, 2 Paris, 3 Vernon, 3 Winfield, 3 Boonville.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 6-7 singing m Boonville Jun.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 2-4 per day Adirondack wetlands.
Bobolink: first migrants 10 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: Pulaski 5 Jul, only report.
Red Crossbill: Geo 12 Jun, only report.
Pine Siskin: 2 Syr 7-12 Jun unusual there in summer; 30-60 per day Geo-DeR Jun, numbers dwindled to 5 per day Aug.
Evening Grosbeak: pr & 2 fl Geo 5 July (MY); 2 Salisbury 5 Jul; few Old Forge thru.

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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The Region enjoyed a very pleasant summer with many sunny days and average rainfall throughout the area. Average June temperatures were in the mid 60s, with a few days below 40°F and no days above 90°. Precipitation was 3" in the St. Lawrence River Valley and only 2" in the remainder of the Region. July was only slightly warmer with an average temperature of 67° in Massena, 69° in Watertown and 2° cooler in Lewis County. Precipitation was slightly below the normal at 4" on average. Dry conditions and temperatures in the high 70s continued until the end of August when showers covered the Region. Many storms that moved through Central New York did not touch the Region. Vegetation was lush due to the rains of spring and late migrants were few. The main rivers were slightly above normal due to spring rains at the beginning of the season. The creeks, streams and marshes were in very good shape and enough rain fell to prevent drought in the wetlands.

Two **Surf Scoters** were found near the Massena Dam on the St. Lawrence River on 26 June. Occasionally seen during spring migration, this is the first time they have been observed in the Region during the summer. *Bull's Birds*

of *New York State* (1998) lists only one other summer inland record for this species, and that was a single bird at the Niagara Gorge in July 1946. Trumpeter Swans were present at Perch River WMA for the tenth consecutive year, but the information I received did not mention the presence of any young. Gray Partridges are getting harder to come by in the usual places in Jefferson County and there were none reported there this summer.

Peter Doherty spent the first week of August sailing among the islands of eastern Lake Ontario, where he discovered the bird of the season for the Region. On 4 August he spotted a breeding plumaged adult **American White Pelican** perched and preening on a partly submerged rock off the southeast end of Little Galloo Island. This is the second summer record for the Region in the last three years. He also reported the Region's second **Cattle Egret** of the summer there on the same day. Marilyn Badger had found the first Cattle Egret in Massena on 1 June. Also of note from Doherty's trip was the **Horned Grebe** found near Main Duck Island, a species that is not usually reported in the Region until late October or November.

Upland Sandpipers continue to experience a decline in the Region. Jeff Bolsinger reported them in only four locations on Fort Drum, all in the sparsely vegetated sandy area around the Wheeler-Sack Airfield. In the mid-1990s, the grassland areas of the base would hold 10+ territories per year – now there are none in the grasslands. Outside of Fort Drum, reports of this species have dropped considerably over the last 10 years or so. For example, Bolsinger reported that on a single drive up Rt. 11 between Antwerp and Potsdam in 1997, he would see three to four per day, while during the past two years he has seen none. The same can be said for other locations in the area as well. On a positive note, Doherty's trip among the islands in eastern Lake Ontario in August found eight species of migrant shorebirds, with some appearing in good numbers. Another positive note was the number of Black and Common terns nesting at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA. This is especially encouraging for the Black Tern, which is suffering severe population declines in the marshes along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

Both species of cuckoo were found in greater than usual numbers again this summer, still in response to the tent caterpillar outbreak that has occurred in the past few years. Bolsinger reported that Black-billed Cuckoos have been more common and widespread and present in a broader range of habitats than usual. He also estimated he encountered Yellow-billed Cuckoos at a rate of 2-7 per day on Fort Drum this summer, compared to 0-2 per year without the tent caterpillar outbreak. Two unusual owl sightings were last season's Northern Saw-whet Owl that continued in Louisville to 2 June and the Long-eared Owl heard calling from a spruce plantation near ULLWMA on 18 June.

Another bird reported in large numbers this season was Sedge Wren, with anywhere from 14 to 23 males present on Fort Drum and six singing males near ULLWMA. These numbers, coupled with a few other reports in the Region, give this species its best summer showing since 1997. Blue-winged Warblers are continuing their expansion into the Region, perhaps at the expense of their Golden-winged cousins. On Fort Drum, the ratio of Blue-winged to Golden-winged warblers has increased from 1:3 in the late 1990s to 1:2 today. In addition, both forms of the hybrids between the species, "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" warblers, were reported this summer.

For the season, a total of 180 species was reported, including 12 species of waterfowl, 12 raptors, 13 shorebirds, 5 owls, 23 warblers + 2 hybrids and 12 sparrows. Highlights for the season were **Surf Scoter**, **Horned Grebe**, **American White Pelican**, Cattle Egret, Merlin, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Sedge Wren and Louisiana Waterthrush. Lowlights included the continued decline of Upland Sandpiper, the low numbers of Cerulean Warblers and the absence of reports for Gray Partridge and Hooded Warbler, which should each be present somewhere in the Region.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Carol Cady, Suzanne Conrad, Peter Doherty, Melanie Driscoll, Nick Leone, Gary Lewandrowski, Robert Long, Lauren Miller, Dan Nickerson, NYSOA Fort Drum Field Trip participants, John M Peterson, Mickey Scilingo, Bob & Sue Spahn.

ABBREVIATIONS

FD - Fort Drum; IM - Ironton marshes, Brasher STLA; LG - Little Galoo I. T Hounsfeld, JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam, Massena STLA; SLR - St. Lawrence R; TLou - T Louisville STLA; TMas - T Massena STLA; TMor - Morristown STLA; TNor - T Norfolk, STLA; TTher - T Theresa JEFF; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA STLA; WHWMA - Wilson Hill WMA STLA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Mute Swan: 2 ad, 1 y Chippewa Cr.
TMor 15 Aug, rare for the area.

TRUMPETER SWAN: breeding pair present at PRWMA.

Wood Duck: 2 Grass R 2 Jun; 4 Stockholm STLA 20 Jun.

Am. Black Duck: WHWMA 1 Jun; 2 broods ULLWMA 23 Jun & 3 Jul.

Blue-winged Teal: pr SLR 2 Jun; 6 TNor 20 Jun.

Green-winged Teal: pr SLR 2 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: 10-12 ULLWMA 23 Jun.

SURF SCOTER: 2 west jetty of RMPD 26 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: fam group IM 4 Jul.

Com. Merganser: 250-300 Main Duck I 4 Aug.

Gray Partridge: no reports (not looked

for?).

Ring-necked Pheasant: few reports of singles.

Ruffed Grouse: fewer than usual broods on FD in June, continuing a recent trend: 5 TMas 2 Jun; brood Brasher Falls STLA 8 Jun; 3 broods T Edwards STLA 4 Jul.

Wild Turkey: most broods observed late in season.

Com. Loon: 2 fam groups plus a third ad on territory ULLWMA 23 Jun; also on Sylvia L, Clear L, Huckleberry L and Jones Pond STLA, and 4 locations FD.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 WHWMA 2.5 Jun; 8-10 calling ad ULLWMA 23 Jun; FL in T Hermon STLA and FD 10 Jul; singles T Russell and T Dekalb STLA 10,11 Jul.

HORNED GREBE: 1 ad Main Duck I 4 Aug; very rare in summer (PD).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 1 ad

LG 4 Aug (PD).

Double-crested Cormorant: several thousand LG 4 Aug.

Am. Bittern: 15+ ULLWMA 23 Jun and 3 Jul; 10 other reports STLA.

LEAST BITTERN: 3-4 ULLWMA 23 Jun; 1 responding to rail tape IM 5 Jul; 1T Lisbon STLA 24 Jul.

Great Blue Heron: 4 large colonies (12-30+ nests) FD; several small colonies (1-3 nests) STLA; 10 TLou and TMas 2 Jun.

Great Egret: 1 T Rossie STLA 6 Aug.

CATTLE EGRET: 1 TMas 1 Jun; 1 ad LG 4 Aug.

Green Heron: singles TLou-TMas 1.8 Jun.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4

Henderson Harbor 3 Aug; 2 Calf I 7 Aug.

Turkey Vulture: 10 TLou 1 Jun; 6 TNor 20 Jun.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: NY Massena 5 Jul.

Bald Eagle: 1 sub-ad mobbed by 3 Common Terns ULLWMA 23 Jun; 1 T Brasher STLA 17 Jul; juv Basin Harbor, Grenadier I (probable southern bird) 5 Aug.

N. Harrier: pr Canton STLA thru: 1 TLou 1 Jun; FD 12 Jun; 1 Dekalb STLA 11 Jul.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: pr courting Brasher Falls STLA 1 Jun; 1 TNor 20 Jun; ad harassing Red-tail near Moon L STLA 11 Jul.

Cooper's Hawk: 1 Brasher Falls STLA 1 Jun; FL Canton STLA Jul.

N. Goshawk: 1 nest STLA.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 8 reports STLA.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1 FD 12 Jun; 1 TNor 20 Jun, only reports.

Am. Kestrel: 3 TLou 2 Jun; 25 on power lines between Alexandria Bay JEFF and Lowville LEWI 15 Aug.

MERLIN: ad hunting swallows at boat launch on Butterfield L TTher 7 Jun; 1 T Pitcairn STLA 17 Jun.

Virginia Rail: 2 TLou 1 Jun; 2

ULLWMA 23 Jun; IM 5.6 Jul.

Sora: 1 TMas 1 Jun; max 4 ULLWMA 23 Jun with FL there 3 Jul; 1 T Russell STLA 23 Jul.

Com. Moorhen: 2 TMas 2 Jun; 12+ ad and 1 FL ULLWMA 23 Jun; FL T Hermon STLA 10 Jul.

Am. Coot: 2 SLR 1 Jun; 2 TMas 16 Jun.

Black-bellied Plover: 1 Main Duck I 5 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 1.2 LG 4.7 Aug.

Killdeer: max 18 TLou 2 Jun.

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 LG 7 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: 8 along Rt 56 STLA 12 Jun; 55, 50 LG 4.7 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 1 Clayton JEFF 20 Jun; ad & y Rt 56 STLA 9 Jul, adults 4 locations FD, continues to decline.

Sanderling: 3.2 LG 4.7 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 20 LG 3 Jun; 5 LG 4 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: 15.5 LG 4.7 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 LG 7 Aug.

Dunlin: 5 LG 3 Jun.

Wilson's Snipe: 4 TLou-TMas 1 Jun; 4 TLou 10 Jun; 8 TNor 20 Jun; 7 male displaying IM 6 Jul.

Am. Woodcock: 12 TLou 1 Jun; 6 RMPD 2 Jun; 10 Brasher Falls STLA 10 Jun; 7 Stockholm STLA 21 Jul.

Bonaparte's Gull: 25 Henderson Harbor 3 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: 100+ RMPD most of summer.

Herring Gull: 3 SLR 10 Jun.

Great Black-backed Gull: 30-40 SLR 19 Aug.

Caspian Tern: about 600 ad & y LG 4 Aug.

Com. Tern: several hundred SLR 2 Jun; 5-10 ads ULLWMA 23 Jun, 3 Jul, probably breeding; 35+ over Lower L 24 Jul.

Black Tern: 50-55 at 3 colonies ULLWMA 23 Jun; pr IM 5 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 45 TMas-TLou 2 Jun.
Black-billed Cuckoo: *intro*, 2 TLou 1 Jun; FL TNor 21 Jul; 1 Henderson JEFF 4 Aug; more common than usual.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: *intro*, 2-7/day FD Jun; FY T Hermon STLA 10 Jul.
E. Screech Owl: 1 RMPD 2 Jun; 1 T Brasher STLA 20 Jun.
Great Horned Owl: 1 TLou-TMas 1 Jun; Rt 11 Potsdam STLA Aug.
Barred Owl: 1 TLou-TMas 1 Jun; 1 TNor 15 Jun.
Long-eared Owl: 1 calling from spruce plantation ULLWMA 18 Jun.
N. Saw-whet Owl: TLou 2 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: 2-3 calling FD 11 Jun, where common; small movement T Rossie and Gouverneur STLA 24,25 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: 2 Brasher Falls STLA 1 Jun; 2 TLou 2 Jun; 2 TNor 15 Jun; max 15+ along Rts 13 & 19 T Hermon STLA 5 Jun; several calling FD 11 Jun where common, good showing.
Chimney Swift: 3-6/day Massena.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 TNor 21 Jun.
Belted Kingfisher: max 5 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 prs FD.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: FY Brasher Center.
Downy Woodpecker: max 41 STLA 1 Jun.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 30 STLA 1 Jun.
Black-backed Woodpecker: pr Joe Indian Inlet, T Hopkinton STLA 8 Jul.
N. Flicker: max 10 TNor 20 Jun.
Pileated Woodpecker: multiple reports STLA.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 singing male in swamp at 800 ft elevation T Edwards STLA 2 Jul.

E. Wood-Pewee: 2 TLou 2 Jun.
Alder Flycatcher: max 30 STLA June.
Willow Flycatcher: 2 TLou 10 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 10 T Norfolk & Stockholm STLA 20 Jun.
E. Phoebe: 2 TLou 2 Jun; 2 RMPD 2 Jun.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 5 TLou 2 Jun; 4 TNor 15 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 12 T Norfolk & Stockholm 20 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 TLou 2 Jun; 3 T Norfolk & Stockholm 20 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 24 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: 12 Atlas confirmations, including FY Fine STLA 21 Jun; 2 ad 6 y Holmes Pt TMor 22 Aug.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 36 T Norfolk & Stockholm 20 Jun.
Gray Jay: near Kettle Pond, T Hopkinton STLA 8 Jul.
Blue Jay: max 160 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Am. Crow: max 56 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Com. Raven: 2-3/day STLA.
Horned Lark: FD 12 Jun; 2-3 T Pitcairn STLA 16, 17 Jul.
Purple Martin: 2 TMas 2 Jun; 2 Brasher Falls STLA 10 Jun, low.
Tree Swallow: max 25 RMPD 2 Jun.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: few in Bank Swallow colony near RMPD.
Bank Swallow: Large colony 2300+ nests on SLR near RMPD.
Cliff Swallow: 20 RMPD 20 Jun; several nests T Fowler STLA 9 Jul.
Barn Swallow: 28 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 335 STLA 2 Jun.
Boreal Chickadee: fam group near Kettle Pond, T Hopkinton STLA 8 Jul.
Tufted Titmouse: no reports.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: pr Brasher Falls STLA 2 Jun.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 75 STLA 2 Jun.
Brown Creeper: 2 TLou 2 Jun.

House Wren: max 10 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Winter Wren: 2 TMas 2 Jun.
Sedge Wren: 14-23 singing males FD; 6 ULLWMA; 2 Vaadi Rd. PRWMA; 1 T Canton STLA 23 Jul; excellent numbers.
Marsh Wren: several reports.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 T Pitcairn STLA 12 Jul.
E. Bluebird: several reports of FL's early June.
Veery: max 25 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: reports from 2 Atlas blocks T Colton and T Hopkinton STLA 8 Jul.
Hermit Thrush: max 4 T Brasher STLA 2 Jun.
Wood Thrush: max 82 TNor-Stockholm STLA 20 Jun.
Gray Catbird: max 40 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
N. Mockingbird: 1 Massena 27 Jun. uncommon.
Brown Thrasher: max 6 TNor 20 Jun.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 TLou 5,9 Jun; 1 T Hermon STLA 19 Jun; ratio 1:2 - Blue-winged:Golden-wing on FD, increasing.
Golden-winged Warbler: FL 2 locations in T Hermon 12 Jul; count of 22-25 males STLA.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 singing male T Fowler STLA 10 Jun.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 T Hermon STLA 6 Jul.
Nashville Warbler: 35 TNor-Stockholm STLA 20 Jun.
N. Parula: several fam groups T Colton and T Hopkinton STLA 7-8 Jul.
Yellow Warbler: max 60 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 34 TNor-Stockholm STLA 20 Jun.
Magnolia Warbler: 9 Stockholm STLA 20 Jun; many fam groups T Colton & T Hopkinton STLA 7-8 Jul.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 12 TLou 2 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: 2+ FD 12 Jun.
Palm Warbler: fam group near Kettle Pond, T Hopkinton STLA 8 Jul.
Cerulean Warbler: 7 FD 1-7 Jun, low.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 15 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Am. Redstart: max 36 STLA 2 Jun.
Ovenbird: max 30 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 TLou-TMas 1 Jun; 1 agitated male along Grass R in Downerville SF T Russell STLA 13 Jun. 1st reports since 1997.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 28 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 10 TNor-Stockholm STLA 20 Jun.
E. Towhee: max 6 TNor-Stockholm STLA 20 Jun.
Chipping Sparrow: max 100+ TLou-TMas area.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Limerick Cedars JEFF 20 Jun; 10+ FD.
Vesper Sparrow: pr TLou 12 Jun; pr TNor 15 Jun; pr T Pitcairn STLA 16 Jul; common FD.
Savannah Sparrow: 22+ TLou-TMas area.
Grasshopper Sparrow: pr Brasher Falls STLA 2 Jun; common FD.
Henslow's Sparrow: 5-6 males FD June; 5 additional males FD July.
Lincoln's Sparrow: IM 6 Jul; 3 singing m T Colton 7 Jul; 5+prs T Hopkinton STLA 8 Jul; rarely reported but common in Adirondack bogs.
Swamp Sparrow: max 10 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: max 35 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Dark-eyed Junco: confirmations in 2 Atlas blocks in T Colton & T Hopkinton; only reports.
N. Cardinal: max 60 TLou-TMas area, numbers increasing along river plain.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: several reports of family groups.

Bobolink: few hundred TLou-TMas-TNor areas.
E. Meadowlark: max 35 TLou-TMas: 19 TNor-Stockholm STLA 20 Jun. good numbers.
Com. Grackle: max 140 TLou-TMas-Brasher area.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 90 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.

Baltimore Oriole: max 18 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Purple Finch: several reports of 2-4 birds at feeders.
Am. Goldfinch: max 56 TLou-TMas 2 Jun.
Evening Grosbeak: 2-3 TLou 1 Jun: 5 T Edwards STLA 2 Jul: T Russell 8 Jul.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Heavy rain and a tornado hammered northern Franklin and Clinton counties on the evening of 1 June. The tornado touched down at Ft. Covington and Westville, taking down trees and powerlines, with the hamlet of Constable worst hit. Continuing eastward, the tornado finally crossed Route 9 before disappearing as a waterspout over Lake Champlain. Clintonville was hit by 0.25" hailstones on 3 June. Despite Plattsburgh reaching a sweltering 88°F on 8 June, most of the month was cool and rainy. There were 50 mph winds on 31 July, with a possible tornado at Malone. Most of that month was also extremely wet, however, with 7.61" of rain in July. Since normal rainfall is 3.84", this left a surplus of 3.77", the tenth wettest July on record. The rain and cool weather persisted through August, and the season wound up as the coolest summer since 1992.

Atlas 2000 observers faced two major challenges at the beginning of summer: first, a large gap in Regional coverage along the Clinton-Franklin line, with smaller holes down near the Clinton-Essex line and in the vicinity of the Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve in NW Franklin County; second, another large gap in northern Hamilton County, extending up into SW Franklin County. A team of about 14 experienced volunteers, most from the Plattsburgh area, volunteered to tackle the Clinton-Franklin hole of some 27 virgin blocks. By season's end, they had succeeded in covering all but one of these, and that was a block within the Adirondack Park near Ingraham Pond in NE Franklin County, where the only access was blocked by a steel-bar gate. Coverage of the Hamilton-Franklin hole of about 33 virgin blocks was less successful, despite the work of ten volunteers. At the end of the season there were still 21 blocks in this gap that had never been surveyed, largely because of problems with either access or their remoteness. Had only a few of the many visitors to Ferd's Bog offered to explore new areas of Hamilton County, the results might have been better, but, as Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. observed in *Slaughterhouse-Five* or *The Children's Crusade*, "So it goes." By the 15 September deadline for records, there were only 33 of the 690 Region 7 Blocks still lacking any records, thus ~95% with some coverage. But we'd also managed

to get into each of the 182 map squares, so the distribution on the species maps should be fairly representative.

Matt Medler's almost-daily August hikes down to Noblewood Park to check the black sand beaches of the Boquet River delta below Willsboro were extremely productive. Many species seen there, e.g. Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed gulls and **Caspian Tern**, came from the nearby Four Brothers just five miles NNE. But he also found a number of other interesting waterbirds and shorebirds. Present daily, Bonaparte's Gull reached a high of 750 birds on 16 August. This was undoubtedly the best spot in NYS to see Little Gull this summer, with 1-2 regularly seen and more than that present based upon age and plumages. There were five pairs of **Caspian Tern** on Four Brothers on 14 June and although their nests reportedly failed in late June, Medler saw an adult flying north with a fish on 31 July and there were up to 11 Caspians present throughout August. Common Terns were at Noblewood Park from 1 August, growing in numbers to 71 by 19 August and a maxima of 92 by 21 August before declining. None appeared to be color-banded, indicating that they didn't originate in the Vermont colonies on Popasquash and Rock islands some 40 miles NNE. Some 16 shorebirds showed up at the mouth of the river, including a **Whimbrel** on 3 August and a **Red-necked Phalarope** on 31 August. Meanwhile, the lakewatch from the Vermont shore spotted a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger five miles south of Four Brothers on 31 August. They also spotted two **Long-tailed Jaegers** in Clinton County waters 24 August, plus another **Long-tailed Jaeger** headed from Vermont to Point au Roche 26 August. Another unexpected marine visitor was a **Black Skimmer** that frequented Westport from 29 June to 3 July.

Other rarities included a **Little Blue Heron** at Bear Pond, Hamilton County, on 22 July. A fortunate Atlas find was a hen **Northern Shoveler** with brood at Akwesasne on the Fourth of July. While visiting Lake Alice WMA in 1999, Tom Barber observed that Red-headed Woodpecker should be found there during Atlas 2000 based upon habitat. This July Nancy Olsen found a pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Lake Alice, and Marilyn Smith reported the species from the nearby Military Turnpike during the same month. Finally, the most tantalizing sighting of the season was the singing male **Common Redpoll** at Paul Smiths on 5 June, well-seen by Medler and the Thaxtons. Breeding was confirmed during the 1984-89 Québec Atlas at Alma and at Lake Mistigouèche, near the Rimouski Wildlife Reserve, both in 1989, and redpolls breed irregularly on the Magdalen Islands. In the British Isles, Common Redpoll nests throughout Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and to the extreme south coast of England. At least 192 species were reported, the best total of the five years of Atlas 2000. Read and enjoy.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMR – Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CR – Chazy Rivers; KB – Kings Bay WMA; LA – L Alice WMA; NP – Noblewood Park; PtR – Pt au Roche SP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 5 CR 2 Jul-27 Aug

(BK,CM), present from Apr, summered.

N. SHOVELER: Cook Rd AMR 4 Jul (DN,JP), hen with brood, rare Atlas duck.

Com. Goldeneye: Raquette Ri 3 Jul (JC), hen with 4 yg; Valcour I 17 Jul (NO); good finds.

Hooded Merganser: Burke 5 Jul (DN,JP), hen with brood, north of main range.

Com. Loon: alt NP 25 Jun (MM); Valcour I 17 Jul (NO); 2 alt NP 3 Aug; alt & 2 basic NP 21 Aug (MM); all L Champlain; 2 chicks new Chazy L platform.

Pied-billed Grebe: LA 23 Jun (NO); AMR 3-4 Jul (DN,JP,HW), 2-4 chicks; Military Pd 6 Jul (E&HF); Cedar Ri Flow 26 Jul (GL).

Least Bittern: AMR Jun (HW), always a good find.

Great Egret: NP 25 Jun-29 Aug (MM); max 10 Bombay 4 Jul (DN,JP); CR 19 & 24 Jul (BK,CM); L Clear early Aug (SSL); Plattsburgh 6 Aug (HK); a strong showing here.

SNOWY EGRET: CR 17 Aug (BK,CM), 1st Aug record CLIN.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: ad Bear Pd HAMI 22 Jul (ME), earlier Aug-Sep 1985 CLIN report not accepted by NYSARC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: AMR, Bombay, prs Cook Rd AMR 4 Jul (DN,JP); juv NP 29 Aug (MM).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 3 yg AP 26 Jul (DR); NP Aug (MM); both L Champlain sites.

Bald Eagle: ad near Lows L nest 20 Jun; imm vs. ad Com. Loon Bog Ri same day (JN); imm Chapman Rd Ft. Covington 6:15 am 4 Jul (DN,JP), just s. of 3 imm on St. Lawrence Ri Québec seen the previous day (HW).

N. Harrier: 5 Bombay, plus singles Burke, Ft. Covington, Moira early Jul (DN,JP), still a fairly common raptor in n. FRAN.

Broad-winged Hawk: dark-morph Jay 25 Jun (PO), body solid chocolate, bib, belly, vent & undertail coverts brown; 12 migrants Jay 31 Aug (PO).

Golden Eagle: Champlain 29 Jul (NO).

Merlin: True Bk Rd CLIN 21 Jul (BK); Mt View Aug (MM); Essex 9 Aug (MM); Hanging Spear Falls 20 Aug (JC); ad m BB 22 Aug (JH,NH,MM); suggests continued spread.

Peregrine Falcon: nest with yg Trout Pd Rd 12 Jun (KL); 1 yg fledged Jay 1 Jul (L&PO).

Virginia Rail: 5 Scotion Cr 18 Jun, with chick 12 Jul (NO); AMR 4 Jul (DN,JP); CR 11 Jul (BK,CM).

Sora: no reports.

Com. Moorhen: KB 19 Jun (BK,CM); ad CR 19 Jul-17 Aug (BK), good finds.

Am. Coot: CR 11 Jul; 2 ad & 3 imm CR 19 Jul; CR 4-27 Aug (BK,CM); the only site.

Black-bellied Plover: arr NP 22 Aug (JH,NH,MM).

Semipalmated Plover: 1-2 NP 3-29 Aug (MM).

Greater Yellowlegs: last CR 8 Jun (BK,CM); arr NP 1 Aug; ad NP 12 Aug (MM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 CR 24 Jun & 11-24 Jul, max 18 CR 24 Jul (BK,CM); 1-2 NP 1-12 Aug (MM).

Upland Sandpiper: CR 8 Jun (BK,CM), only report.

WHIMBREL: NP 3 Aug (MM), 4th ESSE record.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr NP 1 Aug (MM), early ESSE; NP 21 Aug (JH,NH,MM).

Red Knot: arr 4 NP 1 Aug (MM), early ESSE & new county max.

Sanderling: arr 14 NP 31 Jul; 4 NP 12 Aug (MM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last CR 8 Jun (BK,CM); arr 2 NP 1 Aug; 3 NP 29 Aug (MM).

Least Sandpiper: arr 4 CR 11-24 Jul (BK,CM); NP 1-29 Aug; max 6 NP 7 Aug (MM).

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr NP 21 Aug (JH,NH,MM), a good find.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr juv NP 14 Aug (MM), early ESSE; NP 26 Aug (LM); max 4 NP 29 Aug (MM), ties county max.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr NP 21 Aug (JH,NH,MM); 2 juv NP 28 Aug (JH,MM,TM,SO); max 5 juv NP 29 Aug (MM).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CR 11 Jul (BK,CM), early.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: arr NP 31 Aug (DW), spinning & feeding 5:30-6:30 pm, 6th ESSE record.

Parasitic Jaeger: juv 5 mi s. Four Brothers 31 Aug (HK,RL,TM,BP).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 2 CLIN 24 Aug, seen from VT; 1 headed w. toward PtR from Bixby I VT 26 Aug (DH).

Little Gull: arr NP 3 Aug (MM); 6 sightings NP 19-28 Aug (MB,JH,NH,LM,MM,TM,SO); max 2 NP 24 Aug (JH,MM) & 2 Pt Kent 27 Aug

(DR), with observations & digital photos suggesting perhaps as many as a half-dozen individuals of this rare transient.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 96 NP 20 Jul-29 Aug (MM); 50 AP 1 Aug (J&RH); max 750 NP 16 Aug (MM).

CASPIAN TERN: 2-3 CR 1 Jun-24 Jul (BK,CM); 2 AP 1 Aug (J&RH); 5 prs nesting Four Brothers 14 Jun (DH), nests failed late Jun; but 20 sightings NP 25 Jun-29 Aug (MM *et al.*), flying n. with fish 31 Jul (MM), and max 11 NP 21 Aug (JH,NH,MM), all suggestive of site fidelity to islands, if not a second nesting attempt.

Com. Tern: 4 AP 1 Aug (J&RH); NP 1-28 Aug (MM), but present there from 22 May; max 92 (41 ads, 51 juvs) NP 21 Aug (JH,NH,MM), new ESSE max; no color bands noted and nearest VT colonies (and a long-term color-banding project) lie 40 mi NNE of Noblewood.

Black Tern: CR 19 Jun-24 Jul (BK,CM), max 5 & feeding yg 19 Jul.

BLACK SKIMMER: Westport 29 Jun-3 Jul (LM,MM,J&SP,RW,P&PW), 1st Reg 7 & ESSE record and apparently 7th upstate NY record; a dramatic bird.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sciota 16 Jun (DH); True Bk Rd 7 Jul (BK); good finds.

E. Screech-Owl: Uncas, Raquette L, HAMI 6 Jul (J&PT), where unexpected.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Rand Hill Aug (J&RH), little-known owl CLIN.

Com. Nighthawk: West Chazy 19 Jun (NO), only report.

Whip-poor-will: heard n CLIN (J&RH), only report.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: pr LA Jul (NO); Military Tpk Jul (MS); rare.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: Madawaska 6 Jun (BC); f FB 12 Jun-14 Aug (WL) but present from 8 May.

Black-backed Woodpecker: m. f with yg Debar Pd, plus 4 California Rd Duane 7 Jul (DN,JP), 1 m with orange crown;

other reports BB, Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale, FB, Kempshall Mt, Madawaska, Moose Cr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-throated Vireo: 3400' col between Slide & Yard Mts 13 Aug (J&PT), presumed transient.

Philadelphia Vireo: singing m 2500' Hurricane Mt ESSE 6 Jun (J&PT); True Bk Rd 17 Jun-10 Jul (BK,CM), 1st confirmed breeding CLIN; Bog Stream HAMI 24 Jul (JC).

Gray Jay: families California Rd 7 Jul (DN,JP) & BB 26 Jul (EVD), plus sightings Bigelow Rd, FB, Moose Ri Plains.

Horned Lark: Reynolds Rd 9 Jul (NO), only report.

Boreal Chickadee: Bigelow Rd, Bog Stream, FB, Hurricane Mt, Kempshall Mt, Moose Cr, Pillsbury Mt.

Tufted Titmouse: Plattsburgh 14 Jul (BK); feeding yg NP 20 Jul (MM).

Carolina Wren: CH 9 Jul (NO); Willsboro 28-29 Jul (P&PW); CH 8-16 Aug, fl 15 Aug (NP).

Marsh Wren: Scotion Cr 18 Jun (NO); AMR 4 Jul (DN,JP); nice finds.

Bicknell's Thrush: Ampersand Mt, Hurricane Mt, Pillsbury Mt; none Kempshall Mt 11 Jul (JC).

Swainson's Thrush: singing m 1300' Military Rd CLIN 6 Jul (E&HF), low elevation.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: singing m Ellenburg (J&RH), present from 18 May; singing m Jay 4 Jun (L&PO); silent bird Cook Rd AMR 4 Jul (DM,JP).

N. Parula: Silver L Bog 20 Jul-3 Aug

(BK), late CLIN.

Cape May Warbler: singing m Bigelow Rd 5 Jun (BC), only report.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: imm eating elderberries Keene 9 Jul (J&PT).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Sabattis Bog 27 Jun (BC); ad & 2 juv Paul Smiths 22 Aug (JH,NH,MM); only reports.

Blackpoll Warbler: Hurricane Mt, Kempshall Mt, Pillsbury Mt, undoubtedly many other peaks.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 2 m Bombay 5 Jul (DN,JP), 1 an orange variant.

Savannah Sparrow: transient NP 26 Aug (JH,MM).

Grasshopper Sparrow: PARC former Plattsburgh AFB 15 Jun (BK,CM).

Lincoln's Sparrow: L Alice 22 Jul (NO); juv Ellenburg (J&RH); both outside core range.

Rusty Blackbird: Vanderwacker Mt 26 Jun (JC).

Red Crossbill: pr Jay 25 Jun (PO); 6 Bog Stream 24 Jul (JC), precursors of a flight?

White-winged Crossbill: Madawaska 6 Jun (BC), ditto?

COM. REDPOLL: singing m Paul Smiths 5 Jun (MM, J&PT), but apparently not sought again.

Pine Siskin: 50-60/day all summer L Placid feeder (LM).

ADDENDUM

Spruce Grouse: hen Bay Pd P Waverly FRAN 27 May 2004 (John Ozard, Angie Ross, Spruce Grouse Survey Team), flushed from nest with six eggs. Notable Species Form, map, photographs submitted to Atlas 2000.

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Summer 2004 was characterized by mild, rainy weather. Temperatures for all three months were consistent with normal regional averages, with the notable exception that only one day, 9 July, rose above 90° F at Albany International Airport. Some amount of rain fell on nearly half of the summer's days, with accumulations increasing from a few scattered showers in June to regular downpours of several inches in July and August. Many humans welcomed the comfortable temperatures, while climatic effects on birds were likely minimal. Overall, no storm system seemed to adversely affect breeding or juvenile dispersal.

An unusually high number of Great Egrets entered the area this summer, with many occurring far from traditional haunts along the Hudson River. Compared with only three reports of single birds last summer, observers noticed dozens this year, beginning in June and continuing into early fall. It would be interesting to compare these numbers with reports from adjacent regions and states to determine if some significant movement occurred this summer.

Near the confluence of the Hudson and the Mohawk rivers in Albany County, Rich Guthrie discovered a **Laughing Gull** among a large flock of more common gull species. Rich also discovered the first Regional record of this species back in 1979. This particular immature gull represented the 12th record for the Region.

Some interesting finds stemmed from separate birding trips to the Saratoga County Airport this summer, including reports of breeding populations of Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow. Saratoga County contains some of the last strongholds of grassland habitat in our Region, and the airport is an encouraging example of how so-called 'human habitats,' when properly managed, can be beneficial to both humans and birds.

Bob Yunick, who had a rough summer due to frequent bear raids on his long-term banding station at Jenny Lake, Saratoga County, reported a serious outbreak of conjunctivitis among Purple Finches. While this species appears to be recovering from a population crash that occurred in the early nineties, Yunick observed several individuals this summer unable to forage due to swollen infected eyes.

The close of this summer marks the end of the field work for the five-year Breeding Bird Atlas, and we send our thanks to Jane Graves and Mark Fitzsimmons for leading our Region's effort. Region 8 is the largest in the state and we benefited from some 200 volunteers, including a hard-core troupe of 30-40 year-to-year regulars, who managed to each complete several of our 755 Atlas blocks.

While not perfect, citizen science projects like the Atlas provide a more accurate estimate of species distribution than casual reporting alone. For example, because of increased searching, we have had many times the number of reports for Common Loon, American Bittern, Northern Goshawk, Common Moorhen,

Whip-poor-will, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow and Evening Grosbeak. It was during an Atlas trip that Cedar Stanistreet discovered a pair of **Boreal Chickadees** on Crane Mountain in Warren County this June.

Several species reported during Atlas 2000 represent breeding species that were not reproducing in Region 8 during the 1980s, including Mute Swan, Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin. We've also experienced significant range expansions for Red-bellied Woodpecker (one record in the 1980s vs. 195 records today), as well as for Osprey, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Carolina Wren and Hooded Warbler.

Not all species have increased, however. One striking example involves the near extirpation of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Once fairly common, with the Mohawk Valley serving as a core breeding range in the state, there are today many younger birders who have never once observed this bird in our Region. For such an easily identifiable species, it is surprising that it remained completely unreported during Atlas 2000. Additionally, grassland nesters, such as Upland Sandpiper, Vesper and Henslow's sparrows, have continued to decline.

It's satisfying to have a better understanding of the birds that occur in our Region, but major undertakings such as the Breeding Bird Atlas also remind us that serious conservation challenges remain unsolved. Like many other regions, central eastern New York faces the worrisome effects of suburban sprawl, increased use of our rivers and lakes, recreational and developmental pressures on high peak habitats such as the Catskills and Adirondacks, as well as such familiar challenges as pollution, habitat fragmentation and changes in agricultural methods. My hope is that the hard work of the many volunteers who contributed to this long-term project aids the protection of our Region's bird life.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Steve Chorvas, Paul Conner, Bill Cook, Mark Fitzsimmons, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Berna & Stan Lincoln, Andrew Mason, Barb Putman, Kathryn Schneider, Cedar Stanistreet, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

COH – New St Flats, T Cohoes ALBA; EPH – T Ephratah FULT; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L SARA; JOH – T Johnstown FULT; MR – Mohawk Ri; OPP – T Oppenheim FULT; QUE – T Queensbury WARR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Blue-winged Teal: 4 COH 25 Aug.

Bufflehead: f Waterford SARA 25 May-4 Jul, flightless but surviving.

Com. Merganser: Hoosic Ri RENS 18 Jul, with 8 young.

Wild Turkey: many observers reported as much as 50% fewer than last summer.

Com. Loon: Fonda WARR 1 Jul; Mayfield FULT 2 Jul, with chicks; 2 Sacandaga L FULT 22 Aug; 11 additional Atlas blocks.

Double-crested Cormorant: breeding Copake L COLU Jun.

Am. Bittern: Hebron WASH 12 Jun; 10 additional Atlas blocks.

Least Bittern: Dresden WASH 6 Jul; OPP FULT 17 Jun; only reports.

Great Egret: Hoosic Ri RENS 14-18 Jul; Crescent SCHE 1 Aug; Hillsdale COLU 2 Aug; 2 Dyke Ave Pd 3 Aug; 2 Gansevoort SARA 5 Aug; MR at Atomic Knolls 10 Aug; COH 11 Aug; max 10 MR 11 Aug; 2 Exit 8A SARA 13 Aug; max 7 MR at COH 14-25 Aug; numerous.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: pr West Hebron WASH 9 Jul; max 5 juv COH 3 Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: possibly unmated territorial ad Hoosic Ri 21-26 Jun; HR Castleton RENS 10 Aug; 9 Atlas blocks, although breeding unlikely.

N. Harrier: Florida MONT 24 Jun; Gansevoort SARA 22 Jul; carrying rabbit MONT 11 Aug; 11 additional Atlas blocks.

N. Goshawk: JON 2 Jun; L Luzerne WARR 26 Jun; Stratford FULT 16 Jul; Delmar ALBA 4 Aug; Tsatsawassa L RENS 20 Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: EPH 3 Jun; 2 Milton SARA 11 Jun; Germantown COLU 13 Jun; Hoags Corners RENS 23 Jun.

Merlin: reported in 3 Atlas blocks: T Bleecker FULT, T Northampton FULT, T Day SARA.

Peregrine Falcon: Schodack I SP RENS 29 Jun; Brookview RENS 6 Jul.

Virginia Rail: Hebron WASH 13 Jun; feeding yg Tsatsawassa L RENS 13 Jun; OPP 17 Jun.

Sora: reported in 3 Atlas blocks: T Sharon SCHO, Vails Mills FULT, T Milton SARA; only reports.

Com. Moorhen: reported in 4 WASH Atlas blocks: T Greenwich, T Fort Ann, T Dresden, T Putnam; only reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: COH 22-26 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 COH 22-26 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 GREE 3 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: W Galway SARA 1 Jun; max 4 Coxsackie Flats GREE 1 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 COH 24-26 Jul; max 12 COH 31 Jul; COH 11 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: HR Mechanicville SARA 17 Jul; 14 COH 22 Jul; max 30 COH 11 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 COH 24-26 Jul; COH 29 Aug.

Dunlin: 2 Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 3 Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper: 4 COH 11 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: COH 24 Jul.

Wilson's Snipe: OPP 12-13 Jul.

LAUGHING GULL: imm COH 25 Aug (RG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: COH 22 Jul-2 Aug.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 80 COH 29 Aug.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Great Horned Owl: carrying a skunk Fonda MONT 5 Aug.

Com. Nighthawk: 2 QUE 4 Jun; max 25 Guilderland ALBA 30 Aug; generally low numbers.

Whip-poor-will: 11 Atlas blocks.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Ann Lee Pd 13 Aug; 7 Atlas blocks.

Alder Flycatcher: max 6 EPH 3 Jun.

Fish Crow: max 30 New Baltimore GREE 20 Jul.

Horned Lark: feeding yg Saratoga Co Airport 16-19 Jun; max 5 Saratoga Co Airport 19 Jun.

Purple Martin: Hebron WASH 13 Jun, outside known colonies.

BOREAL CHICKADEE: pr Crane Mt WARR 20 Jun (CS).

Carolina Wren: scarce following winter population crash.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Catskills GREE 17 Jul (SC).

Bicknell's Thrush: singing Hunter Mt GREE Jun thru; feeding yg there 30 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: singing Spring L RENS 23 Jun.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 7 Atlas blocks.
"Brewster's" Warbler: T Dresden WASH.

Nashville Warbler: 2 JOH 3 Jun; Milton SARA 13 Jun; Grafton Lakes SP RENS; Vischer Ferry SARA 28 Aug.

Pine Warbler: T Mayfield FULT 4 Jul.

Blackpoll Warbler: JOH 2 Jun; QUE 19 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: North Blenheim SCHO, only report.

Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Copake COLU 12 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 3-4 Jul.

N. Waterthrush: Livingston COLU 6 Jun; L Luzerne WARR 11 Jul.

Mourning Warbler: EPH 3 Jun-2 Jul; T Mayfield FULT 4 Jul; Stratford FULT 5 Jul; OPP 8-13 Jul.

Hooded Warbler: Copake COLU 12 Jun; Coeymans ALBA 16 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: Claverack COLU 29 Aug; Hillsdale COLU 30 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 2 JOH 2 Jun; 2 EPH 3 Jun; OPP 17 Jun; QUE 19 Jun; Stratford FULT 5 Jul.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Saratoga Cemetery 3 Jun-31 Jul. breeding; max 5 EPH 2 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Saratoga Co Airport 13-19 Jun; 2 St Johnsville MONT 13-21 Jul; 5 additional Atlas blocks.

Bobolink: max 10 EPH 15 Jun.

E. Meadowlark: 2 St Johnsville MONT 24 Jun; most reports only of singles.

Orchard Oriole: S Schodack RENS 9 Jun.

Purple Finch: continuing recovery, outbreak of conjunctivitis (RY).

Pine Siskin: max 3 JL 6 Jun; Gansevoort SARA 21-23 Jun; QUE 17 Jul; OPP 23 Jul.

Evening Grosbeak: breeding JL Jun, some with conjunctivitis; max 6 L Luzerne WARR 9 Jul.

House Sparrow: observed attacking ad Tree Swallow, killing 5 of its nestlings ALBA Jun.

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The summer season was generally wetter and cooler than normal. There were no heat waves; White Plains reach 90°F on only one day for the entire season, 10 June. July came in at 2.5° below normal. Precipitation amounts varied greatly by location, but all areas saw some huge single day downfalls. White Plains saw over 2" of rain fall on 17 June, making the month 0.5" wetter than normal with 4.35". July was worse; 2.6" of rain on 23 July brought the month's total to over 7", nearly twice normal. August was closer to average for White Plains, but Poughkeepsie had nearly 8.7" of rain for the month. Normal August precipitation is only 3.8".

Tom Burke and Gail Bensen saw a **Manx Shearwater** at close range 7 August at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye, Westchester County. The Shearwater continued west and out of sight within minutes of its appearance. Tom was alerted by Patrick Dugan by cell phone, when he saw the shearwater off Stamford, CT, heading toward NYS waters. Tom and Gail saw the bird ten minutes later.

John Askildsen observed and heard a **Whimbrel** flying low during a storm at the Beacon waterfront on 23 July. It is the first report of this species for Dutchess County.

The new Liberty Marsh impoundments adjacent to the Liberty Loop Trail at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, along with a nearby sod farm, have made this area in Orange County a place for shorebirds and waders. Two American Avocets and single Baird's and Stilt sandpipers were present 1 August. In mid August, the marsh had Glossy Ibis, Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret. The nearby Pine Island Sod Farm hosted American Golden-Plover and Baird's, Pectoral and Buff-breasted sandpipers.

The **Sedge Wren** at the Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, New Paltz, reported last season, stayed until 6 June. It was observed singing and constructing a nest, but there was no indication of a mate. A pair of Sedge Wrens was reported one mile away, still in New Paltz, also on 6 June.

Carena Pooth observed an unusually plumaged Cerulean Warbler in Dutchess County singing the song of a Northern Parula. The bird was described as having an all blue head with the exception of a broken eye ring. There appeared to be no barring on the flanks.

Other notable species included Ring-necked Duck, Merlin, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Pine Siskin.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWF – Wallkill River NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: 25 MC 11 Jun.

Green-winged Teal: Buttercup West 8 Aug

Ring-necked Duck: 4 Abel's Pd 9 Jul (BB).

Greater Scaup: EGR 13 Jun.

Long-tailed Duck: MC 26 Jun (TB).

Hooded Merganser: Morningside P 4 Aug.

Com. Merganser: Wappinger Creek 4 Jun; f & 3yg Wassaic 26 Jul.

N. Bobwhite: ad & 5 yg Amenia 17 Jun; 6 Hartwood Rd DUTC 18 Jun; Millerton 27 Jun.

MANX SHEARWATER: EGR 7 Aug (TB,GB).

Am. Bittern: Amenia 25 Jul.

Least Bittern: 4 New Paltz 28 Jul.

Great Egret: Liberty Jul 30.

Snowy Egret: 8 MC 31 Jul.

Little Blue Heron: imm WRNWF 12-19 Aug.

Cattle Egret: 2 WRNWF 12-19 Aug.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Fishkill Creek 26 Jun (BC).

Glossy Ibis: WRNWF 12-19 Aug.

Black Vulture: reports from each county.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: pr & 2 yg Wappingers Jul.

Merlin: Morningside P 6, 22 Aug (ED); Saugerties 28 Aug (ABr, SC).

Peregrine Falcon: pr Mid-Hudson Bridge thru.

Clapper Rail: 3 MC 25 Jun.

Virginia Rail: 7 New Paltz 19 Jun.

Am. Coot: Thompson Pd 25 Jul (KL).

Black-bellied Plover: Morningside P 15-18 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: Pine Island 17 Aug (JH); Pine Island 26 Aug (ET,JS).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 WRNWF 28 Jul; 8 MC 31 Jul; 2 Pine Island 17 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: 4 EGR 11 Jun; 3 Five Islands P 16 Jun; 4 EGR 19 Jul.

Am. Avocet: 2 WRNWF 31 Jul-1 Aug (SK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 106 WRNWF 28 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: 5 WRNWF 31 Jul-1 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: MC 2-3 Jun; nest Croton Pt P 8 Jun; Billings 17 Jun.

Upland Sandpiper: 5 SGNWR 19 Jun; Unionville 22 Aug.

WHIMBREL: Beacon 23 Jul (JA), 1st DUTC report.

Least Sandpiper: 27 Saugerties 28 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 2 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: WRNWF 31 Jul-1 Aug (SK); Morningside P 22 Aug (ED), 1st SULL report; Pine Island 22-23 Aug (JH, AB, RD, MG, ED); 6-10 Pine Island 26-27 Aug (JH, ET, JS).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 WRNWF 28 Jul; 1-3 Pine Island 17-22 Aug; 10 Pine Island 26 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: WRNWF 31 Jul-1 Aug (SK).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 6 Pine Island 26 Aug (ET,JS).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 7 WRNWF 31 Jul (SK).

Bonaparte's Gull: Liberty 14 Jun (VF, MC).

Com. Tern: 40 Rye 3 Jul.

Least Tern: 2 MC 26 Jun.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 5 Five Islands P 16 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: 100 Bashakill 23 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: 6 Westbrookville 27 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Blue Chip Farm 21 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: MC 4 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 Slide Mt 20 Jun (SC).

Acadian Flycatcher: 4 Mianus River Gorge 13 Jun; 20 Kanape Brook trail Peekamoose 10 Jul; 3 Tamarack Preserve 14 Jul; 2 Peekamoose L 17 Jul; 3 Pawling Nature Preserve 4 Aug.

Alder Flycatcher: MC 2 Jun; 2 Claryville 2 Jun; 1-2 Amenia 3 Jun, 2 Aug; Bowdoin P 5 Jun.

Com. Raven: reports from each county.

Bank Swallow: 200 Greenhaven 18 Jun.

Winter Wren: 5 Peekamoose 10 Jul.

Sedge Wren: New Paltz 1-6 Jun (CG); pr New Paltz, 1 mile from the other, 6 Jun (CG,TS).

Marsh Wren: 10 MC 3, 25 Jun.
Bicknell's Thrush: sev Slide Mt 9 Jun; 8 Slide Mt 20 Jun (SC); 3 Slide Mt 27 Jun (PS.CG. GH).
Swainson's Thrush: 5 Slide Mt 20 Jun.

WARBLERS

Yellow Warbler: 33 Sprain Ridge 14 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: 10 Slide Mt 20 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: Vanderbilt 4-5, 21 Jun (CP,RJ), unusual plumage and song, *intro*.
Worm-eating Warbler: 12 Mianus Ri Gorge 13 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: 2 m & f Woodland Valley Rd Shandaken 24 Jun (LF); Union Vale 1 Jul (BB).
Hooded Warbler: usual numbers at Doodletown; few reports from DUTC.
Canada Warbler: Wilbur Flats 31 Jul (C&KF).
Yellow-breasted Chat: Sterling Forest

3.5 Jun (MB); Purchase 29 Jun (TB).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: SGNWR 15 Jun (SS); Ellenville Airport 28 Jun (VF).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 1, 3, 12 Jun (TB).
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 3 MC 10 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: 2 Slide Mt 20 Jun.
Dark-eyed Junco: 14 Slide Mt 20 Jun; 6 Platte Clove Rd Saugerties 25 Jul (SC); Amenia 28 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: reports from each county
Purple Finch: reported from DUTC.
Pine Siskin: Woodstock 1-2 Jun (ER); Rhinebeck 6.8 Jun (SJ); 6 Claryville 26 Jun (JW); 2 ad & juv High Falls Rd Saugerties 11 Aug (AB).

REGION 10 – MARINE

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The summer season was generally very cool. For all three months, average temperatures were at least 1.3° F below longterm averages: -1.3° (Jun), -2.5° (Jul), -2.0° (Aug). Rainfall was also far below average in June (-2.47"), but fairly close to longterm averages in July and August.

Reports of summering waterfowl throughout the Region could represent either lingerers or potential breeders. Clearly in the former category were a few Brant at various sites throughout the period; probably in the latter were Blue-winged Teal and some others at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The most exciting news of breeding waterfowl actually dates back to May, but is reported in *The Kingbird* for the first time here. In a message posted to an RI/CT e-mail group, Glenn Williams wrote, "I was doing a gull nesting census on South Dumpling and Flat Hammock Islands on Wednesday, May 19 with one of Mike O'Connor's Waterford High Oceanology classes and Project Oceanology. We had about 30 adult Common Eider, ~10 baby eider from three broods, and four active nests on

South Dumpling. I did this census at the same time last year and saw about 40 eider adults, but no nests or young.” These sites, close to Fishers Island, produced New York’s first nesting of this species as recently as 1999 (unconfirmed) and 2000 (*The Kingbird* 50:442; 51:583-585).

Red-throated Loon is much scarcer than Common Loon in summer and the only reports were a bird in worn first summer plumage at Fire Island Inlet 14 August and one at Shinnecock Inlet 15 August. Atlas effort revealed several potential breeding sites for Pied-billed Grebe – an encouraging result for an embattled species in our Region. This summer’s news was also positive for two other Regionally scarce breeders that depend on freshwater wetlands: Least Bitterns were reported from several sites on LI, including JBWR, a traditional breeding site from which they have gone unreported in recent summers; and American Coots continue at a site on private property in Aquebogue, near the mouth of the Peconic River.

Reports of tubenoses were lackluster, consisting mainly of modest numbers of Sooty Shearwaters and Wilson’s Storm-Petrels, plus a few Manx Shearwaters, from the LI South Shore. Most unusual were two Greater Shearwaters from land as far west as Breezy Point 12 August (Tom Fiore), but the novelty of these pales in comparison to Region 9’s Manx Shearwater off Rye, in western LI Sound, 8 August (Tom Burke). The latter record might inspire observers on LI’s North Shore to seek this species from appropriate vantages along the Sound.

Summer incursions of Brown Pelicans are now expected annually. This year’s influx began 5 July with several at Democrat Point (Tony Poldino), extended as far east as Smith Point County Park 9 July (Maureen Dunn), penetrated beyond the outer beach at Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside 3 August (fide NYC RBA) and ended in early August. An individual that passed Robert Moses State Park on 1 August required 100 minutes to reach Jones Beach State Park (11 miles), implying an astonishingly slow flight speed of seven mph, or perhaps a hiatus along the way (Andy Guthrie, et al.).

The first Double-crested Cormorant breeding colony in Great South Bay involved 20 nests in shrubbery on the Line Islands (John Zarudsky). Nearby, on the LI “mainland,” the established colony at Argyle Park, Babylon was active again this year, but by season’s end all the trees on the island had been razed. Although this species is perceived as abundant and increasing – and is certainly no favorite among the fishing and wildlife management communities – it is important to stress that (a) it is a native species; and (b) it shares a number of critical attributes (very few breeding sites in Region, dependence on predator-free islands near suitable feeding areas, etc.) with other, more charismatic, colonial waterbirds that currently enjoy much better public relations and conservation concern.

A small heron near Moriches Inlet 4 June (Kenny Frisch) through at least 8 June resembled a Little Egret by virtue of its generally white plumage, gray lores and two lanceolate occipital plumes. After much analysis, it was deemed most likely an odd second calendar-year (SY) Little Blue Heron (P. Pyle, in litt., “ID-Frontiers” Internet forum). Several summering Turkey Vultures

on LI were newsworthy and continue to prompt speculation about possible breeding.

Observers who remember the days (not so long ago) when Cooper's Hawk was scarce in Region 10 outside of fall migration are adjusting to its new status as the most widespread and numerous woodland-breeding raptor on LI. The fortunes of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon also continue to rise, with widespread reports of the former and many pairs of the latter throughout the NYC area (including several pairs in Nassau County and one pair as far east as Captree State Park in Suffolk County). Although Peregrines historically never nested on LI, these opportunistic inhabitants of bridges and towers conceivably could come to outnumber American Kestrel, once an abundant and characteristic species on LI, in Region 10.

Reports of migrant shorebirds included most of the expected species and one astonishing rarity: a Long-billed Curlew seen flying past Shinnecock Inlet 15 August by Andy Baldelli and Brian Kane. Given the brevity of the encounter and the extraordinary scarcity of the species in the Northeast, documentation of this report is especially important. Many observers commented on the late arrival and small totals of juveniles of arctic-breeding species. Mid-August flocks of species such as Least and Semipalmated sandpipers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs and Short-billed Dowitcher were essentially devoid of juveniles, and it was not until the very end of the period that the proportion of young birds rose. Reports of poor weather and widespread breeding failures (of geese as well as shorebirds) in northern Canada provided a possible explanation for this trend, and will be followed up in greater detail in the fall season report.

Maritime breeding species such as Piping Plover; American Oystercatcher; Herring, Great Black-backed and Laughing gulls; Gull-billed, Common, Forster's, Roseate and Least terns and Black Skimmer appear to be facing at best a zero-sum game. With their habitat severely constrained by human recreation, beset even within protected areas by overt human disturbance and human-commensal mammalian predators, and inescapably tied to the dynamic vagaries of storm and tide, it is unrealistic to expect sustained positive trends for all species, every year. Complicating matters further is the fact that several of these species affect each other directly and negatively, through competition for nest sites or predation. This inevitable antagonism tends to force conservation decision-making into a sort of "Judgement of Solomon," where it actually becomes necessary to ask whether we can embrace gulls along with the terns they sometimes eat, and cormorants along with the egrets they sometimes displace. To summarize reports from LI this season, positives included an incipient Roseate Tern colony on Cartwright Island (fide Robert Paxton) and limited direct human destruction of nests and nesters; negatives included beach flooding caused by exceptional tides 3 June and 2 July, and predation attributed to feral cats, Red Foxes and all three species of Regionally breeding gulls.

An absolutely fresh-plumaged juvenile Ring-billed Gull photographed by John Fritz at Jones Beach on the early date of 28 July probably hatched in a

Great Lakes colony, but Region 10 observers ought not be overly surprised if this species further extends its breeding range toward or even onto the coastal plain. After all, less than a century ago, Eaton considered it rare anywhere in the state and Griscom took pains to cite specimens documenting its winter occurrence on LI!

Joan Quinlan's Eurasian Collared-Dove at Jones Beach 25 August represented at least the fourth documented NYS report of a rapidly expanding species that seems destined to be accepted soon as an authentic member of the state's avifauna.

Concerns were voiced again for many species of woodland breeding birds on LI. Species as diverse as Ruffed Grouse, Broad-winged Hawk, Whip-Poor-Will, Veery, Black-and-white Warbler and Ovenbird share many ecological attributes: their populations depend on woodlands of at least modest size and integrity; they are being reported from fewer and fewer sites on LI; and their remaining LI populations are probably undervalued in conservation planning. Indeed, given the plethora of environmental concerns on LI and the extent to which Regional priority falls to maritime-nesting species, it seems difficult to muster much will to preserve our surviving patches of mesic deciduous woodlands, such as those in East Hampton's Northwest Woods. Admittedly, LI's second-growth woodlands are smaller, less diverse and less critical to most species' statewide and global status than are the extensive woodlands upstate, but this rationale undervalues their Regional significance. It is disheartening to think that many once widespread and numerous woodland breeders will probably survive on LI only in a few small relict preserves, if at all. Critical analysis of the just-completed Breeding Bird Atlas will lend quantitative insight into geographical trends for these species on LI. In the meantime, the qualitative prognosis, based on perceptions of LI's most experienced naturalists, is not encouraging.

Reports of Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler and Canada Warbler from Mashomack, Shelter Island, in early June were intriguing (TD). All of these are rare breeders on LI (the waterthrush has never been proven to breed), but all are known to breed together in similar habitat just a few miles away in eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island. Furthermore, Shelter Island was the epicenter of LI's historical Northern Parula population – echoes of which were detected again this year in the Grace Estate and near Montauk. Perhaps most of the Shelter Island birds were late migrants or wanderers, but the Hooded Warbler at least appeared to be on territory, singing consistently through 15 July.

The news from our pine barrens, the type of woodland generally accorded the highest conservation status on LI, was generally positive this year – at least for breeding species characteristic of edges and disturbed areas. Indigo Buntings were described as numerous on the Brookhaven National Lab site and were found at many scattered sites both west and east of there. Blue Grosbeak and Summer Tanager, two southern species pioneering northward, both summered in LI's Pine Barrens region again this year.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BNL – Brookhaven National Laboratory; BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CCP – Cupsoque County P; CP – Central P; DP – Democrat Pt FI; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire I; FTT – Fort Tilden QUEE; JBCH – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; NWW – Northwest Woods, East Hampton; PB – Pikes Beach, Westhampton; PP – Prospect P KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: 8 SHIN 19 Jun; 25 Jul JBWR.

American Wigeon: 6 Jun, 11 Jul JBWR; arr 14 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: m JBWR 11 Jun (SM); JBWR 25 Jul thru.

Northern Shoveler: 6 Jun, 18 Jul thru.

Northern Pintail: JBWR 25 Jul, 14 Aug thru.

Green-winged Teal: 6 Massapequa Preserve 29 Aug (PL).

Greater Scaup: 2 Westhampton 10 Jul (AM); PB 15 Aug.

Common Eider: breeding near Fishers I (GW; *intro*).

Surf Scoter: a few ocean beach and inlets thru.

Black Scoter: flock Georgica Beach 11 Jun (BH); SHIN 6 Aug (BK, HM).

Red-breasted Merganser: PB 5 Jun, killed by GBBG.

Ruffed Grouse: no reports.

Wild Turkey: Nissauogue Ri SP 28 Jun; 4 Pine Meadow Co P (JF); many reports of hens with large broods South Fork.

Northern Bobwhite: ad & 7 yg near MP 3 Jun (VB); calling Rt 51 5 Jun (PL, SSM).

Red-throated Loon: FI Inlet 14 Aug (PL, SM), only report.

Common Loon: a few along ocean beaches thru; 1 summered Orient Bay.

Pied-billed Grebe: JBWR 15 Jul thru.

Horned Grebe: Southold 8 Jun (RW), very rare in summer.

Cory's Shearwater: 27 Jun (pelagic, DH).

Greater Shearwater: from shore: MOR 28 Jun (SB); 2 RMSP 5 Jul (TWB, GB); 2 BP 12 Aug (TF), unusual from shore so far west; pelagic reports: 27 Jun, 12 Jul "several dozen" (CO); 32 The Dip 22 Jul (AGr).

Sooty Shearwater: LI outer beaches JBCH to MP, mostly early Jun.

Manx Shearwater: *intro*; MP 19 Jun (TWB, GB); 2 off MP 14 Jul.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: LI outer beaches BP to MP, mostly early Jun; a few e LI Sound 15 Jul thru; pelagic max just 50 The Dip 22 Jul.

Northern Gannet: a few LI outer beaches thru.

American White Pelican: 2 Captree I/Argyle Pd 11-25 Jul, one still present 28 Jul; JBWR 12 Jun (Sean Sime), 26 Jul-25 Aug.

Brown Pelican: a few ocean beaches 5 Jul-21 Aug; one inside outer beaches MNSA 3 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: nested Argyle Pd SUFF; first big southbound flights 22 Aug.

Great Cormorant: Long Pd, Sag Harbor 5 Jul (HM).

American Bittern: Dune Rd 1 Aug (AJL).

Least Bittern: JBWR thru; Big Reed Pd 10 Jul (VB).

Great Blue Heron: 9 migrants Northville 15 Jul (MLL).

Little Blue Heron: regular as far east as Dune Rd, including an odd individual CCP (*intro*).

Tricolored Heron: regular as far east as Dune Rd.

Cattle Egret: a few JBWR.

Green Heron: max 15 flying west Napeague 16 Jul.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: regular as far east as Dune Rd.

Turkey Vulture: Grumman Airport 27 Jul (JF).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: ad Shelter I thru 19 Jun (TD); imms Shelter I 29 Jun and later (DC, TD); MEB 3 Jul (HM); CP 7-8 Aug; BP 12 Aug; JBWR 19 Aug.

Northern Harrier: a few LI South Shore thru; migrants CP 13, 22 Aug.

Cooper's Hawk: many reports central and eastern SUFF.

Broad-winged Hawk: Old Brookville 9 Jul; 2 CP 22 Aug; Cutchogue 29 Aug (PL, SM).

Red-tailed Hawk: nest CP, 3 juvs fledged late Jun, 1st nesting in CP itself (fide TF).

Merlin: Shelter I 16 Jun (NH); earliest migrants JBWR 25 Aug, Bridgehampton 29 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 3 prs NASS; 1 pr SUFF.

Sora: JBWR 20, 25 Aug.

Common Moorhen: JBWR 17, 25 Aug.

American Coot: probably nested again at traditional site Aquebogue.

Black-bellied Plover: 200 Rt 51 SUFF 31 Aug (JF), many for interior LI.

American Golden-Plover: 6 ads migrating DP 21 Aug (PL, SM); max 12 Rt 105 Riverhead 31 Aug (JF).

Semipalmated Plover: thru 6 Jun; arr JBWR 11 Jul; unusual CP 10 Aug (TF).

American Avocet: JBWR 24-28 Jul, 25

Aug; SHIN 15-22 Aug (AJL, mob).
Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 Aquebogue 24 Jul.
Willet: early reports of *inornatus* include MEB 3 Jul (HM), PB 17 Jul (PL, SM).
Spotted Sandpiper: any breeders? migrants widely reported; max 10 Aquebogue 24 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: JBCH 15 Aug.
Whimbrel: small numbers LI South Shore 14 Jul thru; max 20 1 Aug.
LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Shinnecock 15 Aug (AB, BK), requires documentation.
Hudsonian Godwit: max 7 JBWR 17 Aug.
Marbled Godwit: widely reported in small numbers LI South Shore inlets.
Red Knot: 150 PB 5 Jun (PL, SM), late for so many.
Sanderling: only 1 juv among 500 ads as late as 28 Aug (PL, SM).
Pectoral Sandpiper: Pussy Pd Springs 15 Jul (RK); Aquebogue 16 Jul (AB); MEB 6 Aug (HM); 4 Rt 51 SUFF 31 Aug (JF).
Dunlin: MEB 3 Jul; JBWR ~1 Aug; 3 PB 13 Aug.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: DP 28 Aug (PL, SM).
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr JBWR 25 Jul; small numbers there thru.
Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 22-24 Jul; Aquebogue 13, 16 Aug (AB).
Red-necked Phalarope: ad JBWR 4 Aug.
Parasitic Jaeger: ad Main Beach East Hampton 13 Aug (BK).
Bonaparte's Gull: a few, mostly second-year, LI South Shore thru.
Ring-billed Gull: in fresh juv plum JBCH 28 Jul (JF), early.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: a few 1st summer: JBWE 5, 12 Jul, 15 Aug; DP 21 Aug; MEB 22 Aug.
Caspian Tern: 2 JBWR 8 Aug, PP 8-9 Aug.

Royal Tern: MEB 1 Jun (from 28 May); max 60 Dune Rd 14 Aug; 17 Robins I 13 Aug.
Sandwich Tern: SHIN 5 Jun (AB); MEB 13 Aug (BK, HM).
Roseate Tern: a few FI Inlet thru.
Black Tern: 3 CCP 10 Jul; present LI South Shore thereafter.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: JBWE 25 Aug (JQ, GF, JF).
Monk Parakeet: Bayville 7 Jul; Dune Rd 21 Aug (SM, et al).
Common Nighthawk: a few summer reports from Napeague/Hither Hills area; migrants arr Wading River 18 Aug.
Chuck-will's-widow: absent Oak Beach; Napeague Harbor Rd; one or two sites near Riverhead; only reports.
Whip-poor-will: numerous at traditional sites near Riverhead, Napeague, Hither Hills.
Red-headed Woodpecker: nested Amagansett (fide BH).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 3+ CP 8 Aug; Hither Hills 10 Aug (PS).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 8 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Sebonac Neck 4 Jun (since 14 May, RG); singing Old Brookville 26 Jun.
Alder Flycatcher: Greenport 8 Jun (TD).
Western Kingbird: BP 15 Aug (TF), very early.
Eastern Kingbird: 80 BP 15 AUG (TF), high.
Warbling Vireo: singing JBWR 11 Jun (SM), unusual locale.
Barn Swallow: migrant counts RMSP: 3000 in 1.5' 14 Aug, 5000 in 2' 15 Aug (PL, SM).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: NWW 9 Jun; arr migrants late Jul.
Brown Creeper: scattered reports nesting e SUFF.

Hermit Thrush: nested several East End sites.

WARBLERS

“Lawrence’s Warbler”: m apparently on territory Culloden Woods (VB).

Tennessee Warbler: arr CP 29 Jul, early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: FTT 25 Aug (TF), early.

Worm-eating Warbler: migrants on e LI included 2 Northville 18 Aug (MLL).

Northern Waterthrush: Mashomack 2 Jun; migrants mid Jul thru.

Louisiana Waterthrush: many reports of migrants NYC parks; Baiting Hollow 31 Jul (RH).

Mourning Warbler: arr CP 6 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: m apparently on territory Mashomack, Shelter I thru at least 15 Jul (TD, mob).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: early in season BNL but no nesting evidence this year (JC); f CP 8 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: on territory Grumman Airport & near Suffolk Community College 19 Jun (JC).

Lark Sparrow: RMSP 22 Aug; E Lake Dr Montauk 23 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: Orient 11 Jun (TC), very late.

White-crowned Sparrow: ad at feeder Whitestone QUEE 25 Jul (fide RBA), very unusual mid-summer.

Blue Grosbeak: BNL 10 Jun.

Indigo Bunting: “tons” nesting BNL (EL).

Dickcissel: MEB 15 Aug.

Bobolink: arr CP 27 Jul; max 75 FBF 15 Aug (SBI, RJ).

Orchard Oriole: reports of breeding unusually numerous and widespread.



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.

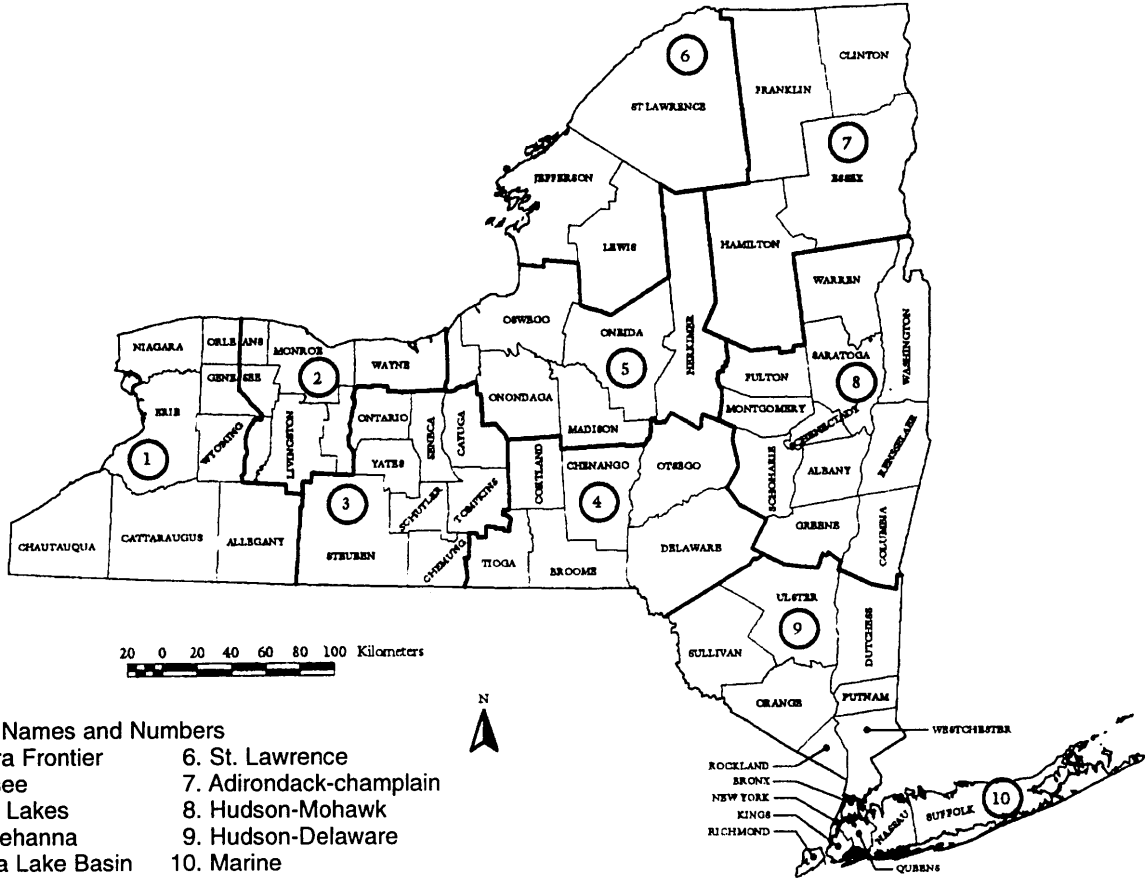
REPORTING DEADLINES

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



- Region Names and Numbers**
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Niagara Frontier | 6. St. Lawrence |
| 2. Genesee | 7. Adirondack-champlain |
| 3. Finger Lakes | 8. Hudson-Mohawk |
| 4. Susquehanna | 9. Hudson-Delaware |
| 5. Oneida Lake Basin | 10. Marine |

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