

The

# KINGBIRD

New York State  
Ornithological  
Association, Inc.  

---

Vol. 55 No. 4  
December 2005



THE KINGBIRD (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a publication of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the State and maintain the official Checklist of the Birds of New York State.

**Please note our official website address**  
**<http://nybirds.org>**

Memberships are available in the following annual categories: Individual \$22, Family \$25, Supporting \$30, Contributing \$50, The Kingbird Club \$100, Student \$12. Add \$8 to all categories for addresses other than U.S. Life Membership is \$900. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to: New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., PO Box 95, Durhamville, NY 13054. INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *THE KINGBIRD* are \$25 to US addresses, \$33 to all others, annually on a calendar year basis only.

SINGLE COPIES, REPLACEMENT COPIES, or BACK NUMBERS, (\$5.00 each) to: Tim Baird, 242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779 with checks made payable to NYSOA.

All amounts stated above are payable in US funds only.

©2005 New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Postmaster: send address changes to:**  
**THE KINGBIRD, P.O. Box 95, Durhamville, NY 13054**

---

**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2005-2006 Officers**

**President**

Andrew Mason, 1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093

**Vice-President**

William Ostrander, 80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14905

**Corresponding Secretary**

Timothy H. Baird, 242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

**Recording Secretary**

Brenda Best, 5627 Irish Ridge Rd., Durhamville, NY 13054-4112

**Treasurer**

William B. Reeves, 19 Brian Lane, East Northport, NY 11731-3810

**Directors (Term Expiration Dates)**

Gail Kirch	2006	Phyllis Jones	2007
Carena Pooth	2006	Berna B. Lincoln	2007
Bob Spahn	2006	Robert Mauceli	2007

continued on inside back cover



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 55 No. 4

December 2005

pp. 325 – 404

## CONTENTS

Lost in the Moment Michael Givant .....	326
First Confirmed Nesting of the Pine Warbler ( <i>Dendroica pinus</i> ) in New York City Robert DeCandido and Deborah Allen .....	328
Adventures in Field Identification: An Unusual Manx Shearwater at Jones Inlet, Nassau County, NY 17-26 Sep 2005 S.S. Mitra .....	335
Notes and Observations .....	340
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. 58th Annual Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY - September 24, 2005 Brenda Best .....	343
Highlights of the Season – Summer 2005 Andrew Guthrie .....	347
Regional Reports .....	354
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations and Reporting Deadlines .....	403
Map of Reporting Regions .....	404

*Editor - Shaibal S. Mitra*  
*Regional Reports Editors*  
*Berna B. Lincoln and Robert G. Spahn*  
*Cover - Andrew C. Valley*  
*Circulation Manager - Brenda Best*

## LOST IN THE MOMENT

**Michael Givant**

17 Woodtree Drive  
Woodbury, N.Y. 11797  
givant@adelphi.edu

Sometimes while birding, time is suspended and we are lost in the moment, at one with a place and its birds. Last summer I found such moments on a suburban street adjacent to a corn field, in a nearby industrial park, and along a make-shift path on the periphery of a college campus. One tapped into the artist in me, the other into my intellect, and the last into the explorer in me.

The humid early morning August air bathed windows, early morning bikers, and walkers in moisture. I am out for a walk in the relative coolness before the heat combined with humidity will be all but unbearable. At the end of a small street that borders the condo in which I live there is part of a farm field that has rows of tall corn. What catches my eye is the contrast of the green husk with the pale yellow tassel on top; it is a sea of subtle color in an otherwise suburban landscape. There are about two dozen birds; male and female Red-winged Blackbirds, male and female House Sparrows and a few starlings in the corn. One female House Sparrow has a bill that glistens like an opaque seashell. Some of the others have a faint yellow on their breasts, which blends with the yellow tassel. Some birds perch fluttering their wings. One of the male Red-winged Blackbirds is bent in a yoga-like position possibly trying to eat corn.

I stand above street level on sloped grass, wiping moisture from my binoculars while peering down the rows of corn. Some birds, mainly House Sparrows are flying. I cannot really explain it but the scene delights me. Perhaps it transports me, somewhere in the recesses of my mind, to a place that I've never seen. A passerby on a bike looks at me and then over to the rows of corn but can probably see little at street level. If he had asked me what I like about this mundane scene all I would have been able to say is that it was dee-light-full! In this case being lost in the moment means being rendered temporarily inarticulate.

A few days later a morning walk through a nearby industrial park takes me through a large parking lot whose perimeter is bounded by undeveloped space with trees and brush. Flying onto a branch of a bare tree is a kingbird whose tail fans out as it lands, showing the telltale horizontal white bar at the tip. An insect, perhaps a butterfly, flutters madly in its bill. Because this bird is a tyrant flycatcher, I expect the insect to be dispatched quickly. What happened didn't follow from past observations nor unfold as described in anything I'd read.

The bird, wings fluttering wildly, goes from branch to branch with the insect in its bill. Once, it apparently drops the insect but flies off the branch and recaptures it. Finally the bird swallows the insect but now faces other difficulties. Two mockingbirds alternately fly at it. The kingbird moves to the other side of the tree where this time a sparrow flies at it. Finally a second kingbird joins the first and they perch in the tree for a while. One, then the other, flies off and they both disappear into the greenery and the gray sky. A little while later I see three of the kingbirds in a tree by a tan building. One flies off the tree pursuing a large insect. The kingbird doesn't get very close to its prey and goes back to the tree while the

insect flies toward me looking bigger and bigger. I'm smiling partly out of confusion.

I had first seen the kingbirds here about five weeks before, two adults and two juveniles. I watched their agility in flight, saw one nab an insect, a staple of their diet, and observed an adult feeding a juvenile on a few occasions. I also read about the propensity of kingbirds to chase larger birds, such as hawks and crows, that came into their territory. The ineptitude that I've just witnessed is apparently a case of juveniles learning to hunt. If it in fact is, this kingbird family may not yet be ready for the southern migration, which will probably be delayed, perhaps until mid September. In this case being lost in the moment means recognizing that what you see unfolding is not consistent with past observation and descriptions you've read, searching for an answer, and growing in the process.

On another warm and very humid August morning, this time on the campus of a New York State University campus a few miles from where I live. I'm looking for a place to take a group for a walk as part of a nature journaling workshop I will be doing here. On foot I followed a service vehicle down a no access road and up a hill where there is a large deserted grassy field. I watch a campus security car drive slowly around a dirt oval on the field's perimeter, which I judge to be about a mile. I start down the path on a voyage of discovery, which unfolds in a series of unexpected moments.

In a milky sky a Rock Pigeon flies back to a craggy bare branch. Gray poetry. Two bright yellow American Goldfinches perching on a branch fly off. Attempting to see some Barn Swallows through my binoculars, which have disappeared into the grass, my field of view is suddenly and completely covered with brown fluttering birds. It is a huge flock of starlings. Quite early for such large numbers. Their wings looked lighter than their bodies, giving them a two-toned appearance as they beat quickly, carrying them into trees on the edge of the field into which they vanish.

The birds come so fast my head feels like it's on a swivel. Is that a kingbird? Another one looks like a Brown Thrasher. Most of the way around the field the pace of the action has slowed to some sedate moments that have a quiet charm. In some tall grasses in a clump of flowers and wood chips, there are two pairs of House Finches. Because the male has a red/orange head and breast, which looks to me like it dipped itself in a jam jar, I call them "jelly heads." Moving on the grass stalks they blend in picturesquely with some sun-reddened leaves. Another bird with a light yellow neck, chin and breast, as supple as a bird's can be, is bent slightly around a grass stalk on which it perches. I continue watching and when the bird flies there is only a quick blur and a grass stalk left shaking.

A light drizzle has started as I sit on a yellow chair having a bite to eat outside under a red Coca-Cola umbrella. I'm coming down from the high experienced on the field. The symbolism of a yellow chair and a red umbrella makes me think of something I'd seen but little noticed. A brown form, with some faint yellow and a small red spot, had flown from a tree to the center of the field and landed on one of several short yellow pipes there. It was a flicker. What really is the difference between us, I thought. Out in the elements we both have perched on something yellow and had red on top, albeit the bird's color is built-in and mine is a temporary artifact. In this sense bird and human aren't so different after all. In this case being lost in the moment means that the feeling carries over long after the moment is gone.

## FIRST CONFIRMED NESTING OF THE PINE WARBLER (*DENDROICA PINUS*) IN NEW YORK CITY

**Robert DeCandido**

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Acopian Center for Conservation Learning,  
410 Summer Valley Road, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania 17961  
rdcny@earthlink.net

**Deborah Allen**

P.O. Box 1452 Peter Stuyvesant Station  
New York, New York 10009  
DAllenyc@earthlink.net

A detailed and substantial written record of the breeding birds of New York City dates back at least to the 1860s. Nineteenth Century naturalists such as E. P. Bicknell, A. Hollick and others compiled notes on summer resident birds of particular parks and other natural areas in each borough (see Bicknell 1878; Hollick 1885; Woodruff and Paine 1886). In the 20th Century, detailed records of the city's breeding birds were made primarily by birders and occasionally by museum scientists (see Griscom 1923; Carleton 1958; Siebenheller 1981). This rich historical record can be compared to species still nesting in New York City (NYC) today in order to understand long-term changes in the diversity of breeding birds of the metropolitan area.

The Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) is a fairly common nesting species on Long Island in northern Nassau County, as well as much of central and eastern Suffolk County. In this region, these birds prefer mature White (*Pinus strobus*) and especially Pitch (*Pinus rigida*) pines interspersed with oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and other deciduous trees. Pine Warblers also breed just north of the city in Westchester County, and locally across much of upstate New York (Salzman 1998). However, this warbler has not previously been confirmed as a nesting species in NYC.

In the northeastern United States, Pine Warbler distribution and abundance is closely associated with the extent of its preferred habitat-mature pine trees. In New York State from the late 19th Century through the end of the second world war, woodlands increased as farms were abandoned, and large-scale harvesting of trees for lumber diminished significantly. This benefited Pine Warblers. Since the late 1940s, and accelerating after ca. 1970, development for housing, shopping and recreational areas (e.g., ball fields) has greatly affected natural areas, especially in the NYC region. In certain protected places, such as parks and estates in the metropolitan area, specimen pines have matured and now provide appropriate breeding habitat for the Pine Warbler. A comparison of available data from the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas of 1980-1985 vs. 2000-2004 (see the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000), shows more census blocks with probable or confirmed breeding Pine Warblers now in upstate New York, especially the Tug Hill Plateau and western Adirondack foothills, as well as downstate in Westchester County. On Long Island, the 2000-04 census map indicates

that breeders are present in about the same number of blocks as on the 1980-1985 map. However, the actual breeding population of this warbler in the Nassau-Suffolk County pine barrens has probably declined due to habitat loss (Rodewald et al. 1999).

In this paper we report our observations of Pine Warblers during the nesting seasons of 2002 through 2005 at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in Bronx County. We present the first definitive evidence that this species now breeds in NYC, and summarize what is known about the historical and extant nesting warblers (*Parulidae*) of NYC.

## METHODS

In 2002-2003 we made observations of Pine Warblers in June and July as part of our study of nesting Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) at the NYBG in Bronx County (see DeCandido and Allen 2005). In 2004-2005, we focused our efforts on finding an active Pine Warbler nest or other evidence that these birds breed at NYBG (see criteria published in Andrle and Carroll 1988).

The NYBG is a 251 acre park surrounded by four-lane highways, local streets and housing developments. There are two White Pine conifer groves in the park where we did our study: an approximately 50,000 sq. foot grove, and a smaller 14,000 sq. foot grove where Cooper's Hawks nested in 2001-03. The understory in both groves is sparse, primarily consisting of lawn or short (< 6 inches) herbaceous plants.

We estimate that in 2002-03, we spent 2-3 days per week, and approximately 6 hours per visit making observations in the smaller conifer stand. This grove is located opposite the Fordham University entrance of NYBG. Conifers average 75 feet in height, and average ~ 41 feet distant from one another. In 2004-05 we extended our observations to include the larger White Pine grove at the southwest corner of NYBG along Fordham Road. We spent two days per week in June and July, and approximately three hours per visit from 06:30 am until 09:30 am, looking for Pine Warblers. Trees here average 50-75 feet in height and are more closely spaced, at an average of approx. 21 feet apart.

To determine the historical (1870-1990) warbler species that have nested in each of the five boroughs of NYC, we consulted the following sources:

1. **Bronx County:** Bicknell (1878); Eames (1893); Hix (1905); Griscom (1926); Kuerzi. (1926); Kieran (1959).
2. **Brooklyn (Kings Co.):** Wyman (1883); Vietor and Vietor (1908); Eaton (1910); Walsh (1926); Carleton (1958); Carleton (1970).
3. **Manhattan (New York Co.):** Anonymous (1869); Woodruff and Paine (1886); Chapman (1892); Foster (1910); Griscom (1925), Carleton (1947); Carleton (1958); Carleton (1970); Knowler (1984).
4. **Queens Co.:** Eaton (1910); Cruickshank (1942); Yeaton (1992).
5. **Staten Island (Richmond Co.):** Hollick (1885); Eaton (1910) Siebenheller (1981).

We also examined published information that covered the entire city, such as Griscom (1923), Bull (1964), Andrlé and Carroll (1988), as well as information about local breeding birds in journals such as the *Kingbird*, *American Birds*, *Audubon* and *Bird-Lore*.

For the extant (modern) period (1991-2005), we consulted published material on local breeding birds, such as Kerlinger and Sanford (1998) and Levine (1998), and on-line sources of information about breeding birds (e.g., *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000*). We also corresponded with individuals in the metropolitan area who surveyed areas in NYC in which warblers might have nested. We used criteria published in Andrlé and Carroll (1988) to confirm breeding for a particular species during this time frame.

Using data compiled from these sources we classified the status of each warbler species we considered to be (or have been) a breeding bird in New York City during four time periods from 1870 to the present: Common (Recorded breeding regularly in four to five boroughs within that time period); Uncommon (Recorded breeding in two to three boroughs within that time period); Rare (Sporadic breeding of one or a few pairs in one borough). If a date (year) follows the status in Table 1, it indicates the time frame (or specific year) when the warbler was last observed nesting in New York City. If no status is indicated (via an empty data field) in Table 1, we could not find any information about the nesting status of the species during that time frame. This absence of evidence likely indicates that the species did not breed in any borough of New York City during that time frame. However, given how few observers published their observations (especially from 1870-1950), we will never completely determine the true historical status of nesting warblers throughout New York City.

## RESULTS

In June-July 2001-02, A. Block (pers. comm.) observed male Pine Warblers at NYBG in the area of the smaller White Pine grove, but no conclusive evidence of breeding was detected. In June-July 2002-04, we observed adult male and female Pine Warblers foraging at NYBG, but could not confirm breeding. On 4 July 2005, an adult male Pine Warbler was observed feeding a newly fledged Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in the small grove of pines at NYBG. Also, on the same morning in the larger grove, an adult male Pine Warbler was observed feeding a recently fledged Pine Warbler. On 9 July 2005, we observed at least 5 Pine Warblers at NYBG. On 14 July 2005, an adult female was observed feeding two fledgling Brown-headed Cowbirds, while an adult male fed another fledgling cowbird in the same grove of pines. Overall, Pine Warblers spent much more time foraging in the larger conifer grove, consuming numbers of caterpillars.

According to Table 1, Pine Warblers are one of five warbler species that nested in NYC in 2005. Three of these (Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and American Redstart) breed in at least three boroughs, and have bred continuously in NYC since the 19th Century. One other species, the Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) nested in Alley Pond Park in Queens County in 2000 (S. Walter, pers. comm.; E. Miller, pers. comm.), but has not bred there since then. Historically, 16 warbler species and one hybrid (Lawrence's Warbler) have nested in NYC since the late 19th Century.



Table 1. Status of nesting warblers (family Parulidae) in New York City 1870-2005.

	1870-1910	1911-1950	1951-1990	1990-2005
Blue-winged Warbler	Common	Uncommon		
Nashville Warbler	Rare			
Northern Parula				Rare (2000)
Yellow Warbler	Common	Common	Common	Common
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Uncommon	Rare	Rare (1950s)	
Pine Warbler				Rare
Prairie Warbler		Rare	Rare (1960)	
Black-and-white Warbler	Uncommon			
American Redstart	Common	Common	Uncommon	Uncommon
Worm-eating Warbler	Uncommon	Rare (1920s)		
Ovenbird	Common	Uncommon	Uncommon (1950s)	
Louisiana Waterthrush	Uncommon	Rare (1917)		
Kentucky Warbler	Uncommon			
Common Yellowthroat	Common	Common	Common	Common
Hooded Warbler	Uncommon	Rare (1920)		
Yellow-breasted Chat	Common	Uncommon	Rare	Rare

In terms of breeding bird diversity, when the historical and modern periods are combined, available data indicate that the Bronx has had the most species of nesting warblers (14), followed by Manhattan (12), Brooklyn and Staten Island (both with 8), and Queens (7). Most warbler species were extirpated as breeders in NYC between 1911 and 1960.

## DISCUSSION

New York City encompasses diverse geologic and geographic areas resulting in a diversity of habitats in its five counties. High numbers of bird and plant species occur in an area that is relatively small compared to the rest of New York State. NYC has approximately 60% (1357 of 2250) of the native plant species ever recorded in the state (DeCandido et al. 2004). Since the late 19th Century, 16 of 33 warbler species confirmed breeding in New York State have nested for at least one year in NYC.

This study presents data to confirm the Pine Warbler as a new breeding bird species for NYC. Though Bicknell (cited in Griscom 1926) lists the Pine Warbler as a summer resident (“until 3 July 1890”), he provided no conclusive evidence to confirm it as a breeding species. We believe that Pine Warblers have been nesting at NYBG since at least 2001 because males and/or females have been seen in June-July in each of these years. We estimate that 2-3 pairs nest annually at NYBG. These Pine Warblers were found most often in the two areas of the park with mature, specimen White Pine trees, though we also observed these warblers foraging in nearby deciduous trees such as oaks and planted crabapple.

In both this study and in reports we received about the nesting Northern Parulas in Queens County in 2000, Brown-headed Cowbird fledglings were observed being fed by adult warblers. At NYBG we also observed many newly fledged Brown-headed Cowbirds being fed by Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) and Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*).

Our research demonstrates that warblers are unlikely to re-colonize or expand their ranges into heavily urbanized areas, such as NYC. Only three species (Northern Parula, Pine Warbler and Prairie Warbler) have increased as breeders in NYC since 1870, and at least two of these represent isolated events (Table 1). The third, Pine Warbler, might prove truly exceptional if regular breeding continues or expands within the city. Available data from NYC strongly suggest that, although it is possible to maintain and restore a variety of habitats here on a limited scale, it will be very difficult to attract extirpated habitat specialists to return and breed once again. We recommend that priority be placed on protecting and managing habitats that are currently being used by native breeding bird species, especially those, such as the Pine Warblers described here, that are not extreme habitat generalists.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the following people for their assistance and advice. Andrew Block shared with us his observations on the birds of the New York Botanical Garden. Randolph Schutz helped us find the Pine Warblers in 2002. We gratefully acknowledge the participation by many of our friends, such as Mark Kolakowski

and Anita and Howard Stillman, in the search for nesting Pine Warblers as part of our bird walks at NYBG from 2002-2005. We also gratefully acknowledge the many fine reports we received about extant nesting warblers in New York City from birders in all five boroughs. Eric Salzman and Scott Jackson Wiley kindly reviewed earlier versions of this manuscript. Ideas about how to interpret the data suggested by Shaibal Mitra and an anonymous reviewer greatly improved this publication. We thank Kim Tripp and Todd Forrest of the New York Botanical Garden for logistical support. We dedicate this paper to Irving Cantor, a long-time New York City birder, who remembers watching nesting Blue-winged Warblers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Eastern Bluebirds and Spotted Sandpipers in the Bronx in the 1930s.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Andrle, R.F. and Carroll, J. R., eds. 1988. The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. New York: Cornell University Press.
- Anonymous. 1869. List of birds inhabiting the Park. First Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Central Park for the Year Ending December 31, 1868. Pages 114-124 and Page 187.
- Bicknell, E.P. 1878. Evidences of the Carolinian fauna in the lower Hudson valley. Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club 3: 128-132.
- Bull, J. 1964. Birds of the New York Area. Dover Publications, NY.
- Carleton, G.C. 1947. Birds of Central Park. Science Guide No. 68. New York: The American Museum of Natural History.
- Carleton, G. 1958. The birds of Central and Prospect Parks. Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York. 66-70: 1-60.
- Carleton, G.C. 1970. Supplement to the birds of Central and Prospect Parks. Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York for the Twelve Years Ending March, 1970. No. 71: 132-154.
- Cruikshank, A.D. 1942. Birds around New York City. American Museum of Natural History, Handbook No. 13. American Museum Press, NY.
- DeCandido, R., Muir, A. A. and M. B. Gargiullo. 2004. A first approximation of the historical and extant vascular flora of New York City: Implications for native plant species conservation. Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society 131: 243-251.
- DeCandido, R. and Allen, D. 2005. First nesting of the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) in New York City since ca. 1955. Kingbird 55(3): 236-241.
- Eames, E. H. 1893. Notes from Connecticut. Auk 10: 89-90.
- Eaton, E. H. 1910. Birds of New York State, Part 1. State University of New York, Albany, NY.
- Griscom, L. 1923. Birds of the New York City Region. The American Museum of Natural History. Handbook Series, Number 9. NY.
- Griscom, L. 1925. Bird-hunting in Central Park. Natural History 25: 470-479.
- Griscom, L. 1926. The observations of the late Eugene P. Bicknell at Riverdale, New York City, fifty years ago. Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York 1925-26 for the two years ending March 23, 1926.

- Numbers 37-38: 73-87.
- Hix, G. E. 1905. A year with birds in New York City. *The Wilson Bulletin* 17: 35-43.
- Hollick, A. 1885. Preliminary list of the birds known to breed on Staten Island. *Proceedings of the National Science Association, Staten Island, New York*. Vol. 4 (December).
- Kerlinger, P. and Sanford, E. 1998. The Central Park breeding bird census, Manhattan, New York City. A report to the New York City Audubon Society and The Linnaean Society of New York. 21pp. including 1 map.
- Kieran, J. 1959. *Natural History of New York City*. Houghton-Mifflin, New York, NY.
- Knowler, D. 1984. *The Falconer of Central Park*. New Jersey: Karz-Cohl Publishers.
- Kuerzi, J.F. 1926. A detailed report on the bird life of the greater Bronx region. Abstract of the *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York 1925-26 for the two years ending March 23, 1926*. Numbers 37-38: 88-111.
- Levine, M. 1998. *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, NY.
- New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2004. Pine Warbler.  
<http://wwwapps.dec.state.ny.us/apps/bba/results/bbaMaps.cfm?bndcode=PIWA&order=1&year=2000&comp=1> (accessed 11 March 2006).
- Rodewald, P. G., J. H. Withgott and K. G. Smith. 1999. Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 438 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.
- Salzman, E. 1998. Pine Warbler. Pages 471-473 in *Bull's Birds of New York State*. E. Levine, editor. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, NY.
- Siebenheller, N. 1981. *Breeding Birds of Staten Island, 1881-1981*. Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. Staten Island, NY.
- Vietor, K. P. and Vietor, E. W. 1908. Birds seen in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, during 1908. *Bird Lore* XI: 7-8.
- Walsh, L. L. 1926. Birds of Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Abstracts of the *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York 1925-26 for the Two Years Ending March 23, 1926*. Nos. 37-38: 112-122.
- Woodruff, L. B. and Paine, A. G. Jr. 1886. The birds of Central Park, New York. A preliminary list. *Forest and Stream* 26: 386-87.
- Wyman, W. B. 1883. The Birds of Prospect Park. *Forest and Stream* 21: 226-227.
- Yeaton, S. 1992. *Early Northeastern Queens*. (Herbert H. Roth, editor). Reprinted from the Queens County Bird Club publication "News & Notes" for the years 1990-1991. New York: Queens County Bird Club.

# **Adventures in Field Identification: An Unusual Manx Shearwater at Jones Inlet, Nassau County, NY, 17-26 Sep 2005**

**S. S. Mitra**

Biology Department, College Staten Island,  
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314  
mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu

On 17 September 2005, Patricia Lindsay discovered a small black-and-white shearwater in Jones Inlet, Nassau County, NY. This bird was intensively studied by many observers over a period of more than a week and presented an exceptional identification challenge. I studied the bird under a variety of conditions on five dates and was involved in the identification (and misidentification!) process from its initial discovery and tentative identification as a Manx Shearwater, to publicly questioning its identity, to its tentative re-identification as an Audubon's Shearwater, to its ultimate identification as a probable Manx after all. The present note includes accounts of this complex and entertaining process and the field data and photographs that support the final (!) identification.

On 17 September, a number of birders were gathered near the boat basin at Jones Beach West End. I was studying shorebirds on the bar to the east of the Coast Guard Station when Patricia discovered a distant bird resting on the water of Jones Inlet, perhaps 600 meters to the north. Just as the rest of us were finding the bird in our scopes, it arose and flew several hundred meters to the north and west. My very first impression during this flight was that the bird was likely an Audubon's Shearwater, and I urged my companions during these first seconds to study its flight action and to try to discern the color of its undertail coverts. To my eye, this very first long flight, like the dozens I subsequently saw over the next few days, was atypical of Manx Shearwater in the following ways: flapping series were very rapid and prolonged; glides were few, brief, and lacked arcing on angled wings; and the overall flight path was direct, without veering. In short, its flight could be described, in contrast to that of Manx Shearwater, as alcid-like. I said this during that first flight, but even before this flight was concluded, I recognized that the undertail coverts were largely white. This latter impression was amply confirmed through study of the bird swimming and in flight, both from our original vantage east of the boat basin, and from a somewhat closer vantage about one km to the west. In weighing the evidence with my companions, I concluded that the white undertail coverts indicated that the bird was a Manx Shearwater. I accounted for my reservations concerning its flight style by invoking the glassy, windless conditions and unusual inshore setting.

Even so, I was not completely comfortable with the identification. On the basis of date, location, and recent weather (Hurricane Ophelia had passed offshore the day before), Audubon's seemed more probable than Manx. Furthermore, my original field notes from that day contained the following statement: "flight views continued to impress me with a longish, wedge-shaped

tail and a substantial dark band beyond (distal to) the white undertail coverts.” Both of these features were noted independently by Patricia. She also agreed with my description of the flight action. Significantly, she noted another important feature that day that I neglected: she explicitly remembered seeing dark margins around the underwing and pointed to this feature in photos of Audubon’s later that evening. In short, several features suggestive of Audubon’s Shearwater were difficult to ignore.

The bird was not reported on Sunday, but Patricia found it again the following morning (Monday 19 Sep) and verified several of these puzzling features: alcid-like flight action, long and wedge-shaped tail, dark margins around the underwing, group-feeding behavior with other seabirds, etc. She was the only person who saw the bird that day. When I posted a summary of our weekend birds to the NYSBirds listserv that day, I referred to the bird as a Manx Shearwater, but took pains to explain that the identification was based mainly on the white undertail coverts and that I had reservations concerning the flight style. Dick Veit responded immediately, informing me that a significant proportion of Audubon’s Shearwaters show extensively white undertail coverts. This piece of information cast the balance of field observations in a different perspective, and I began to suspect that the bird was probably an Audubon’s Shearwater after all. I drafted a new message to NYSBirds, expressing my doubts about the original ID, stating in more detail some of the characters suggestive of Audubon’s, and asking that observers familiar with both species attempt to study it the following morning.

Armed with new identification information and specific goals of noting the underwing pattern and nailing down structure and flight style characters, Patricia and I returned on Tuesday morning. For the third time, Pat located the bird, and we satisfied ourselves that its size (distinctly smaller than adjacent Laughing Gulls), shape, flight style, and underwing pattern all supported identification as Audubon’s and were counter-indicative of Manx. All views through this time were at long range, at least a third of a mile or more. Its face pattern remained very difficult to describe in any detail, as did its bill structure, although we recorded impressions of both of these features that favored Manx. Given the distance of our views and the subtle nature of these characters, we placed less emphasis on them. Similarly, we regarded the apparently blackish dorsal color tone and whitish undertail coverts as less informative than the readily discernible flight action and overall body size.

On Wednesday morning, Patricia once again relocated the shearwater in the inlet. This time we were joined by a number of new observers. All of the field marks were studied and discussed at length, and we agreed that the bulk of the evidence favored Audubon’s. Even the upperparts now appeared to be brownish in the brighter light. Some reservations about the bill length and face pattern persisted, but it was difficult to give these much credence given the long-range views. The bird was seen again on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday by many observers, virtually all of whom supported the identification as Audubon’s.

On Sunday 25 September, Matt Bayer and Tom Burke attempted to view the bird from the north side of the inlet. They met a boat owner there who agreed to help them approach the bird. In this manner they obtained much closer views than had previously been possible, and also some photographs of limited quality. These

observations yielded two new insights that raised fresh concerns about the identification: first, the bird's bill and face pattern really appeared to match Manx much better than Audubon's; and second, the plumage was determined to be heavily worn and damaged, perhaps explaining aspects of the flight style. Also on Sunday, John Askildsen studied the bird at length from the south side of the inlet and concluded that it was a Manx.

Finally, on Monday 26 Sep, I waded out into the north side of the inlet and managed to obtain some useful photographs (Figs. 1-4). On the basis of these photographs and the observations from the previous day, it became clear that the bird was very long-billed and dark-lore'd, and that it showed dark auriculars bounded to the rear by a thin curling wedge of white-features indicative of Manx Shearwater. In retrospect, the odd flight action of this individual was likely a consequence of its extremely poor plumage condition—a feature that simply could not be discerned during long-range views.

To change one's opinion of a bird's identity, not once but several times over the course of ten days, is a humbling and disconcerting process, but in struggling between Audubon's and Manx, the observers of the Jones Inlet shearwater joined a very large and venerable club. The statuses of these two species in our area have puzzled ornithologists, including the likes of Giraud, Eaton and Bull, for more than a century and a half, and debates over the relative utility of various field marks are still routine today. For instance, we learned that even very distinctive impressions of flight style can be misleading; that Audubon's Shearwaters show more variation in color of the undertail coverts than is widely appreciated; and that dorsal color (black vs. brown) probably varies more with lighting, and with plumage state and wear, than it does between these two species.

This experience clearly illustrates some of the challenges and pitfalls of bird identification, and it reminds us that when one is confronted with a set of conflicting characters, it can be extremely difficult to deduce the correct interpretation. Here we were fortunate to have the bird remain for 10 days, allowing observation by many birders under a variety of conditions. Ultimately, some of the age-old rules of field identification were reinforced: get the best, longest, and closest looks possible (without endangering the bird's or one's own welfare, of course); consider but don't be unduly influenced by the conclusions and comments of other observers; and perhaps most importantly, enjoy the learning curve!

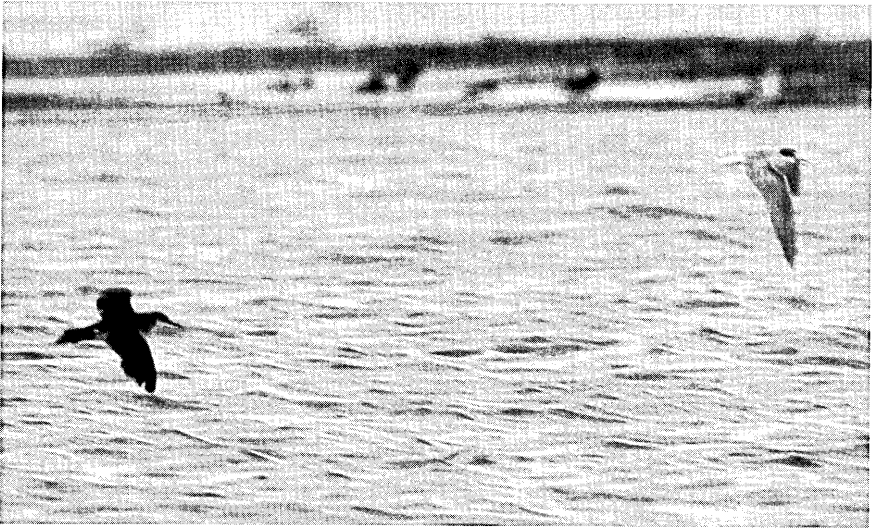


Figure 1. Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*),  
with Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*),  
Jones Inlet, Nassau Co., NY. 26 September 2005.  
© S. S. Mitra.



Figure 2. Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*),  
with Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*),  
Jones Inlet, Nassau Co., NY. 26 September 2005.  
© S. S. Mitra.





Figure 3. Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*),  
Jones Inlet, Nassau Co., NY. 26 September 2005.  
© S. S. Mitra.



Figure 4. Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*),  
Jones Inlet, Nassau Co., NY. 26 September 2005.  
© S. S. Mitra.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

### BLUE JAYS

During my morning stroll on May 5, 2005, in a lightly wooded portion of our East Quogue property (Suffolk County), my attention was attracted by an unusual cry coming from the ground a short distance from the path. The vegetation was thick with catbrier (*Smilax* sp.) but there were few leaves and I could see a tangle of feathers that clearly belonged to a motionless Blue Jay, apparently trapped by the dense thorny lianas of this notorious plant. The bird was so completely trapped that even the clumsy and noisy way I bulldozed my way through the thickets did not seem to have any effect on the bird. As I approached, I was astonished to discover not one but two Blue Jays flattened out against the ground with tail and wings splayed helplessly. They were so thoroughly snared by the deadly thickets - so I thought - that they made no attempt to escape my bull-in-a-china-shop arrival. But when I bent over to try and free the birds, I was able to pick them both up, one in each hand, quite easily and without any protest. Not only were they not tangled in the catbrier but they were tightly locked together in an extraordinary manner with the toes of each foot tightly clamped on one of the feathered tibia of the other. No effort on my part could loosen the grip of either foot on either bird. Neither bird made any effort to escape or resist in any way. Their eyes were open but they both appeared to be in a deep trance. Finally I put them back down on the ground and, as I walked away, there was a kind of twitching or shuddering sound and movement but I did not again hear the cry that originally attracted my attention. When I returned to the area a half an hour later, the birds were gone.

Eric Salzman  
PO Box 775, East Quogue, NY 11942  
Esalzman@aba.org

### SWIMMING CLAPPER RAIL CHICKS

On Saturday, July 9th, during a Linnaean Society visit to Dune Road, Shinnecock Bay, Suffolk County, the undersigned flushed a Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) from a dry brushy area adjacent to salt marsh. The action of locating the Willet nest stirred up a pair of noisy Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris*) which began agitated back-and-forth calling from dense stands of Phragmites and Spartina bordering a small deep-water channel. In spite of the fact that one or both of these birds seemed to be very close at hand, no birds were actually observed until an adult rail emerged from the spartina on the opposite bank of the channel, swam across to our side, and disappeared into the reeds. After a few moments, what appeared to be the same bird emerged accompanied by a small downy black chick which it escorted back across the channel. After a short period, the performance was repeated. An adult emerged from the vegetation on the far bank, swam across the channel and reappeared with a downy black chick, swimming

with it back across. After still another repetition of this escorted swimming activity, a fourth chick and then a fifth emerged by themselves and swam across on their own. All this activity was accompanied by intermittent but urgent-sounding calls.

The chicks were jet black with a reddish or pinkish bill. These were very young birds but, according to B. Taylor (*Rails. A guide to the Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World*. 1998. Yale University Press, New Haven CT), Clapper Rail chicks can swim within one day of hatching.

This particular locale has long been an active site for breeding Clapper Rails. On another Linnaean trip several years ago and only a short distance away, I was in the process of explaining to a tour group that we had to be very lucky to be able to see a Clapper Rail when one flushed off a nest right at my feet. The nest had 13 eggs and both adults emerged and circled around us, puffed up like strange terrestrial owls and hissing like snakes. Over the years, I have also observed courting, copulation and agonistic behavior of these birds, always in this area.

Eric Salzman  
PO Box 775, East Quogue, NY 11942  
Esalzman@aba.org

## **COLOR-BANDED SHOREBIRDS ON LONG ISLAND, SUMMER 2005**

Seven color-banded shorebirds observed on Long Island during the summer of 2005 were reported to shorebird biologists and produced information concerning survivorship and migratory patterns. Readers who observe wild color-marked birds of any kind are encouraged to report them to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/reptauxm.htm>), and to report follow-up data to *The Kingbird*.

### **American Oystercatcher**

Observed: Cedar Beach, Suffolk Co., 28 August 2005

(P. Lindsay and S. S. Mitra).

Left leg: orange above joint, teal over aluminum below joint; right leg: black below joint.

Originally banded: Cape Romain, South Carolina, 8 October 2002  
(fide Shiloh Schulte).

### **Red Knots**

Observed: Cupsogue CP, Suffolk Co., 29 June 2005

(B. Carlson, P. Lindsay, and S. S. Mitra).

Left leg: green flag with black lettering "TAY"; right leg: yellow.

Originally banded: Reeds, Delaware Bay, New Jersey, 2 June 2005  
(fide P. Atkinson).

Observed: Pike's Beach, Suffolk Co., 21 July 2005 (P. Lindsay).

Left leg: orange flag with black lettering "HY"; right leg: aluminum over orange.

Originally banded: Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina,  
November 2003 (fide P. Gonzalez).

Observed: Pike's Beach, Suffolk Co., 23 July 2005  
(P. Lindsay, S. S. Mitra).

Left leg: green flag over green; right leg: aluminum over orange.  
Originally banded: Delaware Bay, spring, prior to 2003  
(fide B. Harrington).

Observed: Pike's Beach, Suffolk Co., 23 July 2005  
(P. Lindsay, S. S. Mitra).

Left leg: green flag over red; right leg: aluminum over orange.  
Originally banded: Delaware Bay, spring, prior to 2003  
(fide B. Harrington).

Observed: Pike's Beach, Suffolk Co., 11 August 2005 (J. Fritz).  
Left leg: orange flag with black lettering "RP"; right leg: green.  
Originally banded: Argentina (fide B. Harrington).

### **Ruddy Turnstone**

Observed: Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk Co., 5 Sep 2005  
(P. Lindsay, S. S. Mitra).

Left leg: green flag over orange; right leg: aluminum over white.  
Originally banded: Delaware side of Delaware Bay, 2003  
(fide W. Pitts).



**New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.**  
**58th Annual Meeting**  
**Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY**  
**September 24, 2005**

The 58th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA), hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed there were 44 delegates and proxies from 26 clubs, and a quorum was present. Tim Baird made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2004 Annual Meeting and Jane Graves seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report by Kevin McGowan:**

Because North Fork Audubon Society did not renew and ESF Birding Club dissolved, we currently have 48 member clubs. Dick Sloss, who was a former president, and Bob Miller, who was a Director, passed away. Our total membership currently stands at 669, including 54 life members. Some of our activities for the past year include finishing the supplemental sixth Atlas field season, appointment of Andy Guthrie to NYSARC, sending back issues of *The Kingbird* to an internet abstracting service (BIOSIS), offering discounted subscriptions to Birds of North America Online to our individual members, and initiating New York eBird for use in data collection. Kevin stated NYSOA continues to be a vital and active organization.

**Reports and Elections:**

Brenda Best reported that we currently have 615 annual members and 54 life members. Over half of our annual members have joined since 1995.

John Ozard, the representative from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), gave updates on 16 different projects related to birds, including an extensive literature review of shorebird conservation biology, mapping grassland bird habitat, Common Loon satellite telemetry, marsh bird censusing, and monitoring Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, and Bald Eagle breeding.

The Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2004, was issued and Bill Reeves discussed the various funds and our income and expenses. The Auditing Committee Report was presented and indicates that our statements present fairly our financial condition.

Valerie Freer reported that there are more species per block in the second Atlas than the first. Lots of changes are being noted and analyzed. Kim Corwin and Kevin McGowan are co-editors. Artwork is exceptional. We are still on target for publication in Fall 2007. The Atlas website will be maintained by NYSDEC "forever."

Shai Mitra has completed his first year as editor of *The Kingbird*, but states he is still learning the technical aspects of electronic files. There were also some problems with the June 2005 issue. He has a large set of diverse and excellent articles from which to choose, and scientific articles are peer reviewed which strengthens the quality of the publication.

Tim Baird advises the newsletter, *New York Birders*, is more about the bird-“ers” than birds and would like to get more people involved in submitting articles. Speakers Bureau is an ongoing project and field trips sponsored by member clubs will now be advertised.

Carena Pooth reported on the various updates and changes to our website, including the addition of the Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) reports database. Usage has grown and spikes were seen when the CBC calendar and the NYSARC reports went live.

Letters were written to NYSDEC regarding deer and their impact on habitat, ATV use on state lands, and oil/gas exploration on state lands. The Conservation committee continues to monitor wind power, but a “position” has not been finalized for NYSOA.

Shai Mitra reports NYSARC held an annual meeting in 2004 and another is scheduled for 2005. Andy Guthrie is now serving on the committee. The online report form is being used. The review list of species will be changing and this will be in the September issue of *The Kingbird*.

Andy Mason reports that two annual awards will not be given this year. We received no nominations for the Lillian C. Stoner award, and the Eaton Birding Society advises the Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award is suspended for this year only. There were also no club grants given this year. Certificates of Appreciation were given during the year to:

- George J. Marleau for his dedicated efforts on behalf of nesting Peregrine Falcons in Syracuse
- Jay and Stanley Domin of Dutchess County for maintaining excellent habitats for a variety of birds and for their hospitality to the birders observing them
- Seymour Schiff and Alvin Wollin for their long and dedicated service to NYSOA and to ornithology in New York as Region 10 editors of *The Kingbird*
- Vicki Rothman for her cooperation, hospitality and able assistance to visiting birders who came to see the Lark Sparrow in her yard
- Jerry LeTendre for his cooperation, hospitality, and able assistance to visiting birders viewing the Great Gray Owl at Cape Vincent

Bill Ostrander presented the report from the Nominating Committee. Nominated for 2005/06 officers are President - Andrew Mason; Vice President - William Ostrander; Corresponding Secretary - Timothy H. Baird; Recording Secretary - Brenda Best; and Treasurer - William B. Reeves. Nominated for two-year terms as Directors for the 2007 class are Phyllis Jones, Berna Lincoln, and Robert Mauceli. There were no nominations from the floor. Dorothy Crumb made a motion that the secretary cast one vote for the entire slate as read, and Barbara Butler seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Lee reported on four field trips that were held before he resigned as Field Trip Chair: Franklin Mountain for Golden Eagles, Niagara River for Little and California Gulls, Cape Vincent/Amherst Island for Great Gray Owl, and the Adirondacks for Spruce Grouse.

Phyllis Jones has three boxes of items to go through to check for duplicates before submitting them to the archives. Items are stored at Cornell; they own our archives and take care of it forever. Phyllis asks that documents from our outgoing president be given to her.

Berna Lincoln stated that about 80 people, some of whom were new, participated in the County Listing program last year.

Our next Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2006, in Oneonta, hosted by the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society. We do not have a host club for 2007 or 2008.

There were no resolutions presented.

The Nominating Committee for 2006 consisting of Joan Collins (chair), Sue Adair, and Bob Mauceli was elected unanimously after a motion by Jane Graves, seconded by Andy Mason. With a motion by John Confer seconded by Andy Mason, the Auditing Committee for 2006 consisting of Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo, and Emanuel Levine was re-elected unanimously.

#### **Old Business:**

The issue of governance and voting rights of individual members was discussed. Clubs have not been advised of the proposals suggested by the ad hoc committee. These will be written up and put in *New York Birders*. The board has taken no action but has not dismissed the issue. Feedback from clubs and further discussion is needed. It is club delegates who will be deciding this issue. It was also proposed to ask individual members if this issue was important to them. In general, communication with clubs needs to improve. Board Meeting minutes could be placed on the website or sent to clubs.

eBird is moving forward now that Version 2 is available.

**New Business:**

Barbara Butler reported on a new trend seen in Dutchess County of clearing out the under story of any trees/brush with a diameter smaller than 8" and asked if this was being seen in other parts of the state.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Mauceli, seconded by Berna Lincoln, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Awards presented during the Saturday evening banquet:

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following Atlas Regional Coordinators: Michael Bochnik, Barbara Butler, Kim Corwin, Chad Covey, Dorothy Crumb, Renee Davis, Bob Donnelly, Ken Feustel, Mark Fitzsimmons, Valerie Freer, Jane Graves, Bard Prentiss, Bob Long, John M. C. Peterson, Bill Purcell, Dick Rosche, Dave Russell, Tom Salo, Dominic Sherony, Bob Spahn, and Carol Weiss.

John J. Elliott Award, given for the best article contributed to *The Kingbird* each year, was awarded to Kevin J. McGowan and Robert G. Spahn for their article entitled, "A Probable Couch's Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Livingston Co., New York" which appeared in *The Kingbird* Vol. 54 No. 1.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Best  
Recording Secretary





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON - SUMMER 2005

**Andrew Guthrie**

60 Gold Street, Greenwich, CT 06830

andyguthrie@earthlink.net

## THE WEATHER

Statewide, summer 2005 was the second hottest on record since the National Weather Service began tracking temperature data in 1895, trailing only the summer of 1949, which was a tenth of a degree warmer. The average temperature for the period was 70.5°, almost 4° above the 111-year average. June was particularly hot and was the second warmest on record (behind, again, June 1949). Both July and August were well above average statewide and ranked in the top ten warmest such months. The overall trend was noted virtually statewide, with most regions reporting record or near record temperatures. Only coastal Region 10 enjoyed near normal temperatures in June and July, although August there was about 4° above normal. Precipitation trended slightly above average statewide in each of the three months, although there was some regional variance. Much of the precipitation occurred in strong storms, noted particularly in Regions 7 and 8 in July, and in the remnants of Hurricanes Cindy in July and Katrina in August. Several regions commented that it was a good year for fruit and nut crops, although in some cases persistent drought withered fruit crops during the season.

## BREEDING BIRDS

Typical for the season, breeding birds were a focus in many of the regions, although there was a decrease in reports compared to the past several years due to the winding down of coverage for the Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 project.

One of the most interesting phenomena this summer was the increased presence of several grassland breeding species, particularly Dickcissel and Sedge Wren. These two species were both noted in good numbers in Regions 1 and 8, and high numbers of Sedge Wrens were also present in Region 6. Sedge Wrens were reported at four locations in Region 1, the highest number of reports in many years, and were “unusually common” at Fort Drum in Region 6, the second consecutive year that good numbers have been reported there. Interestingly, in the last two years territorial birds arrived at Fort Drum in June, rather than in late July or August typical of the recent past. Sedge Wrens were also noted in northwestern Region 8, where young were successfully fledged. Small colonies of Dickcissels were noted in Regions 1, where up to five singing males and a female were noted, and at the same location as Region 8’s Sedge Wrens, where at least five adults were present and four young fledged. Birders flocking to Region 8 for these species located at least three Henslow’s Sparrows nearby, in a location not previously known for the species. The increased numbers of Dickcissels and Sedge Wrens might be due to early season droughts in their core breeding range in the Midwest, as noted in the Region 1 report; a number of Midwestern states experienced below average or well below average precipitation this spring.

In Region 6, increased coverage due to two grassland bird research and monitoring projects was credited for this season's higher than usual reports of Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Upland Sandpiper. Apart from coverage related to the projects, these species remained scarce elsewhere in the Region. Upland Sandpipers were notable elsewhere in the state as well. The first Essex County record for Atlas 2000 was recorded in Region 7, while last-minute Atlas-ing in Region 8 contributed to an excellent number of sightings there, including many from previously unreported locations. Sadly, as noted in the Regional report, many of these welcome records of grassland breeders are from unprotected lands, vulnerable to the same development pressures that led to the demise of the Upland Sandpiper populations in the Coxsackie Flats region of Region 8, once a stronghold. Beyond the reports mentioned above, Henslow's Sparrow continued to decline; there were small numbers, and fewer than last year, reported from Region 1; only one report in Region 2; and none, again, in Region 5.

A singing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found in Region 7; a report of this unusual mid-summer record has been submitted to NYSARC. Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows were both reported from Dutchess County in Region 9. Clay-colored Sparrows are becoming more regular, and therefore somewhat less newsworthy, but were still well-reported over most of the state, with records from seven of the ten reporting regions. Fort Drum continues to host the highest numbers; up to 16 singing males were reported there in June. In Region 1 and Region 2 Clay-colored Sparrows were apparently paired with Chipping Sparrows, not very surprising considering the rapid expansion of the breeding population over the past several years.

Breeding warbler highlights included a pair of Yellow-throated Warblers which fledged two young at Alleghany State Park in Region 1, the first Region 5 breeding record of Palm Warbler, and the first Sullivan County breeding record of Northern Parula in Region 9. It was a good year for Yellow-breasted Chats in western New York. Region 1 had chats at five separate locations, the most reports in many years, and an adult with a brood patch was accompanied by two hatch-year birds in Region 2, an unusual breeding record for the Lake Ontario plain.

It was an excellent year for both cuckoo species, although the ratio between Black-billed and Yellow-billed varied across the state. Good numbers were attributed at least in part to outbreaks of tent caterpillars.

There were scattered finch reports this summer. Outside the main breeding range in Region 7, small numbers of Pine Siskins were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3 and 6. There was at least one report of Red Crossbill from each of Regions 1 through 8; breeding was noted in Region 4. The Region 8 report details some interesting observations that may represent different subspecies, a determination that can only be made with some difficulty. Single Evening Grosbeaks were reported outside the Adirondacks in early June in Region 5 and late August in Region 9. In Region 7, a female was recaptured at a banding station eight years after being banded in the summer of 1997.

Breeding Bird Atlas work in Region 6 turned up a good numbers of boreal breeding species, including American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray Jay, Palm Warbler and Lincoln's

Sparrow. Apart from Gray Jay and Palm Warbler, most species were well represented in the Tug Hill region, including the sole American Three-toed Woodpecker in the Region. On a down note, despite coverage of historical breeding sites for Spruce Grouse, none were found this summer. As usual, the only Spruce Grouse reports were from Region 7. Ruffed Grouse barely kept pace in the regional report count, as the species was only mentioned in Region 4. Of course, it occurs in a number of additional regions, but is declining in many areas, and it's difficult to tell where the lack of reports represents unreported birds as opposed to absent birds. For the third consecutive year, Gray Partridge was not reported anywhere in the state. From Region 8 comes a cautionary tale of the confusion caused by releases, intentional or otherwise, of Northern Bobwhite, a species which hasn't occurred wild in the Region for a number of years. Similar confusion can be caused even in the species' remaining breeding range on Long Island, where the declining population is supplemented by some unquantifiable number of releases; this problem also exists for the non-native but established Ring-necked Pheasant.

Miscellaneous reports included a smattering of unusual warblers in Region 1 in addition to those listed above, including an unprecedented summer record of Louisiana Waterthrush in Niagara County and a territorial male Lawrence's Warbler. A Nashville Warbler found at a new location in Region 1 for the second consecutive summer was attributed to habitat succession in the Region. A discussion of the affects of successional growth and microhabitat change on individual species is included in the Region 4 report. An interesting single-site snapshot of long-term breeding activity was mentioned in the Region 4 report as well, where Chimney Swift was recorded breeding in a silo for the 53rd consecutive year. Only one pair has been recorded at the site for the past three years, down from 10-12 pairs in the past. The most unusual breeding record in Region 10 was that of a newly-fledged Golden-crowned Kinglet found on 16 July in Nassau County. This is apparently the first breeding record on Long Island since 1963, and is in line with the species' tendency to nest in spruce plantations outside of its normal breeding range. The Region 10 report also contains a disheartening account of the continuing decline of a number of breeding species at one of the Region's prime woodland habitats, emblematic of a similar decline Region-wide. As usual, there are additional nuggets of information in every Regional report, well worth reviewing in more detail.

## **WATERFOWL/WATERBIRDS**

Counts of Double-crested Cormorants this summer provided evidence that controversial control measures implemented by NYS DEC have had a tangible affect, as summer maxima were down in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Disturbing news was relayed about other colonial nesting waterbirds as well. In Region 1, many Common Terns perished as the Buffalo Harbor colony suffered from the extreme heat, above 100°F on the hottest days, and a number of fledgling chicks in the small colony at Tonowanda died on 4 July when they jumped into the water after fireworks were launched from a nearby barge. In Region 2, the maximum count of Caspian Terns was only half of typical numbers, and the maximum of three juveniles is also a concern.

There were some encouraging signs. Caspian Tern nests increased in Region 7 from five pairs last year to 18 pairs this summer, and the count on Little Galloo Island increased from 600 adults and young in 2004 to 1788 nests there this year. Common Terns had successful nesting seasons in Region 5 and Region 6. Up to 41 Black Terns counted in Region 7, with up to seven immatures, was positive given the decline of the species in the state. In Region 10, six pairs of Roseate Terns were found breeding on marsh islands in Great South Bay, close to the former Cedar Beach colony which had disbanded about a decade ago. Regular summer sightings of Roseate Terns in the area had led to speculation that the birds from that colony had relocated nearby, but no nests had been found prior to this summer. Also in Region 10, two very large colonies of Black Skimmers had a successful, albeit late, season; colonies of approximately 500 adults at Lido Beach and approximately 1000 adults at Breezy Point contained very small young as late as the end of August.

Migrant larids included the arrival of southbound Parasitic Jaegers on Lake Ontario at the end of the period. On 31 August, one Parasitic and two unidentified jaegers were seen at Wilson in Region 1, and on the same date an exceptional summer count of 16 Parasitic Jaegers was noted at Fair Haven in Region 5. These events may well represent birds slightly displaced by the remains of Hurricane Katrina passing through the region. Small numbers of Parasitic Jaegers seen along south shore of Long Island during June and July likely represent a mix of northbound migrants and summering subadults or nonbreeding birds. As usual for the season, gulls were relatively absent, apart from breeding species. Strays included Bonaparte's Gulls in Regions 3, 9 and 10. Wandering terns included inland records of Forster's Tern in Region 3 and Region 9, and Common and Caspian Terns in Region 9. Black Terns were relatively widespread this summer away from breeding locations; 17 were noted on 31 August at Wilson in Region 1 and two were seen off of Rye in Region 9 on 15 June. Black Terns were also "unusually numerous and widespread" in Region 10, with reports coming from multiple locations on the south shore of Long Island. Regional editors Mitra & Lindsay suggest that the high numbers this year may reflect failed breeding efforts.

Both of New York's non-native nesting swans were noted again this summer. Mute Swan, a common and generally unwelcome breeder downstate, continues to expand upstate. They nested at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 for the first time in at least a decade, and were described as "out of control" in Region 2. Trumpeter Swans were noted in Region 2, where the continuing pair in Wayne County raised 3-4 young, and also bred for at least the tenth consecutive year at Perch River WMA in Region 6. Another pair noted this summer in St. Lawrence County in Region 6 has apparently been present for several years at the location.

As typically occurs, a variety of out-of-season, summering waterfowl was reported from across the state. The most unusual records include a Tundra Swan in Region 1; a lingering King Eider in Region 5; White-winged Scoters in Regions 7 and 9; and a head-scratch-inducing Barnacle Goose that spent most of July and August at Gilgo, Suffolk County in Region 10. See the regional reports for more details on these and other unseasonal records. As noted in the Tundra Swan account in Region 1, these birds may represent unhealthy or injured individuals (or, like the Barnacle Goose, possible escapes from captivity).

Comments on the status of breeding waterbirds included a gloomy statement on Common Moorhen in Region 2, where this formerly locally common breeder is now "virtually absent" and "obviously in trouble". In Region 3, a near absence of cattails at the main pool at Montezuma NWR was thought to be responsible for low numbers of breeding ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, and American Coots. A positive note came from Region 4, where Common Mergansers may have expanded sufficiently to require some birds to breed in relatively marginal habitat. A count of 40 Blue-winged Teal at Hamlin Beach in late August is a good count by recent standards and may represent nearby breeding success.

Sandhill Cranes nested in Savannah in Region 2 again this year, with two good-sized young observed. These birds were likely also responsible, at least in part, for reports of up to three Sandhills nearby in Region 3. Two were also found in Region 7. For the second consecutive season, Sandhill wasn't the only crane species in the state. One of the three Whooping Cranes that passed through Region 1 in the spring showed up in mid-August in Lewis County, Region 6. The bird, identified once again by its color bands, did not linger.

## RAPTORS

The expansion of Merlin as a breeder in the state continued with Region 1 recording its first nesting records. The first documented nest was, surprisingly, in the City of Buffalo. A second nest was found this summer in Salamanca, where a rescued nestling raptor, initially thought to be an American Kestrel, fledged out as a Merlin. Following up, a local birder found an adult and one fledged young at the original site. Local residents there indicated the birds had nested at that location last summer as well. In Region 3, a pair of Merlins began to nest near the business section of the Village of Horseheads but the attempt failed after the crow's nest they had adopted suffered wind damage. Region 4 had a successful nesting for the third consecutive year as a pair and one young were found in Cortland, and Merlins also nested in Regions 5 and 6. Peregrine Falcons were reported breeding in five regions. Osprey continues to increase as a breeder as well; in Region 2, pairs were seen placing sticks on cell towers in Greece and Parma, perhaps indicating future breeding attempts. The early returns on the fall hawk flight in Region 2 were dismal - this August was the worst on record. The seasonal total of Red-tailed Hawks was less than what is usually counted on several days during a typical fall, and all other species were noted in record low numbers. Bald Eagle reports were widespread, with sightings reported in eight of the ten Kingbird regions. In several locations, summering adults were found away from known nesting sites. A maximum of 17 Bald Eagles at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 on 19 June was an impressive early summer count. Golden Eagles were reported multiple times in Regions 5 and 6 during the summer. The most intriguing of these was a series of sightings of an adult from Fort Drum in Region 6, although the sightings were infrequent enough that it was considered unlikely this represented a breeding attempt at the location.

## SHOREBIRDS

The generally dry summer weather produced mixed results for shorebirds. In some regions, including Regions 1, 5, and 9, dryer than normal conditions led to an increase in numbers and variety. Elsewhere, conditions were so dry that shorebird numbers were lower than usual. Hurricane Katrina produced fewer grounded shorebirds than expected in Region 2, but did drop a good number of birds in Regions 1 and 7. There were multiple reports of Wilson's Phalarope, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper and Willet from upstate regions, as well as Red Knot and Red-necked Phalarope. The only Ruff was found in Region 7, and record early Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in Region 5 on 13 August. A number of local or county firsts were among the 18 species found in Region 9, many at Swinging Bridge Reservoir in Sullivan County, which had much lower than normal water levels. County firsts there included Sanderling, Stilt Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Elsewhere in Region 9, a Willet in Yonkers on 4 July was a first for that city, and another Willet was found in Rye. Higher than normal numbers of several species over-summered in Region 10, including Red Knot, Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied Plover, and Dunlin. It's not unusual, given sufficient scrutiny, to find color-banded shorebirds in gathering flocks on Long Island's south shore, and, indeed, a Red Knot found at Cupsogue on 29 June had been banded earlier this year on 2 June in Delaware Bay.

## RARITIES

A number of rarities spiced up the summer's birding, in addition to those mentioned above. American White Pelicans were widespread, perhaps stemming from disruptions to breeding colonies. Two were seen in Region 1, as many as four were present in Region 3, with at least one lingering at Montezuma NWR through the season, and Region 5 had three sightings. Also in Region 1, Batavia Wastewater Treatment plant hosted an Eared Grebe for the sixth consecutive summer. A number of highlight rarities in Region 2 included the third August Great Cormorant record in the last ten years; second Regional records of Eurasian Collared-Dove and White Ibis, an adult at Braddock Bay; a subadult Mississippi Kite; and a rare summer record of Fish Crow. In Region 9, 15 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found off of Rye on 15 June, along with a Manx Shearwater, the third consecutive year the latter species has been recorded in that part of Long Island Sound. The Wilson's Storm-Petrels, present in varying numbers for about a week, represented the first occurrence in the Region in over 70 years. Region 10 hosted a variety of unusual birds. Brown Pelicans were present in small numbers, typical for recent years. More exciting were two reports of frigatebirds, presumably Magnificent, from eastern Long Island in late July and early August. These reports mirror multiple photo-documented sightings from Massachusetts to the north, New Jersey to the south, and elsewhere in the Northeast; whether due to the extreme tropical storm activity of the season or some other reason, there were evidently a number of frigatebirds in the northwest Atlantic this summer. A second Mississippi Kite for the season, this one an adult, was found in Staten Island. Following several sightings in the spring, another Wilson's Plover was reported from Tobay Beach; hopefully documentation for the record will be

submitted to provide further evidence of what was a very good year for the species. Two species of rare terns, Arctic Tern and Sandwich Tern, also appeared on Long Island's south shore this summer, continuing a pattern of occurrence over the last several years. A one-year old Arctic Tern was found near Moriches Inlet, Suffolk County, and seen by several observers during early July. Careful observers have been able to find similarly aged Arctic Terns almost annually by scrutinizing flocks of medium-sized terns. In a similar vein, there were a series of Sandwich Tern reports from late July and August. Previously known almost entirely as a hurricane-driven vagrant, recent years have found more records less directly tied to summer storms, perhaps representing an expansion or increase of post-breeding dispersal. This year's birds, unfortunately, did not linger long at any one location. Two rare flycatchers rounded out the rarity report from Region 10. On 23 June a Say's Phoebe was found at Jones Beach State Park, a classic rarity trap in spring as well as fall. This is the first June record of the species in the state. Earlier in the month, on 5 June, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found at Mount Loretto on Staten Island. Unfortunately, both birds were seen only on the day they were found.

### BIRD OF THE SEASON

There was no obvious, immediate choice in my mind for this summer's BOTS award. The observations listed above include a number of excellent records, but many of these were either most noteworthy on a regional basis; what I would call "mid-range" rarities (birds that turn up roughly once a year, on average); or were unsatisfying (BOTS-wise) short-term or single observer records. One exception might be the Jones Beach Say's Phoebe from Region 10; notable in the state at any time of year, this record is doubly unusual by virtue of the date, the first spring or summer record statewide. After some deliberation, however, I choose instead a collective BOTS for the unusual Mid-Western-like concentration of grassland breeding birds in a small area in Region 8. Were it not for the diligent observations and reporting by the property owner, fortunately an active birder, these birds may have gone unnoticed. To me they are another small scale reminder of the importance of the conservation of dwindling habitats, and of the fact that, as always in birding, exciting surprises are always possible.



## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

**Mike Morgante**

59 Briar Hill Road, Orchard Park NY 14127

morgm@adelphia.net

It was the warmest June in 39 years. The average temperature was 71.8°F, 6.0° above average. Only 3.27" of rain fell, 0.55" below normal, much of which fell on the 9th and 10th. Following the persistent heat of June, July was the warmest in 50 years. The average temperature was 75.0°, 4.2° above normal. Rain was sparse, with 1.82" of precipitation, 1.32" below average. The hot weather continued in August, but there were finally some heavy rains. The average temperature was 72.8°, 3.7° above normal. There was 5.92" of precipitation, 2.05" more than usual. The remnants of Hurricane Katrina passed on 30-31 August and brought 3.0" of rain. Overall, it was the warmest summer on record in Buffalo. Weather data was excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

There were fewer summer reports of breeding birds due to the decreased coverage in the last year of Atlas 2000. However, birders didn't retire their binoculars for the summer season, as many observers tracked some rare breeding species and the shorebirding season was better than usual.

A pair of **Sedge Wrens** took up residence adjacent to a trail at Tillman WMA in Clarence. An apparently unmated male **Yellow-breasted Chat** was also present there. The combination of these very visible rare breeders, in addition to the regularly occurring Upland Sandpipers and Grasshopper Sparrows, brought many observers to this location in June. Sedge Wren was reported at three other locations, and there were four other reports of Yellow-breasted Chat, the highest number of summer reports for these species in many years.

Allegany State Park, with its high diversity of breeding songbirds, is another favorite place for birders to visit in summer. For the second year in a row, **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found nesting near the Administration Building in the Red House Section of the park. Sightings occurred throughout June, and two fledglings were observed with adults on 28 June. The park is the only place in the Region where **Northern Parulas** can regularly be found as breeders. Five were found there on 5 June, a good count for this rare breeder. Just outside of the park on the Allegheny Indian Reservation, a **Worm-eating Warbler** remained through June after first being observed in mid-May. The presence of a mate could not be determined.

Atlasing efforts turned up some other good warbler finds. During a block-busting trip to Royalton Ravine Park, Willie D'Anna and Bill Watson were shocked to hear a persistently singing **Louisiana Waterthrush**. While this species is locally common throughout the southern portion of the Region, it was without precedent in Niagara County in summer. Also in Niagara County, **Nashville Warbler** was found for the second consecutive summer though at a new location. These findings are indicative of the aging, successional growth in much of the county. Richard Rosche found a territorial male "**Lawrence's**" **Warbler** in the Town of Independence, Allegany County. This hybrid is still rare, especially for the location. **Pine Warblers**, continue to increase as breeders



throughout the Region. and several observers commented that **Prairie Warblers** are increasing locally. **Prothonotary Warblers** continue to be found only at Tonawanda WMA.

The **Merlins** nesting on the west side of Buffalo were successful, as three young fledged on 14 July. The birds were very visible throughout the summer. Alec Humann indicated that their primary diet consisted of House Sparrows. This was the first documented nesting of this species in the Region. In July, Tim Baird reported the **second Merlin nest**. Ms. Connie Bierfelt found a down-covered bird on her backyard lawn in Salamanca that she thought was a kestrel. She took the bird to Dr. Seleen at the Jamestown Veterinary Hospital, who raised it. When the bird feathered out, it was identified as a Merlin. Baird was notified and visited the yard in late July where he found what he believed to be the female and one other fledged young. Ms. Bierfelt indicated that the birds nested in her yard last summer as well.

**Peregrine Falcons** were once again successful in nesting in downtown Buffalo. Four chicks fledged between 18 and 21 June. The falcons were very visible throughout downtown Buffalo this summer.

NYSDEC implemented a program to reduce the number of Double-crested Cormorants in the Niagara River area. Efforts in previous years were limited to nest reduction at Motor Island and Strawberry Island, in part to protect the other colonial waterbird nesting species. Bird reduction was part of this year's program, and staff shot several hundred cormorants in early June. It is notable that this summer's maximum of 681 was lower than the summer maxima from the last few years.

The nesting success of Common Terns at the Buffalo Harbor colony was decreased this year due to the heat. Temperatures of the break wall surface exceeded 100°F on the hottest days, and many of the larger chicks perished. Fledgling chicks were also lost at the small colony at the Tonawanda water intake on the Niagara River after the 4th of July fireworks were launched from a barge placed adjacent to the intake. The tern fledglings jumped in the water and drowned.

Shorebird habitat was better than usual at Oak Orchard WMA, Tonawanda WMA and Woodlawn Beach SP, resulting in many reports and some uncommon to rare species. Goose Pond, also known as Stafford Pond, at Oak Orchard WMA held the most shorebirds, with occasionally as many as 200 present. The highlight at this location was a **Wilson's Phalarope** on 20 August. A **Whimbrel** was unusual inland at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge on 28 August. A **Western Sandpiper** was documented on two occasions at Woodlawn Beach SP and a **Willet** was also observed there.

Increased numbers of shorebirds were found after passage of the Hurricane Katrina remnants. Good local counts of Sanderlings were made at Woodlawn and Dunkirk Harbor. Brett Ewald observed a number of shorebirds while lake watching at Lake Ontario, with the highlight of four **godwits**, unidentified to species because of the distance, but highly likely Hudsonian given the number, date and location. He also saw a **Parasitic Jaeger**, two unidentified jaegers and 17 **Black Terns** on 31 August.

There were some tardy spring passerine migrants that extended into June. Betsy Brooks saw a Blackpoll Warbler and two Bay-breasted Warblers, record late, on 11 June. A Yellow-breasted Chat in Wilson on 13 June was considered by the observers to be a late migrant. The first notable days of passerine migration in late summer were 17 and 19 August, when a good diversity of migrants was noted at several locations.

A group of **Dickeissels** was an unexpected find on remote, private property in Somerset on 20 June. At least five males and one female were conservatively counted, making it the second highest summer count in the Region. The males were singing nearly continuously throughout the morning. There was a modest increase in sightings to the west in Ohio and Michigan and also at least two sightings in Ontario, likely indicative of roaming prospective breeders rather than range expansion. Such extralimital occurrences are often associated with unfavorable environmental conditions (i.e. drought) in the primary breeding range.

Two **American White Pelicans** were observed flying southwest over the Lake Erie shoreline in Silver Creek during the evening of 20 June. The birds were not found despite searches along the shore in subsequent days. An **Eared Grebe** was found at Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant for the sixth consecutive summer. Other highlights for the season included: **Tundra Swan**, **Clay-colored Sparrow** and **Pine Siskin**.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Connie Adams, Robert Andrle, Tim Baird, Connie Bierfelt, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Melissa Coniglio, Willie D'Anna, Dean DiTommaso, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Alec Humann, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Tim Horst, Dave Junkin, Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Don Roberson, Richard Rosche, John Thill, William Watson, John Welte, Jordan Whitney (JWh), Peter Yoerg.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP —Allegany SP CATT; BuSP — Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP — Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; DH — Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; INWR — Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; NF — Niagara Falls NIAG; NR — Niagara R; OOWMA — Oak Orchard WMA GENE; SPNS — Sinking Ponds NS, E Aurora ERIE; TBNP —Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tift NP — Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tillman WMA —Tillman WMA ERIE; TWMA —Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WoBSP —Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE; WTSP —Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

## **WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES**

**Mute Swan:** n WTSP thru (BE), only one cygnet fledged this year.

**Tundra Swan:** Somerset NIAG 20 Jun (MM), very rare in summer, injured?

**Am. Wigeon:** Buffalo NR 12 Jun; Clarence ERIE 19 Jun; 4 OOWMA 23 Jul; only reports.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr OOWMA 14 Aug.

**N. Shoveler:** 2 BWWTP 4 Jun; max 5 BWWTP 15 Aug.

**N. Pintail:** TWMA 20 Aug; max 23 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug; only reports.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 9 BWWTP 15 Aug.

**Redhead:** 4 TWMA 4 Jul, only report.

**Lesser Scaup:** 2 BWWTP 4 Jun, only report.

**Long-tailed Duck:** DH 31 Jul (DD!), rare in summer.

**Com. Merganser:** 7 Sheridan CHAU 21 Jun (WW); BuSP 24 Jun (WW); max 18 NF 13 Aug (BK).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 OOWMA 4 Jun (WW), late.

**Ruddy Duck:** 33, 72, 95 BWWTP 4 Jun, 16 Jul, 15 Aug, fewer than last summer; TWMA 12 Aug (TO).

**Com. Loon:** 2 Wilson NIAG 4 Jun (WD, BP); Buffalo ERIE 11, 12 Jun (MM), unusual location for date; AISP 31 Jul (TB); Wilson NIAG 31 Aug (BE).

**EARED GREBE:** BWWTP 15 Aug (WW!), 6th straight summer and nearly annual since mid 1990s at this location.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** 2 Silver Creek CHAU 20 Jun (JWh), observed flying southwest along L Erie shore, very rare in summer.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 286 n NR various locations Jun (WW), NYSDEC implemented nest and bird reduction at Motor I and Strawberry I NR; max 681 BuSP 23 Aug (WW).

**Am. Bittern:** TWMA 14 Aug (STO), only report.

**Least Bittern:** INWR 16, 23 Jul (JP, WD), only reports.

**Great Egret:** Alfred ALLE 4 Jun (EB); 41 Motor I NR 19 Jul (WW), continued growth at nesting colony; max 47, 55 INWR 14, 19 Aug (BK, KF).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 3, 1 Wilson 9 Jun, 31 Jul; 2 TWMA 2 Jul; Lancaster ERIE 10 Jul; only reports away from NR.

## **HAWKS — ALCIDS**

**Osprey:** Tillman WMA 10 Jun; BuSP 8 Jul; Grand I ERIE 3 Aug; SPNS 8-16 Aug; Amherst ERIE 24 Aug; only reports away from nesting areas.

**Bald Eagle:** ad SPNS 14 Jun (LH); im WoBSP 10 Jul; im Lackawanna ERIE 13 Jul; Hanover CHAU (TM); max 7 im, 8 im Sheridan CHAU 14, 31 Aug (DN); Bliss WYOM 28 Aug (DJ); reports away from nesting areas.

**N. Goshawk:** AISP 3 Jul (PH), only report.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Tiffit NP 25 Aug (JP, WW), unusual location.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Wilson NIAG 5 Jun, late migrant; arr juv INWR 22 Aug, ph.

**Merlin:** 2 ad, 3 fl Buffalo ERIE thru (AH!), fledged 14 Jul; n, 2 ad Salamanca CATT 29 Jul (CB, TB!), 2nd nest located in Reg; 3 Buffalo ERIE 29 Jul, arrival at SUNY Buffalo roosting area.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 ad, 4 fl Buffalo ERIE thru, frequently seen near nesting area; NF 3 Jun; im OOWMA 20, 28 Aug (WD!, PY); Grand I ERIE 22 Aug (SO).

**Com. Moorhen:** 2 OOWMA 4 Jun; 9 TWMA 4 Jul; ad, 1 ad, 6 yg BWWTP 16 Jul; traditional locations.

**Am. Coot:** 3 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 12 Jun, only report.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr OOWMA 14 Aug; 9 Porter NIAG 31 Aug; max 26 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr TWMA 27 Aug; max 13 Porter NIAG, 3 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr WoBSP 15 Jul; max 16 BWWTP 15 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 OOWMA 16 Jul.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 2 TWMA 2 Jul; max 60 OOWMA 15 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Little Valley CATT 9 Jul; max 10 OOWMA 20 Aug.  
**Willet:** WoBSP 14 Aug (BK), rare.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** INWR 4 Jun (JW); Colden ERIE 7 Jun (JL); 3, 4 Tillman WMA 12, 27 Jun (PY, JP), traditional location; Somerset NIAG 25 Jun (WD).  
**Whimbrel:** INWR 28 Aug (SO), rare, unusual inland.  
**GODWIT sp:** 4 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug (BE), migrating over L Ontario.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr OOWMA 31 Jul; BWWT 15 Aug; 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 20 Aug; max 16 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug (BE), migrants over L Ontario.  
**Sanderling:** arr DH 25 Jul; TWMA & OOWMA 14 Aug (STO), inland reports uncommon; 40 WoBSP (MM), 43 DH (DN), max 44 Wilson NIAG (BE) 31 Aug; high numbers tied to hurricane passage.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr INWR 17 Jul.  
**WESTERN SANDPIPER:** juv WoBSP 14, 22 Aug (BK!, DD!), rare.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr TWMA 2 Jul; max 50 INWR 20 Aug; 31 Tift NP 25 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr WoBSP 18 Aug; 4 Porter NIAG 31 Aug (WD, BP); only reports.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr OOWMA 14 Aug; 3 WoBSP 15-22 Aug; 3 OOWMA 27 Aug; 2 DH 28, 31 Aug; Wilson NIAG 31 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 18 OOWMA 7 Aug; 35 OOWMA 15 Aug; max 60 Porter NIAG 31 Aug (BE).  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr TWMA 17 Jul; 1, 12 OOWMA 31 Jul, 15 Aug (WW).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 37 INWR complex 17 Jul (WD, DD).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 6 OOWMA 14 Aug.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** OOWMA 20 Aug

(BP), uncommon.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** Wilson NIAG 31 Aug (BE), few reported in summer.  
**jaeger sp.:** 2 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug (BE), rarely reported in summer.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** DH 21 Jun (WW), unusual for date; 2 BWWT 15 Aug; max 225 WoBSP 31 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** Buffalo NR 12 Jun; TBNP 25 Jun; 2 TWMA 17 Jul; max 14 DH 31 Jul, many reports in late Jul and Aug.  
**Com. Tern:** nesting success decreased due to warm weather, *intro*; 151 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug (BE).  
**Forster's Tern:** 2, 3 WoBSP 18, 27 Aug (DD, MM); 2 DH 29 Aug (DN); only reports.  
**Black Tern:** 10 INWR 4 Jun; 15 TWMA 4 Jul (PY); max 17 Wilson NIAG 31 Aug (BE), good count for L Ontario migrants.

#### PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 5 INWR 6 Jun; 5 NIAG 11 Jun; 5 E Youngstown BBS 12 Jun (WD); excellent showing; increasing in NIAG.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** Buffalo ERIE 14 Jul (JT), records are now scarce from former(?) breeding area; arr 1, max 10 Amherst ERIE 12, 28 Aug; 6 other reports.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2 TBNP thru; W Seneca ERIE 19 Jun; Silver Creek CHAU 10 Aug thru; Hamburg ERIE 16 Aug; Brant ERIE 20 Aug; only reports.

#### FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last Cherry Creek CHAU 5 Jun (JP, TH).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last Tift NP 3 Jun (WW); arr Amherst ERIE 19 Aug (JP).  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 16 Jul; SPNS 8 Aug (LH), singing, migrant?; 5 other reports.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Wilson NIAG 17 Aug.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Eden ERIE 7 Jun (RA), good atlas find; 2 ad + 5 yg Tillman WMA 27 Jun (JP).  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr WTSP 24 Aug; GI 31 Aug.  
**Com. Raven:** 8 Bliss WYOM 28 Aug (DJ); only report away from ALLE, CATT.  
**Cliff Swallow:** continues to increase along NR and Buffalo waterfront.  
**Carolina Wren:** 9 reports.  
**Winter Wren:** 2 Sardinia ERIE 4 Jun; Villenova CHAU 11 Jun; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 18 Jun; only reports away from ALLE, CATT.  
**SEDGE WREN:** 2 Somerset NIAG 20 Jun (MM!); 2 Tillman WMA Jun (m.ob.); INWR 20 Jul (BC!); BuSP 21 Jul (BC!); very good showing.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 2, 1 Royalton NIAG 17, 29 Jun (JP), few breeding locations in NIAG.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Wilson NIAG 17 Aug.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last Wilson NIAG 4 Jun; AISP 7 Jul (PH).

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Tiff NP 25 Aug.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** OOWMA 4, 11 Jun (JW); Pendleton NIAG 11 Jun (BP, WD); only reports.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** Wilson NIAG 19 Aug, migrant, only report.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** m Independence ALLE 8 Jul (RR), rare.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 19 Aug.  
**Nashville Warbler:** Andover ALLE 10, 20 Jun (EB); Pendleton NIAG 11 Jun (BP, WD); 2 AISP 3-8 Jul (PH); TWMA 8 Aug (RR); arr Wilson NIAG 17 Aug.  
**N. Parula:** 5 AISP 5 Jun (PY), good count for rare breeder.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 19 Aug.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 19 Aug.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 1, 3 Wilson NIAG 17, 19 Aug (BP).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; Cherry Creek CHAU 5 Jun; arr 2 WTSP 24 Aug.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 17 Aug.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 19 Aug.  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** 2 ad, 2 yg AISP 28 Jun (JP! TB), same area as last summer's nest.  
**Pine Warbler:** 2 Sardinia ERIE 4 Jun (MM); 2 Sheridan CHAU 12 Jun (DN); Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 18 Jun (MM); Palmer Pond SF ALLE 11 Aug (WW, JP); 2 Orchard Park ERIE 28 Aug (MM!); increasing.  
**Prairie Warbler:** Cherry Creek CHAU 5 Jun (JP!, TH); 6 Eagle WYOM 10 Jun (MM!); only reports outside ALLE, CATT; increasing.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Ward ALLE 5 Jun; last 2 Alfred ALLE 11 Jun (EB), very late; arr Wilson NIAG 19 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** Wilson NIAG 6 Jun; last Alfred ALLE 11 Jun (EB), late; arr Wilson NIAG 17 Aug.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** no reports away from INWR or southern CATT.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** Alfred ALLE 7, 11 Jun; Almond ALLE 4 Jul; 2 Salamanca CATT 18 Jul; arr AmSP 16 Aug.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1-4 TWMA Jun (m.ob.), regular recent breeding location; TWMA 6 Aug (RR).  
**WORM-EATING WARBLER:** Allegheny Indian Reservation CATT Jun (TB, PY!), very rare in summer, in area of previous occurrences.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr SPNS 8 Aug.  
**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** Royalton NIAG 5, 17 Jun (WW), unprecedented in summer in NIAG.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Amherst ERIE  
19 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** arr Amherst ERIE  
19 Aug.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Wilson NIAG 2,  
13 Jun (BP), late migrants?; Eagle  
WYOM 10 Jun (MM); Tillman WMA 12-  
26 Jun (m.ob.); Somerset NIAG 20 Jun  
(MM); good showing.

#### TANAGERS — WEAVERS

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 3  
Andover CATT 1 Jun -24 Jul (EB);  
Wilson NIAG 2-22 Jun (WD), male sus-  
pected nesting with female Chipping; 2, 5  
Yorkshire CATT 4 Jun, 10 Jul (MM!,  
PY!); previously documented locations;  
Alfred ALLE 7 Jun (EB).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Andover ALLE 2 Jun;  
Cambria NIAG 2 Jul; Barre ORLE 2 Jul;  
2 Ashford CATT 10 Jul; only reports.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 6 Tillman  
WMA 27 Jun (WW); 2 Andover ALLE 9

Jun; Royalton NIAG 5 Jun; Eagle  
WYOM 10 Jun; Pendleton NIAG 11 Jun;  
3 Somerset NIAG 20 Jun.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 5, 3 Lancaster  
ERIE 26 Jul, 7 Aug (CA, MM),  
only location and fewer here than  
previous years.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** arr Wilson NIAG  
28 Aug (WD, BP), very early.

**DICKCISSEL:** 6 Somerset NIAG  
20 Jun (MM!), at least 5 males and 1  
female, possibly more, very rare,  
unprecedented in NIAG in summer.

**Bobolink:** max 200 OOWMA 14 Aug  
(STO).

**Orchard Oriole:** Porter NIAG 12 Jun; 2  
Somerset NIAG 20 Jun; Wilson NIAG  
20 Jun-13 Aug; continued good showing  
in NIAG.

**Red Crossbill:** Ward ALLE 10 Jul  
(EB), only report.

**Pine Siskin:** Eden ERIE 14-18 Jun  
(RA!), unusual in summer.

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

**David W. Tetlow**

79 Hogan Point Road, Hilton NY 14468

The summer of 2005 could simply be described as hot. Temperatures for June averaged 70.5°F, 4.7° above normal. It was the fifth warmest June on record. July averaged 73.0°, 2.3° above normal, and August averaged 72.8°, 3.9° above normal. Precipitation for June was 2.44", 0.92" above normal; for July 3.36", 0.43" above normal; and for August 5.10", 1.56" above normal. Precipitation on the lake plain did not mirror that of the Rochester airport. The fields were markedly dry until the remnants of Hurricane Katrina dropped 3.03" of rain on 30-31 August. Due to the summer-long drought, Katrina's rains essentially produced no ponding on area fields.

Katrina caused a minor shorebird grounding at best. Thirteen species were represented among fewer than 300 birds detected on the lakeshore. There was no grounding detected on fields in the towns of Leicester or Geneseo where one could expect such to occur. All previous recent hurricanes passing through this Region had produced at least a few records of significance. Katrina as a birding event was a bust.

The Region's food crop always seems to be a mixed bag. Contrary to what most people think, drought conditions usually produce an abundance of fruit. Along the lake plain, where drought persisted throughout the summer, the crop was plentiful. Even white pine (*Pinus strobus*) had some moderate cone production this year. This is good news for the winter season, as crossbills prefer the seeds of white pine over most others. Inland the food crop seemed somewhere between fair and good. Impressions of food crop are always subjective, owing to no real standard analysis method.

The pair of Trumpeter Swans once again nested in Wayne County, with three to four young noted. Forty Blue-winged Teal at Hamlin Beach was a good count by recent standards. Local nesting of Mute Swan and Canada Goose continues to be out of control. Summering waterfowl in the Region was, as usual, mainly on Lake Ontario, with typical species and unspectacular numbers noted. An immature **Great Cormorant** provided the third report of this species for August in the last ten years. A maximum of 165 Double-crested Cormorants on 30 August included less than ten percent immatures. This percentage was mirrored throughout the month, providing unfortunate evidence that control measures are working all too well. Fourteen Great Egrets were noted passing through the Region, with a maximum of nine at Hogan Point. An adult **WHITE IBIS** at Braddock Bay was a second Regional report.

**Mississippi Kite** was again seen in June. This is the month when most reports occur in the Region. Ospreys placing sticks on two cell towers, one in the town of Greece and one in Parma, is perhaps a sign of things to come. The August hawk flight was the worst on record. A total of 1082 Red-tailed Hawks was counted for the season. This total is usually surpassed on at least three days during the season. All other species were also noted in record low numbers, even Cooper's Hawks. The Peregrine Falcons in Rochester hatched five young again. Common Moorhen was virtually absent; this is a species obviously in trouble. The Sandhill Cranes in Savannah successfully bred again. This year the two young were observed at a size where their continued survival was likely, though we have received no specific input on that fact to date. The shorebird season was as usual mixed. Late spring flights essentially did not occur. The early summer return flight was fair. Highlights included Willet, numbers of Whimbrel, Red Knot, Wilson's Phalarope and Red-necked Phalarope. The Caspian Tern maximum of 89 stood in stark contrast to counts of typically double that number. A maximum of three juveniles is perhaps cause for concern.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** provided a second Regional report, occurring about a mile-and-a-half from the first. How long until they breed in our Region? Common Nighthawk was represented by a low maximum of ten in June, no breeding as usual and a pathetic maximum of four in August. The two Common Ravens seen at Braddock Bay in August were at an unusual location for the date for this expanding species. **Fish Crow** provided a rare summer record at Hamlin Beach. The 40 "Traill's" Flycatchers banded on 2 June would seem to indicate a

strong late spring migration, but this would be misleading. There were actually few late spring migrants noted despite the weather-induced delayed spring. Did most of the expected birds simply over fly our Region when the marginal conditions finally allowed?

Birds banded this summer on the Manitou peninsula could be described as both interesting and intriguing. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Parula and Magnolia Warbler may all have bred nearby, whereas a White-crowned Sparrow in July and another in August clearly did not. An adult Yellow-breasted Chat with a brood patch and two hatch-year birds banded provided an uncommon lake plains nesting record.

A lone Henslow's Sparrow was reported in Geneseo. This species was never abundant in our Region, but it has become borderline rare. Finally, a tower killed Indigo Bunting in downtown Rochester may very well be a record late migrant.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Pamela Brickell, Pat Buehlman, Elizabeth Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Brad Carlson, Jerry Czech, Doug Daniels, Mike Davids, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Brett Ewald, Kenny Frisch, Jim Fry, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Judy Gurley, Helen Haller, David & Vanna Harding, Jim Kimball, Tom Lathrop, Robert Mauceli, Chita & Robert McKinney, Randi Minetor, Richard O'Hara, Michael Peter, David Prill, Ed Sheidlower, Dominic Sherony, John Slowik, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Al & Di Stout, William Symonds, David Tetlow, Kathy Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Brenda Tremblay, Va Vanderschoot, David Wheeler, Martha Zettel.

### ABBREVIATIONS

BB — Braddock Bay MONR; CH — Charlotte/Ontario Beach MONR; G — Greece MONR; GE — Geneseo LIVI; H — T Hamlin MONR; HB — Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP — Hogan Pt, T Greece MONR; LSP — Letchworth SP; M — Manitou MONR; PA — T Parma MONR; PE — T Perinton MONR; R — City of Rochester MONR; S — T Savannah WAYN; SB — Sodus Bay WAYN.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 ad, 3-4 y WAYN  
4-6 Jun.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 40 HB 28 Aug.

**N. Pintail:** arr 5 HB 31 Jul.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr HB 21 Aug.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr BB 26 Aug.

**Com. Merganser:** arr 13 HB 18 Aug.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 165  
HB 30 Aug.

**GREAT CORMORANT:** 1 imm BB 4  
Aug (DT).

**Great Egret:** max 9 HP 27 Aug (DT),  
record high Reg lakeplains count.

**WHITE IBIS:** 1 ad BB 6 Aug (DT),  
2nd Reg report.

#### HAWKS—ALCIDS

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 1 imm BB  
16 Jun (DT).



**Osprey:** placing sticks on cell towers G, PA, possible future nesting sites.  
**Bald Eagle:** total 7 BB hawkwatch Aug, low.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** total 27 BB hawkwatch Aug, low.  
**N. Goshawk:** total 3 BB hawkwatch Aug.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 2 BB hawkwatch 1 Aug.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** total 23 BB hawkwatch Aug, low.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** total 1082 BB hawkwatch, low.  
**Merlin:** 1 BB 5 Jun late; 1 HB 16 Aug; 1 HB 30 Aug, becoming regular late summer.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 ad, 5 y R all season.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 2 ad & 2 y S 10 Jul.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr M 8 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr H 14 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last 2 PE 9 Jun; arr PE 18 Jul.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 S 10 Jul.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 2 HP 26 Jun.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 6 GE 18 Jul.  
**Willet:** arr 1 HP 11 Jul, record early (DT).  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 3-4 GE 18 Jul, only report.  
**Whimbrel:** arr HB 10 Jul; total 10 HB & 1B Aug; 2 SB 31 Aug.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 12 CH 7 Jun, good spring count; arr 6 H 31 Aug.  
**Red Knot:** arr HB 6 Aug (RS).  
**Sanderling:** arr 6 CH 18 Jul; only 4 HB to SB 29 Jul, worst numbers in years.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 83 PE 8 Jun; arr 2 PE 4 Jul.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr PE 30 Jun.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 4 HB 4 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr PE 4 Jul.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr S 11 Aug.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr 2 GE 14-16 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr Rush MONR 17 Jul; max 22 PE 18 Jul; 21 HB 17 Jul; good counts for recent years.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** juv S 8-11 Aug (DW, mob); juv Elba GENE 10 Aug (RS).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 4 HB 27 Aug (DT).  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr 2 HB 31 Aug.  
**Little Gull:** arr ad HB 17 Aug; imm CH 31 Aug (KG, GL).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** HB 31 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 89 SB 31 Aug; max 3 juv HB Aug, low productivity?  
**Com. Tern:** max 43 HB 16 Aug.  
**Black Tern:** 1-2 BB 17-28 Jul; no breeding recorded.

#### PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** H 1-17 Jun (DT, mob), 2nd Reg report.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 10 G 1 Jun, low; max 4 R 25 Aug, low.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 228 York LIVI 13 Aug.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** ad H 4 Aug, possible nest site.

#### FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr H 4 Aug; Port Bay WAYN 31 Aug.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last M 8 Jun; arr M 15 Aug, banded, early (C&RM).  
**"Trail's" Flycatcher:** max 40 M 2 Jun, banded.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr HB 18 Aug.  
**FISH CROW:** HB 26 Aug (DT).  
**Com. Raven:** 2 BB 11-27 Jul, unusual site for the dates.  
**Cliff Swallow:** 19 HB 22 Aug; 38 HB 28 Aug; good counts.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** M 8 July (C&RM), odd location for season, banded.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last G 4 Jun.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last 2 M 3 Jun, banded.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 3 H 31 Aug (RS), early.

#### WARBLERS

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** M 8 Aug, probable early migrant.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr G 26 Aug.  
**N. Parula Warbler:** M 11 Jul (C&RM), odd date, banded.

**Magnolia Warbler:** M 11, 15, 18 Jul (C&RM), odd dates, banded.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr G 26 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last G 10 Jun.  
**Hooded Warbler:** max 65 LSP 6 Jun, counted in field trip drive through.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last 2 G 5 Jun; arr G 22 Aug.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** ad M 21 Jun, banded at MAPS station, brood patch; 2 juv M 8 Aug (C&RM) banded, unusual breeding site.

#### TANAGERS—WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2 GE 6, 12 Jun.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** GE Jun, only report.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** last M 2 Jun.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** last M 8 Jun, late.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** M 12 Jul (C&RM); M 30 Aug (BBBO), banded; odd dates.  
**Indigo Bunting:** R 22 Jun, tower killed, late migrant?

### REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

**Bill Ostrander**

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira NY 14905  
brown\_creeper@sq23.com

Summer 2005 was the hottest on record, with temperatures exceeding 90°F on 13 days. The period from 1 July through 29 August was the driest on record. Consequently, water levels in rivers and ponds dropped and temporarily created habitat desirable to shorebirds.

Mute Swans nested at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge for the first time in at least the last decade. A Snow Goose and two Brant were among the geese at Stewart Park on 19 June. The Brant continued in that vicinity through the end of the month. Several species of diving ducks made appearances in the Region, including both Scaup species, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Red-breasted Merganser. The near absence of cattails in the main pool at Montezuma seemed to be responsible for a drop in numbers of nesting Mallards, Redheads, Ruddy Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes and American Coots.

Double-crested Cormorant numbers were down by about a third this summer from last. The dispersal of a large colony of American White Pelicans in the western US resulted in as many as four of these birds reaching the Finger Lakes Region. At least one was present through the entire season at Montezuma.

Black-crowned Night-Herons nested at Montezuma NWR and the species attained its largest number there in the past decade. No one found any southern herons wandering into the Region. Two to three Sandhill Cranes made periodic appearances in the Region's portion of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex

A pair of Merlins attempted nesting near the business section of the Village of Horseheads, but abandoned after their adopted crow's nest was damaged by high winds. Observers recorded the largest Regional summer counts of Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons at Montezuma NWR.

While May's Point pool at Montezuma NWR was completely drained and unsuitable for shorebirds, Benning Marsh, Tschache Pool and Puddler's Marsh (Montezuma Wetlands Complex) provided alternatives to migrating shorebirds. Sandpiper highlights included multiple sightings of Whimbrel, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope. Nevertheless, overall shorebird numbers reported were down, except for species with more upland tendencies.

The gull colony at Elmira was used by about 800 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls and three or four pairs of Herring Gulls. Bonaparte's Gull and Forster's Terns were the best sightings among larids, but both species have been recorded in the Region almost annually in recent summers.

Many observers reported that cuckoos were everywhere. While the reported numbers did not achieve statistical significance from last year, Yellow-billed Cuckoo numbers were up. Surprisingly, there was an almost equal and opposite change for Black-billed Cuckoo. There was no significant outbreak of gypsy moth in the Region, but eastern tent caterpillar may have helped attract the Yellow-billed Cuckoos.

Swallows were reported in large numbers at Montezuma NWR after the breeding season. The Purple Martin colony at the Refuge's Visitors' Center was very active and successful this year. In spite of West Nile Virus, observers reported more Blue Jays and American Crows this year, but fewer Fish Crows and Common Ravens.

The most interesting passerines of the season were American Pipits at Montezuma in late August, Clay-colored Sparrow at Summerhill State Forest, Henslow's Sparrow in the Finger Lakes National Forest and a possible **Lazuli Bunting** at Taughannock Falls State Park. Reported numbers of several warbler species were down from last year. There were no other identifiable trends among passerine populations.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Karen Allaben-Confer, Mike Ameigh, Mike Andersen, Bill Baker, Eric Banford, Susan Barnett, Joan Bartlett, John Baur, Mona Bearor, Fred Bertram, Ken & Lisa Blackman, Olivier Bossier, Gary Calabrese, Jerry Case, Jared Caster, Mark Chao, Gary Chapin, Lois Chaplin, Dick Clements, Linda Clougherty, Garrett Conover, Candace Cornell, Kevin Cummings, Nancy Cusumano, Mark Dettling, Susan Danskin, Nancy Dickinson, Marge DiMeo, Ryan Douglas, Melanie Driscoll, Karen Edelstein, Barbara Eden, Jesse Ellis, Steve & Susan Fast, Dick Feldman, Tom Fernandes, John & Sue Gregoire, Kevin Griffith, Seth Guikema, Bob Guthrie, Scott Haber, Dave & Vanna Harding, Meena Haribal, Mike Harvey, Anne Havelin, Suzanne Henderson, Barbara Herrgesell, Asher Hockett, Julie Horton, Isabel Hull, Paul Hurtado, Larry & Sara Jane Hymes, Carolyn Jacobs, D. M. Kennedy, Geo Kloppel, Gary Kohlenberg, Mindy LaBranche, Leona Lauster,

Pauline Layton, Dan Lebbin, Tim Lenz, Susanne Lorbeer, Ellen Luce, Bob Maucelli, Elaina McCartney, Jay & Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matt Medler, Nari Mistry, Ann Mitchell, Dave Nutter, Jim Ochterski, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Richanna Patrick, Maryanne Phillips, Marie Read, Ken Rosenberg, Charlie Rouse, Carol Schmitt, Mickey Scilingo, Anne Marie Sheridan, Carol & Joe Slattery, Roger Sleeper, Nick Sly, Sheila Smith, Jacie Spoon, Laura Stenzler, Matt Stillerman, Dave Streater, Sarah Fern Striffler, David Suggs, Brian Sullivan, Steve Taylor, Regi Teasely, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Mike Tetlow, Mary Jane Thomas, Charles Ufford, John VanNiel, Andrew VanNorstrand, Matt Victoria, Watt Webb, David Wheeler, Chris White, Caissa Willmer, Matt Young, Ray Zimmerman.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BFT — Big Flats Trail CHEM; BH — Beam Hill TOMP; CLB — Cayuga L Basin; FLNF — Finger Lakes National Forest; GRFF — George Rd flooded field TOMP; MNWR — Montezuma NWR; MWC — Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE; MyPt — Myers Pt TOMP; RivP — Riverfront P CHEM; SaW — Sapsucker Woods TOMP; StP — Stewart P TOMP.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**SNOW GOOSE:** max 80 StP 19 Jun (RZ).

**Canada Goose:** max 80 StP 14 Jul, +.

**BRANT:** StP 19 Jun (RZ); max 2 StP 25 Jun (MAAn); Treman Marina SP 30 Jun (DN).

**Mute Swan:** max 7 (family group) MNWR 19 Aug (C&JSI), nested.

**Wood Duck:** max 72 Rt 38 swamp TOMP 13 Aug, +.

**Mallard:** max 120 CLB 2 Jul, -.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 5 MNWR 6 Jun (DN), high for very recent years but still very low, -.

**N. Pintail:** last MNWR 12 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 29 Aug; max 2 MNWR 29 Aug (BB, DN).

**Redhead:** max 7 MNWR 6 Jun, -.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 6 MNWR 29 Aug (BB, DN), high, +.

**GREATER SCAUP:** MNWR 6 Jun (DN).

**LESSER SCAUP:** last MNWR 6 Jun (DN), late; arr MNWR 13 Aug (GCh).

**BUFFLEHEAD:** max 2 MNWR 6 Jun (DN).

**COM. GOLDENEYE:** Holiday Harbour ONTA 9-24 Jun (CJ).

**Com. Merganser:** max 53 Elmira 30 Aug (DC), high.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Farleys Pt CAYU 17 Jul (DSu).

**Ruddy Duck:** max 3 MNWR 10 Jul, -.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max Bear Swamp SF CAYU 19 Jun, -.

**Com. Loon:** MNWR 6 Jun (DN), only report, -.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 28 MNWR 24 Aug, -.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** max 4 MNWR 7 Jul (C&JSI), high; at least 1 thru.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 25 StP 15 Aug, -.

**Am. Bittern:** max 7 MNWR 27 Aug, high.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 75 MNWR 21 Aug, +.

**Great Egret:** arr 6 MNWR 19 Jun, early; max 21 MWC 18 Aug, -.

**Green Heron:** max 25 MWC 17 Aug, high, +.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 20 MWC 17 Aug, high.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 28 GRFF 10 Jul, +.

#### **HAWKS—ALCIDS**

**Bald Eagle:** max 17 MNWR 19 Jun (BGU, LL), high.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 4 Cass P TOMP 27 Jun.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 6 Mt Pleasant TOMP 16 Jul.

**MERLIN:** arr SaW 16 Aug; 2 Horseheads 2-7 Jun (RS), failed nesting attempt.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Auburn 14 Aug; max 3 MNWR 29 Aug (BB, DN).

**Sora:** max 6 MNWR 22 Aug (AHa).

**Am. Coot:** max 76 MNWR 24 Aug, -.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** 2-3 MNWR & MWC 26 Jun thru (mob).

**Black-bellied Plover:** last 2 MyPt 1 Jun; arr MyPt 25 Jul (BMc), early; max 8 StP 31 Aug (TL), high.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr MWC 14 Aug; max 8 Ithaca 31 Aug, +.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last 3 MNWR 19 Jun (SD, BMc), late; arr 2 MNWR 17 Jul; max 70 MWC 18 Aug, high, +.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 MNWR 26 Jun; max 55 MWC 14 Aug, -.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 4 CLB 2 Jul; max 75 MWC 31 Aug, -.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr CLB 2 Jul; max 6 MNWR 25 Aug, +.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 6 GRFF 18 Jul, low.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 2 Jasper 20 Jun; 2 Groton 14 Aug.

**WHIMBREL:** arr MWC 19 Aug (MAn, GKo); max 18 MWC 23 Aug (BS), high; T Seneca 30 Aug (CR), +.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr MyPt 25 Jul (MCh), early; max 2 MyPt 25 Jul, -.

**RED KNOT:** arr MNWR 13 Aug (GCh); MWC 18-19 Aug (mob).

**Sanderling:** arr MyPt 6 Jul (MCh), early; max 3 MNWR 31 Aug, -.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last 2 GRFF 2 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 18 Jul; max 120 MWC 18 Aug, -.

**W. SANDPIPER:** arr MNWR 13 Aug (LBe, MCh, BH, CWi); max 2 MNWR 14 Aug (SHa, TL, BMc); MWC 29 Aug (BB, DN!).

**Least Sandpiper:** last 2 GRFF 2 Jun (DN); arr 3 MNWR 10 Jul; max 150 MWC 18 Aug, -.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 17 Aug; max 6 MWC 19 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr MyPt 31 Jul; max 16 MWC 28 Aug, +.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 18 Jul; max 100 MWC 14 Aug, +.

**Dunlin:** 1-2 MNWR thru, -.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 2 MNWR 18 Jul; max 4 MNWR 18 Aug, -.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr MWC 18 Aug (BMc, DN), early; max 8 MWC 22 Aug (GP), high, +.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** last MyPt 1 Jun (BMc), late; arr 8 MNWR 17 Jul; max 18 MNWR 21 Aug.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr & max 4 MWC 14 Aug.

**Wilson's Snipe:** max 6 MNWR 22 Aug, -.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** arr MWC 18 Aug (MM); max 2 MWC 20 Aug (DW); MWC 27 Aug (GCh, RBA, MTe).

**BONAPARTE'S GULL:** MNWR 23 Jul (MCh, StF, TL, BMc, DN), only report, -.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 1520 RivP 1 Jun, +.

**Herring Gull:** max 20 StP 18 Jul, +.

**Caspian Tern:** arr MNWR 12 Jun (JBau, MCh), early; max 38 StP 2 Aug.

**Com. Tern:** Elmira Dam CHEM 12 Jun; arr MyPt 1 Jul; max 5 StP 16 Jul.

**FORSTER'S TERN:** max 2 StP 4 Jul (J&KCon); MNWR 31 Jul (LS!).

#### **PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**

**Mourning Dove:** max 24 BFT 28 Aug, +.

**E. Screech-Owl:** max 2 Oaks Corners ONTA 1 Jun, low, +.

**Com. Nighthawk:** Aurelius 12 Jun; arr

MWC 28 Aug; max 2 MWC 29 Aug,  
very low, -.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 13 RivP  
29 Jun, low.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 3 BFT 28 Aug.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 2 Horseheads  
Dump CHEM 4 Jun, low.  
**N. Flicker:** max 2 Pine City 30 Aug, low.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 4 Wayland  
3 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last Dryden L  
Trail TOMP 12 Jun (StF!), late; arr SaW  
22 Aug.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 6 SaW  
26 Aug, low, -.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr SaW  
21 Aug.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** max 8 FLNF 4 Jun, +.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 3 FLNF 4 Jun.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 6 SaW  
21 Jul.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 6 The Center at  
Horseheads CHEM 27 Aug.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 20 FLNF 4 Jun, -.  
**Blue Jay:** max 20 Caroline 29 Aug, +.  
**Am. Crow:** max 43 BFT 28 Aug, +.  
**Purple Martin:** max 600 MWC  
18 Aug, +.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 23,000 MWC 17  
Aug (MAn, JE, TL, BS), high, +.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 100  
MWC 17 Aug, +.  
**Bank Swallow:** max 1000 MNWR  
29 Aug, +.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 5000 MWC  
17 Aug (MAn, JE, TL, BS), high, +.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 14 SaW  
25 Aug, -.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 2 FLNF  
4 Jun.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 2 Dryden 29 Jun, -.  
**House Wren:** max 4 FLNF 4 Jun, low.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 20 MNWR 12 Jun  
(JBau, MCh), high.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 6 MNWR  
19 Jun.

**E. Bluebird:** max 4 Neimi Rd Pds  
TOMP 12 Aug, low but probably a lack  
of reporting, -.  
**Veery:** max 20 Dryden 3 Jul, -.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 10 BH 1 Jul.  
**Wood Thrush:** max 10 Dryden 29 Jun.  
**Am. Robin:** max 57 BFT 28 Aug, +.  
**Gray Catbird:** max 23 BFT 28 Aug, +.  
**N. Mockingbird:** max 5 Horseheads  
Dump CHEM 4 Jun.  
**Brown Thrasher:** max 3 FLNF 4 Jun.  
**European Starling:** max 1000 The  
Center at Horseheads CHEM 27 Aug, +.  
**AM. PIPIT:** 6 MNWR 24 Aug (K&LB,  
BGU, AHA, Julie Horton, Lyn Jacobs,  
LL), high, early, +.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 33 BFT 28 Aug, -.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 3 FLNF  
4 Jun, low.  
**Yellow Warbler:** max 16 FLNF  
4 Jun, low.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 15 BH  
5 Jun, -.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 5 SaW 30 Aug.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max  
4 BH 5 Jun, -.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 6 BH  
5 Jun.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max  
5 BH 5 Jun, low, -.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 6 BH  
5 Jun, -.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last RivP 3 Jun.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 2 BH  
5 Jun.  
**Am. Redstart:** max 14 FLNF 4 Jun.  
**Ovenbird:** max 22 FLNF 4 Jun, -.  
**N. Waterthrush:** max 3 SaW 1 Aug.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** max 4 Six Mile  
Creek Gorge TOMP 5 Jun, -.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 25 FLNF  
4 Jun, -.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last Ithaca 5 Jun  
(LH), late; arr & max 2 SaW 24 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** max 7 Shindagin  
Hollow SF TOMP 6 Aug.

## TANAGERS — WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 7 SaW 24 Aug.

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 3 FLNF

4 Jun, low, -.

### CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:

Summerhill SF TOMP 4 Jun (JSi, MY).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 6 Jasper

3 Jun, +.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** FLNF

24 Jun (RS), only report.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 2 Bear

Swamp SF CAYU 25 Jun.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 9 FLNF 4 Jun.

**N. Cardinal:** max 10 SaW 26 Aug.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 10

Dryden 29 Jun.

**LAZULI BUNTING:** possible

Taughannock Falls SP 11 Jun (IH!),

no report to NYSARC but e-mail from  
observer looked good.

**Indigo Bunting:** max 16 BFT

28 Aug, +.

**Bobolink:** max 50 MWC 18 Aug, -.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 2000

MWC 28 Jul, +.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 9 FLNF 4 Jun, -.

**Com. Grackle:** max 40 FLNF

4 Jun, +.

**Orchard Oriole:** max 5 Ledyard

17 Jul, +.

**Baltimore Oriole:** max 6 StP 15 Aug,

low.

**Purple Finch:** max 10 BH 5 Jun.

**Pine Siskin:** max 3 Kestrel Haven

Avian Migration Observatory SCHU

18 Jun (J&SGr).

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 60 SaW

25 Aug, +.

**House Sparrow:** max 20 StP

31 Aug, +.

## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

### Spencer Hunt

493 Glenmary Drive, Owego NY 13827

shunt493@yahoo.com

Weather for the summer season switched from the cool wet season of 2004 to a record setting hot dry season for 2005. The Binghamton Weather Service recorded 23 June days of above average temperatures, producing a record average of 69.4°F, 1.2° warmer than the old record and 5.5° above normal. Measurable rainfall occurred on 11 days, totaling 2.96", 0.84" below normal. July had an average temperature of 71.7°, 3.0° above normal. Precipitation was 1.81", 1.68" below normal. A measurable amount was recorded on 11 of the days but only five of those had over 0.1". August continued with much the same for both temperature and precipitation. The average monthly temperature was 71.9°, 5.3° above normal. Precipitation was 4.84", 1.49" above normal. At first glance it would seem that rainfall for the month was adequate but 3.16", one-third of the season total, occurred on the last two days of the month. If those two days had the same as 21 other days of the month, with no measurable amount, then the month would have been only 0.2" from being the fifth driest one on record. A seasonal record was broken for the most days in a row having a maximum temperature above 80° with 20. However, closer examination shows it was part of a run of 39 days that included one day of 77°, another of 78°, and all the others 80° or over. Summarizing the weather: a mild drought was declared in midsummer, the

season was second overall for average maximum temperature and the season set records for both highest average temperature and highest average minimum temperature.

The weather should not have caused problems for nesting although there may have been some effect on food sources. Some of the berry crops appeared to be plentiful but at many locations on drier soil types they shriveled to dry masses of seeds. Surprisingly the wild grape, crabapple and black cherry crops were good, providing a feast to Cedar Waxwings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and other frugivores. Although it is only beneficial to a few birds, such as Wild Turkey and Blue Jay, the acorn crop was heavier than most years. Matt Young reported that conifer cones were scarce except white spruce and red pine.

There were several reports of late nesting activity. On 10 August, a flock of 25-30 Wild Turkey was observed in the Town of Owego, Tioga County. There were three distinct age groups of poults. One group was close to the size of the hens, another was about half grown and the other was quite small, indicating hatching no longer than a couple of weeks prior. Since weather was probably not the problem, predation of early nests could be suspected. With the marked increase in the coyote population, ground nesters must be having greater difficulty. On 17 August, an American Robin nest was observed in the Town of Tioga, Tioga County with only one hatchling that was close to fledging. With the dry conditions, it must have been difficult finding enough food to raise the hatchling, possibly being the reason why there was only one. John Birkett reported on 22 August that Eastern Kingbirds were still feeding their young in Bainbridge, Chenango County. On 27 August, a flock of 12 Eastern Bluebirds was observed in the Town of Tioga. Several of them were doing the wing fluttering begging of fledglings, having only left the nest box within the previous two weeks.

Species doing well included Common Mergansers. Tom Salo found them breeding in early June on a pond that generally would be considered unsuitable habitat. He speculated that the dramatic increase in range documented by the Breeding Bird Atlas meant that the good habitat was occupied and they had to use more marginal water bodies. Many reporters commented on the high numbers of Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos. Suggestions were made that it may have to do with localized infestations of forest caterpillars.

Some observers reported that they were noticing a lack of certain species including Eastern Towhee, while others reported that the numbers appeared to be normal. Tom Salo commented that he found a number of them in a timber stand recently thinned for improvement. His comments would lead one to speculate that the reason for some having Eastern Towhees and others not may be due to natural habitat changes as the secondary growth of the forest matures. Tom also found a significant increase in Mourning and Black-throated Blue warblers in those same areas. On the same BBS Route in Delaware County on which he found no Eastern Towhees, where they were once abundant, Bob Donnelly found 19 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. He commented, "In the 1970s, there were none; in the



'80s and early '90s the route averaged less than one per year." As the habitat changes to the detriment of one species it opens up new habitat for others.

Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, Town of Owego, Tioga County, had a pair of Chimney Swifts nest in their old silo, fledging two young. This is the 53rd consecutive year that swifts have used the silo, but the 10-12 pairs of former years have been reduced to one for the last three years. They also reported that a pair of Bald Eagles frequented a small lake near their home for about two weeks in August. The eagles were fishing and feeding the two immatures with them.

For the third year, Merlins have been found nesting in the Region. Matt Young reported a pair and an immature in Cortland, Cortland County.

A comment should be made about Julie and Matt Young's "annual family day" to Pharsalia Important Bird Area. The numbers that they saw for some species (noted in the species accounts) were not only the high for the Region but were much higher than reported anywhere in the Region for the last two years. The area is also the only one reporting Swainson's Thrushes and Red Crossbills. It is worth a visit for anyone in the area.

Three species were reported during the season for the first time in three years. Tom Salo found Pied-billed Grebe in a wetland at a state forest off Taylor Valley Road in Cortland County. He reported other waterfowl there and said it should be a good area for Wilson's Snipe and Sora. Andy Mason found Ring-necked Ducks in early June and a Wilson's Snipe in late July, both in Delaware County. Andy also found a Clay-colored Sparrow, which had not been reported for two years. Another Clay-colored Sparrow was found in Tioga County by Anne Cook and Lois Bingley.

Species not reported, probably due to the dry conditions, include many migrant shorebirds that were found in previous years. Other species found in the last two years but not reported this year include Great Horned Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Pine Siskin. Another one almost missed was Great Egret. A single individual was found on the next to last day of the reporting period. A total of 146 species was reported, which is down from the 162 reported in both of the last two years.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Betty & Nick Andrews, Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Lois Bingley, John Birkett, Earl Callahan, Eleanor Carson, Anne Cook, Bob Donnelly, Jim Hoteling, Spencer Hunt, Gail Kirch (Vestal Banding Station), Diane & Tim Krein, Sharon Krotzer, Bill Kuk, Andy Mason, Evelun & George Mead, Naturalist's Club of Broome County, Bob Pantle, Sandy Perry, Marie Petuh, Katie Ray, Tom Salo, Charlie Scheim, Rose Smith, Tioga Bird Club, Dan Watkins, Don & Joanne Weber, Jon Weeks, Anne Whitaker, Don Windsor, Colleen Wolpert, Rick Youket, Julie & Matt Young.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Ba — Bainbridge CHEN; Bing — Binghamton BROO; BPd — Boland Pond BROO; CR — Chenango Ri; GP — Grippen P BROO; Ha — Harpersfield DELA; Hi — Hillcrest BROO; Ow — Owego TIOG; PIBA — Pharsalia Important Bird Area CHEN; SR — Susquehanna Ri; Ta—Taylor CORT; TB—T Burlington OTSE; TC —T Candor TIOG; TT —T Tioga TIOG; UL — Upper Lisle BROO; VBS— Vestal Banding Station BROO; Ve—Vestal BROO.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**Wood Duck:** 4 reports; several broods CR CHEN 4 Jun.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 2 ad Ha 9 Jun, only report, late.  
**Hooded Merganser:** 1 brood CR CHEN 4 Jun, only report.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 22 SR OTSE (mob).  
**Wild Turkey:** 3 ad, 20-30 imm T Owego TIOG 10 Aug; reported by mob western half of Reg.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** Ta 29 Jun (TS), only report.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** Hi 10 Jul, only report.  
**Am. Bittern:** BBS DELA 5 Jun, only report.  
**Great Egret:** Sherburne CHEN 30 Aug, only report.  
**Green Heron:** max 3 Ve 15 Jun.

### HAWKS — ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** FY 2 ad, 2 imm Ow mid-Aug, few reports.  
**N. Harrier:** Ha 10 Jul; only 2 reports.  
**N. Goshawk:** 2 imm banded Heiberg Forest CORT 6 Jun (MY); 2 ad, 1 imm T Butternuts OTSE (TS); 2 other reports.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 4 reports; down from previous year.  
**Am. Kestrel:** 2 reports; numbers down.  
**MERLIN:** 2 ad, 1 imm Cortland Jul thruAug (MY).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** Bing 24 Jun, only report.  
**Virginia Rail:** Ta 29 Jun; BPd 5 Jun, 17 Aug; only reports.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** Sidney Center

DELA 31 Jul; GP 24 Aug; only reports.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** GP 24 Aug, only report.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** 4 reports; CR BROO 23 Jul; Masonville DELA 10 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** SR BROO 17 Aug (NCBC), only report.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** Middletown DELA 22 Jul (AM), only report.  
**Am. Woodcock:** TIOG Jun; T Smyrna CHEN 6 Aug; only reports.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** CR BROO 21 Jul, only report.

### PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** max 11 BBS DELA 5 Jun, doing well.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** max 3 BBS OTSE 9 Jun, doing well.  
**Barred Owl:** Oxford CHEN 15 Jun, only report.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** Bing 30 Jun; 5 Oneonta OTSE 16 Aug; only 2 other reports, scarce.  
**Chimney Swift:** 2ad, 2 imm T Ow Jun; max 5 Triangle BROO 25 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 19 BBS DELA 5 Jun; 10 other reports; numbers appear to be up.

### FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 3 banded VBS Aug; 1 other report.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** max 9 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; 5 VBS Aug.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 12 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; 2 VBS Aug.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 9 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; FY Ba 22 Aug.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 79 banded VBS Aug.  
**Fish Crow:** max 6 Chenango Valley SP BROO 4 Aug; 3 other reports; numbers increasing.

**Horned Lark:** TC thru Jun (DW), heard in field known to have nesting.

**Tree Swallow:** max 300 SR TIOG 24 Aug.

**Bank Swallow:** max 18 T Triangle BROO 25 Jun; few reports; numbers down.

**Cliff Swallow:** CO T Ow thru Jun; CO Glen Aubrey BROO thru Jun; CO T Kirkwood BROO Jun.

**Winter Wren:** max 11 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Marsh Wren:** Boland Pd 29 Jun, 3 Jul; only report.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 21 PIBA 4 Jul; only 2 reports.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 6 UL 24 Jul; few reports.

**E. Bluebird:** FY TT 27 Aug.

**Veery:** 11 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; max 18 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 3 PIBA 4 Jul, only report.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 10 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Am. Robin:** FY TT 17 Aug (mob).

**Gray Catbird:** 49 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; 35 banded VBS Aug; many reports, doing well.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 26 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; 25+ PIBA 4 Jul.

#### WARBLERS

**Nashville Warbler:** 4 PIBA 4 Jul, only report.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 85 BBS OTSE 9 Jun.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 30 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; max 32 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 21 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 3-4 m TB Jun; max 7 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 29 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 28 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Pine Warbler:** Roundtop Pk BROO 30 Jun, only report.

**Prairie Warbler:** Glen Aubrey BROO 1 Jun; Ha 1 Jul; only reports.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 3 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; 3 other reports.

**Am. Redstart:** max 20 BBS OTSE 9 Jun.

**Ovenbird:** max 36 PIBA 4 Jul; 34 banded VBS Aug.

**N. Waterthrush:** Ve 20 Jul; TIOG no date; 1 banded VBS 15 Aug; only reports.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 3 BBS OTSE 9 Jun, only report.

**Mourning Warbler:** TB Jun; max 8 PIBA 4 Jul; 3 other reports DELA.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** 81 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; 34 PIBA 4 Jul; 16 banded VBS Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** FY Ba 26 Jun; max 4 PIBA 4 Jul.

#### TANAGERS—WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** max 12 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Ha 24 Jun, 1 Jul (AM); Smithboro TIOG 28 Jun (LB, AC).

**Vesper Sparrow:** CR CHEN 4 Jun; Ve 19 Aug; only reports.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Long Pd SF CHEN 19 Jun, only report.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** TC 5 Jul (BP), uncommon.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 59 PIBA 4 Jul.

**Bobolink:** max 14 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; few reports, numbers seem down.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 3 BBS OTSE 9 Jun; 2 other reports; numbers seem down.

**RED CROSSBILL:** CO 19 ad & imm 30 Jul, FY 13 Aug PIBA nesting activity centered around white spruce (MY).

#### CORRIGENDUM

The cited reporter in the following entry in Vol. 55 No. 3 was erroneous.

The correct name is Dan Watkins.

**THAYER'S GULL:** Binghamton 14 Mar (DWindsor). [No details. NYSARC review required.]

## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**Bill Purcell**

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

The summer was very hot, with the temperature for all three months well above the 103-year average. June was the hottest since records have been kept, starting in 1903, and July was the third warmest. The season started dry, a continuation of the spring, but ended up with more than an inch of precipitation above normal. The average temperature for June was 72.7°F, 6.8° above normal, with 1.95" of rain, 1.76" below normal. The July temperature was 74.7°, 3.8° above average, with 4.61" of rain, 0.59" above normal. In August the temperature averaged 73.7°, 4.5° above normal, with 5.95" of rain, 2.39" above normal, although 3.5" fell on the last two days of the month with the remnants of Hurricane Katrina.

Observers reported that the warm, sunny days in June and July contributed to increased breeding success. Easily monitored cavity nesters such as House Wren, Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow all did well, and two large post-breeding flocks of Baltimore Orioles would seem to show they were very successful. Little was noted in the way of range expansion by most species.

Unusual waterfowl for the season included a Snow Goose, a Northern Pintail and a pair of Northern Shovelers, although there was no evidence of breeding by the pair. A King Eider remained in Oswego into June, providing the first summer record for the species. The Double-crested Cormorant nesting abatement program continued on Oneida Lake, with no successful breeding there, but that may have contributed to the new nests in a Madison County heronry. The only Great Egrets were seen at Delta Lake and at most there were only two there. There were three **American White Pelican** sightings but none of the birds persisted. The Oneida Lake sighting was one of several from recent years reported by fisherman and residents but never seen by birders. Another report came from White Lake in northern Oneida County, just inside the Adirondack Blue Line.

There were several Golden Eagle reports but only one with details, a bird moving south over Syracuse in late August. Young Bald Eagles continue to be seen along our major waterways through the summer; some of these birds may begin nesting in the Region as they mature.

Many shorebirds moved north in early June, with good numbers of Ruddy Turnstones and Semipalmated Sandpipers on the Oneida Lake islands. But most observers had moved on to other things by that time so there were few reports. The first southbound shorebirds were noted on 30 June. Delta Lake was being drawn down by 6 July and for the first time since 2001 large mudflats had developed by August. Among the shorebirds attracted to the lake were the season's only Red Knot and Red-necked Phalarope. Early Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at a favored location, a sod farm in Madison County.

Common Terns had a good nesting on Oneida Lake, helped by the lack of storms and high winds pushing water onto their low-lying islands. A pair of Common Terns fledged young in Phoenix on an old bridge abutment in the Oswego River; the nest had been lost to predation in 2004. Jaegers are rare in the summer with most records of single birds, so the 16 Parasitic Jaegers moving west along Lake Ontario at Fair Haven on 31 August was exceptional. The jaegers were most likely southbound birds put down by Hurricane Katrina, but it's also possible that this might be a regular migration route which should be checked in the future.

Cuckoos were widespread, with Black-billed common even in open, wet habitat in the Adirondacks and Yellow-billed found into the margins of the Tug Hill. The Common Nighthawk migration was up slightly over the past two years and Whip-poor-wills were heard in Camden and Norway. There were no sightings of Red-headed Woodpecker, even though beaver swamps where they've nested in recent years were checked. West Nile Virus was mentioned as a possible reason for their decline, but we may never know for sure.

Palm Warblers were confirmed breeding in a bog in northern Herkimer County, a Regional first. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were present at a nursery in Camillus, one apparently paired with a Chipping Sparrow. Isolated finch reports are not unusual in the summer and the Pine Siskins, Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak were all one-day sightings.

It was a good year for the fruit and nut crop, with plenty of wild grapes, black cherries, beech nuts, hickory nuts and both crabapples and regular apples. Some other plants noted with good production were buckthorn, honeysuckle, sumac, elderberry, red oak and mountain ash. The cone crop was mixed, as white pine was poor in many areas but thought to be good in a few places, while red pine had moderate to good production. Balsam fir cones were noted as good in western Oneida County. White spruce had a good crop, but larch and Norway spruce had lesser crops.

For the season, there was a total of 198 species, just about average. Highlights for the summer included Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, **American White Pelican**, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, breeding Palm Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow and Red Crossbill. Once again, there were no reports of Sedge Wren or Henslow's Sparrow.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Ameigh, Faith Baker, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Jeremy Coleman, Dorothy Crumb, Greg Dashnau, Bill Gruenbaum, Barbara Herrgesell, Jody Hildreth, Gene Huggins, John Kapshaw, Kevin McGann, Yvonne Merriam, David Nash, Matt Perry, Gerard Phillips, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Marge Rusk, Mickey Scilingo, Nicholas Sly, Gerald Smith, Maureen Staloff, Molly Thompson, Andrew Van Norstrand, Noah Van Norstrand, David Wheeler, Matt Victoria, Matt Young.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllc — Baldwinsville; CM — Clay Marsh; DH — Derby Hill; DL — Delta L; FH — Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo — Georgetown; GSC — Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; OneiL — Oneida L; OnonL — Onondaga L; SFNS — Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SHF — Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; Skan — Skaneateles; SPd — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores SP; SVB — Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr — Syracuse; TRWMA — Three Rivers WMA; UM — Utica Marsh; WH — Whiskey Hollow; WM — West Monroe.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** Ira 12 Jun.  
**Canada Goose:** breeding Beaver R and Little Rapids n. HERK.  
**Wood Duck:** max 90 DL 8 Aug.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 20 GSC 13 Aug.  
**N. Shoveler:** pair SVB 14-30 Jun.  
**N. Pintail:** OneiL 1 Jul.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 26 SPd 24 Aug.  
**King Eider:** f Oswego to 8 Jun, first summer record.  
**Com. Merganser:** Fayetteville 7 Jun, rescued from chimney; pair Bvllc 30 Jun.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** last SPd 3 Jun.  
**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** 2 OnonL 21 Jun (YM); 1 OneiL 29 Jul (C VanCamp, fide BP); 1 White L Forestport 14 Aug (AVN).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 11 nests GSC, with Great Blue Herons; no nests OneiL.  
**Least Bittern:** CM 12 Jun; UM 25 Jul; WM 28 Aug.  
**Great Blue Heron:** 92 active nests Three Mile Bay WMA.  
**Great Egret:** 1-2 DL after 2 Aug; low for a year with good habitat.  
**Green Heron:** max 33 CM 6 Aug.

### HAWKS — ALCIDS

**N. Goshawk:** Geo 3 Jun; TRWMA 16 Aug.  
**Golden Eagle:** ad Syr 23 Aug (GH!, PR).  
**Merlin:** breeding 3 blocks Stillwater Res; arr UM 13 Aug.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 4 fl Syr 30 Jun.  
**Virginia Rail:** returned to a previously

drained beaver marsh Bvllc; max 6 Annsville 22 Jul.  
**Sora:** 2 CM 12 Jun.  
**Com. Moorhen:** WM 20 Jun; 4 SSSP 30 Jun; 4 y UM 25 Jul; 2 FH 31 Aug.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr SHF 13 Aug; max 20 FH 31 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr SHF 21 Aug; Western 23 Aug; only reports.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last 2 SPd 3 Jun; max 33 DL 21 Aug.  
**Killdeer:** max 67 Sangerfield 26 Aug.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr SSSP & OneiL 30 Jun; max 21 DL 24 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Skan 7 Jul; max 48 DL 13 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Skan 7 Jul; max 10 Skan 20 Jul.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 16 DL 13 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 2 Durhamville 19 Jul.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** last 50 Wantray Is OneiL 8 Jun; OneiL Jun-Jul, injured; arr SPd 31 Jul, total of 7 fall birds reported.  
**Red Knot:** DL 13 Aug, only report.  
**Sanderling:** arr & max 25 SPd 21 Jul.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last 100 Wantray Is OneiL 8 Jun; arr 25 SPd 21 Jul; max 110 DL 23 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** last SPd 3 Jun; arr 20 DL 6 Jul; max 123 DL 8 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 DL 18-21 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr DL 8 Aug; max 3 DL 23 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 12 GSC 13 Aug.  
**Dunlin:** last 3 SPd 3 Jun.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** DL 20 Aug, only report.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr 2 SHF 13-19 Aug, record early; DL 16 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 2 Long I OneiL 12 Jul; max 7 DL 31 Aug.  
**Com. Snipe:** 4 DL 21 Aug.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** DL 20-23 Aug.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** 16 FH 31 Aug, summer high count.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 300 SVB 6 Aug.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 3500 SPd 11 Aug, record summer count.  
**Herring Gull:** max 200 SPd 11 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 80 SPd 7 Aug.  
**Com. Tern:** good breeding season OneiL, aided by lack of storms; bred successfully Phoenix.  
**Black Tern:** max 4-6 per day SPd and SSSP.

#### PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** widespread even in n. HERK where typically uncommon.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 23 reports thru 4 Jul, only 4 after as birds became quiet.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 Durhamville 12 Aug; 1 Bridgewater 28 Aug; max 40 Syr 2 Aug; 112 Syr over last 2 weeks Aug, slight increase over previous 2 years.  
**Whip-poor-will:** Norway 13 Jun; Camden 2 Jun; areas rarely visited.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** none reported despite searches.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Third L Creek 19 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** no Jun or Aug migrants reported.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last Geo 4 Jun; arr TRWMA 16 Aug; 3 other Aug reports.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** 3 fl WH 9 Jul.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** 5 Labrador Pd 2 Jun, migrants.  
**E. Kingbird:** max 12 SPd 31 Aug.  
**Fish Crow:** 6 Eastwood 11 Aug; 3 Liverpool 15 Aug; population steady.

**Purple Martin:** max 60 WM 28 Aug.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 4400 CM roost 6 Aug; fl incapable of sustained flight n. HERK.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 31 CM 6 Aug.  
**Hermit Thrush:** WH into Jul, marginal nesting area.  
**Gray Catbird:** breeding Beaver R, unusual there.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 4 Sullivan 17 Aug (DN), early.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 2 Mexico 19 Jun, still hanging on.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr SFNS 21 Aug.  
**Yellow Warbler:** max 120 SPd 31 Jul.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr SFNS 23 Aug.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr SFNS 21 Aug.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 3 singing Geo 4 Jun; not found at Dewitt site.  
**Palm Warbler:** confirmed breeding Keepawa 17 Jun, first Reg nesting record.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 2 WM 1 Jun; arr SFNS 28 Aug.  
**N. Waterthrush:** SPd 24 Aug.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 2 SFNS 21 Aug; 2 SPd 24 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr SFNS 24 Aug.

#### TANAGERS — WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1-2 Camillus thru Jul, 1 seemingly paired with a Chipping Sparrow (MV).  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Durhamville 24 Jun.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 10 SFNS 14 Aug.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 2 singing Cross L 12 Jun; Sauquoit 1 Jul; 2 juv SFNS 29 Jul.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** postbreeding flocks: 25 SFNS 30 Jul & 29 Hastings 14 Aug.  
**Red Crossbill:** Geo Aug,  
**Pine Siskin:** Hannibal 5 July; Hastings 28 Jul.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** W Amboy 22 Jun.

## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617

jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

Summer in northern New York was warm and wet. Mean daily temperatures were 5°F above normal in June and 3° above normal in July and August, and the temperature topped 80° on most days between 1 June and mid-August. The season was dry early — Watertown received just two-thirds of normal precipitation for the month — but both July and August were wetter than normal. Watertown had measurable rainfall on 14 days in July, adding up to 4.2” or 70% above normal. The high August rainfall total of 6.5”, more than twice normal precipitation, came largely from the remains of Hurricane Katrina, which dropped around 4” of rain on the Region on 31 August. More rain fell on this one day than the Region usually receives for the entire month.

Boreal species were reported in good numbers, primarily thanks to last-minute work to finish the Breeding Bird Atlas. At the beginning of the year, 33 atlas blocks in Region 6 had not been visited, mostly in the Adirondacks and on the Tug Hill. So several block-busters were hired to clean up. As a result of this work, Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray Jay, Palm Warbler and Lincoln’s Sparrow were reported in higher than usual numbers. Most of these species, Gray Jay and Palm Warbler excepted, were found in good numbers on the Tug Hill as well as the Adirondacks, and the only **American Three-toed Woodpecker** report came from the Tug Hill. No Spruce Grouse were reported in the Region by atlas workers this year despite coverage of several historic nesting locations.

At least two grassland bird research and monitoring projects resulted in the reporting of unusually high numbers of grassland birds. Sarah Lazazerro, a graduate student at SUNY-Brockport, found numerous Upland Sandpipers, Grasshopper and Henslow’s sparrows and other grassland nesting birds during the course of her Henslow’s Sparrow research and provided excellent details on her sightings. Mike Morgan at Audubon New York also provided information from his grassland bird work in St. Lawrence County. The high numbers of Upland Sandpiper and Henslow’s Sparrow reflect better coverage and do not indicate increasing numbers of birds; most observers reported that both of these species were generally hard to find in 2005. Sedge Wren, on the other hand, was unusually common for the second consecutive year, especially on Fort Drum. Like last year, many Sedge Wrens were on territory by 1 June instead of arriving during late in June or July, as is often the case.

Among the most intriguing observations of the season were five sightings of an adult Golden Eagle from the Fort Drum area, where one adult was observed in May as well. This makes the third year out of the last four in which adult Golden Eagles have been seen on or near the Army installation during the late spring or



summer. No evidence of nesting has been observed since Mickey Scilingo and others saw what they believed to be courtship behavior by two adults on a field trip to Fort Drum during 2002. In fact, the numbers of sightings have been lower than one would expect if eagles are nesting on the installation. Perhaps these eagles are wandering non-breeders or birds that are attempting to nest elsewhere and only occasionally wander into the Fort Drum area.

The biggest surprise of the season was a **Whooping Crane** that a local farmer reported to Chris Reidy. Chris confirmed the identification and was able to read the color band combination, which he reported to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This crane is part of a reintroduced population being established in Wisconsin (breeding) and Florida (wintering). This particular individual began wandering during the northward migration and was observed in Ontario and Vermont before being spotted in Lewis County. The crane flew off shortly after Chris saw it and had not been relocated by the end of the summer.

Trumpeter Swan, another reintroduced species, this time in Ontario, has clearly become established as a breeder in Region 6. Trumpeters have nested at Perch River WMA for more than 10 consecutive years, and Bob and Ellie Long observed a pair with young on Chippewa Creek in St. Lawrence County for the second year in a row. Bob learned from locals that the swans at the Chippewa Creek site have been present for several years.

Excluding the Whooping Crane, I received reports of 188 species for the season. Highlights included an adult male **Orchard Oriole** that Chris Reidy found in Rutland during late May and relocated in June. Other highlights included a **Willet** at El Dorado shores, multiple summer sightings of an adult Golden Eagle on and near Fort Drum, American Three-toed Woodpecker on the Tug Hill, high numbers of Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos and Sedge Wrens, and breeding Palm Warblers in multiple locations. Shorebirds were generally reported to move through in disappointing numbers, although I only received a single report that actually listed species and numbers.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Pat Burdick, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Joan Collins, Julie Covey, Michael Greenwald, Lee Harper, Sarah Lazazzero, Nick Leone, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, Mike Manske, Irene Mazzochi, Mike Morgan, Chris Reidy, Mike Sheard, Gerry Smith, Eve Sweatman, Bob & June Walker, David Wheeler.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CB — Chaumont Barrens Preserve; CV — Cape Vincent JEFF; ED — El Dorado Shores Preserve T Ellisburg JEFF; FD — Fort Drum Military Reservation; KC — Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LGI — Little Galloo Island; Lou — T Louisville STLA; PRWMA — Perch River WMA; RMSP — Robert Moses SP T Massena STLA; SLR — St. Lawrence Ri; ULLWMA — Upper and Lower Lakes WMA T Canton STLA.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 ad with 4y FL PRWMA 16 Aug; 2 ad with 8y FL Chippewa Creek STLA, breeding confirmed at this site for second consecutive year.

**Com. Merganser:** max 30 Lou 28 Aug.

**Wild Turkey:** 3-5 broods per day late Aug central JEFF & sw STLA.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 25 PRWMA 16 Jul.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 3453 nests E L Ontario islands JEFF; 387 nests NY side SLR.

**Am. Bittern:** more than 30 reports.

**Least Bittern:** Hounsfield JEFF 22 Jun; several ULLWMA mid-Jun.

**Great Egret:** 1-5 per day Stockholm last two weeks Aug.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 4-7 seen nightly flying between PRWMA and Black River Bay thru; 5 Lyme JEFF 22 Jul.

## HAWKS—ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** at least 4 imm Long Sault Islands SLR 18 Jun; most reports of ad near known nest sites, but multiple reports from Clifton STLA and FD where no nests known.

**N. Harrier:** >25 reports mostly JEFF & STLA, including 2 from Adirondack bogs.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 2 FL Canton, in same woodlot pair successfully nested previous 2 years.

**N. Goshawk:** CO in 3 blocks Tug Hill.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 3 FD Jun, low.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** light-phase imm FD 1 Jun, late.

**GOLDEN EAGLE:** ad reported 5 times FD and vicinity mid Jun-mid Jul (JB).

**Am. Kestrel:** 200 ne STLA where 112 nest boxes established; local population increasing.

**Merlin:** pr upset adults Colton 17 Jul; nest Piercefield Jun.

**Peregrine Falcon:** KC 8 Aug.

**WHOOPIING CRANE:** color-banded bird from Florida reintroduction Watson 12 Aug (CR), report to NYSARC.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 ED 17 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** ED 17 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 ED 17 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 16 ED 17 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Clare 12 Aug.

**WILLET:** ED 13 Aug (DW).

**Upland Sandpiper:** 23 total JEFF; max 5 T Orleans 9 Jun; 2 FL Orleans 30 Jun.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 20 ED 17 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** 25 ED 17 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** ED 13 Aug.

**Ring-billed Gull:** 50,000-60,000 nests LGI; 1500 nests Murphy 1 SLR.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** ad on 3 eggs Whaleback 1 SLR 12 Jul, 2nd SLR nesting record.

**Caspian Tern:** 1788 nests LGI, population increasing.

**Com. Tern:** 725 nests at 22 sites SLR.

**Black Tern:** new nest location approx 0.5 mile n of ULLWMA; only other reports from vicinity of known colonies at PRWMA and ULLWMA.

## PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2-6 per day FD; similar numbers elsewhere.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1-3 per day FD (max 5); similar numbers throughout.

**E. Screech-Owl:** Lou 1 Jun.

**Long-eared Owl:** 2 Lafargeville Jul.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 2-5 per day FD; no other Jun or Jul reports; max 22 Dekalb 22 Aug.

**Whip-poor-will:** singles calling 2 sites Gouverneur, Pierrepont, CB; 1-5 per day FD, only site where more than single birds reported.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** at least 5 ad CV thru; 2 pr FD thru.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Brasher Falls 2 Aug.

**AM. THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** Tug Hill 10 Jul (GS).

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** in 4 atlas blocks Adirondacks & Tug Hill.

#### FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** in 17 atlas blocks Adirondacks & Tug Hill.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** in 13 atlas blocks Adirondack & Tug Hill.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** in 11 atlas blocks Adirondack & Tug Hill; ad with FL Pitcairn 12 Aug.

**Gray Jay:** in 6 atlas blocks Adirondacks.

**Horned Lark:** max 7 FD 15 Aug.

**Purple Martin:** first summer without nesting in Henderson martin house in 17 years; last CV 16 Aug, earlier than recent years.

**Cliff Swallow:** 140 nests on intake structure Massena 18 Jun; many 100s of nests RMPD.

**Boreal Chickadee:** in 1 atlas block Tug Hill.

**Tufted Titmouse:** 2 T Clayton JEFF thru; Lou and Massena 1 Jun.

**Carolina Wren:** different locations Canton 14 Jun, 20 Jul.

**Sedge Wren:** 43 singing m JEFF & STLA, including 21 on FD, many heard repeatedly thru Jun and Jul, high.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** in 5 atlas blocks Tug Hill.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 STLA.

**N. Mockingbird:** Macomb STLA 11 Jun; Massena 10 Jul.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 22 singing m FD Jun; m feeding y Brasher Falls 6 Jul.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 40 singing m FD Jun; last Potsdam 13 Aug.

**Tennessee Warbler:** last FD 3 Jun; possible nesting Clare & Piercefield.

**N. Parula:** m feeding y in nest Piercefield 29 Jul.

**Prairie Warbler:** singing m Stockholm 5 Jun, in pine plantation; Clayton 22 Jun.

**Palm Warbler:** Horseshoe Bog, Massawepie Mire, 2 bogs along Rt. 56 n of Sevey Corners.

**Cerulean Warbler:** 3 T Dekalb 30 Jun; 2 singing m FD 8 Jun.

**Canada Warbler:** 91 singing m FD Jun, only a small percentage of potential habitat surveyed.

#### TANAGERS—WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Clayton 22 Jun; Brownville thru late Jul; CB 10 Jun; 16 singing m FD Jun and Jul, including FL 29 Jun.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Stockholm 5 Jun; Hopkinton 5 Jun; 5-12 per day FD Jun; numerous flocks of 5-15 FD late Aug.

**Savannah Sparrow:** singing m in bog habitat Massawepie Mire & in large bog along Rt. 56 n of Sevey Corners.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 84 singing m throughout JEFF; 2 STLA.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 23 m JEFF; at least 9 Dog Hill Rd Orleans; 5 FD; only concentrations.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** several reports numerous individuals in bog habitat Piercefield, Clare, Colton; 3 Tug Hill.

**Bobolink:** max 236 in two fields Lyme 26 Jul.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE:** ad m Rutland May-4 Jun (CR).

**Red Crossbill:** Piercefield 4 Jul.

**Pine Siskin:** FD 3 Jun.



## REGION 7- ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

**John M.C. Peterson**

477 County Rte 8, Elizabethtown NY 12932  
jmcp7@juno.com

June began deceptively sunny and pleasant, but 1.7" of rain at Malone on the 4th was only a harbinger of things to come. Strong thunderstorms on 9 June unleashed a 4"-5" deluge on Essex County, washing out roads, bridges and the rail line in Crown Point and Moriah, causing \$3 million in damages. The same county received up to 2" more rainfall the following day. Hurricane Arlene brought yet more, and between 13-17 June Essex County received another 10", with 50 roads closed in that county alone. The first week of summer was sunny and warm, despite an overnight drop to 34°F at Saranac Lake on 23 June, but another thunderstorm on the 29th brought a small stream advisory to Clinton County and 5500 lost power near Beekmantown. The tail end of Hurricane Cindy brought 3.5" of rain by 9 July, but most of the month was sunny, hot and humid. June and July were just 0.03° short of being the hottest in 50 years, with Plattsburgh sweltering at 92° on 18 July. August began with 40 mph gusts, violent thunderstorms and hail, with trees down at Lake Placid (but a lovely evening at Elizabethtown), and more violent storms along the border on 2 August (also pleasant in the Pleasant Valley of Elizabethtown). Despite most of the month being sunny and hot, Clinton County was pelted by a 6" hailstorm on 10 August that washed out the CP railroad tracks and stopped the Amtrak *Adirondack* as 60-70 mph winds downed trees. By 24 August, Lake Champlain was down to 95.64' and mudflats were exposed along the lakeshore. The season closed with the arrival of the tail end of Hurricane Katrina that had crossed into the Gulf of Mexico on the 27th and demolished the Gulf Coast on the 29th. Reaching here on 31 August, Katrina dumped 4.5" of rain on Inlet and Malone as well as other parts of Franklin and Hamilton counties. Even the more modest 2.5" in the Champlain Valley was a record rainfall for the date in Clinton and Essex counties. At season's end, the average temperature of 71° for June-July-August was the second-warmest on record, exceeded only slightly by the sweltering summer of 1949.

The Adirondack Birding Celebration hike to the 3694' summit of Hurricane Mt. on 4 June failed to produce a Bicknell's Thrush, but participants did hear a loud 20-second hiss along a crack, which increased to the noise level of, say, a vacuum cleaner, then stopped. That evening at 9:26 p.m. a magnitude 1.7 "micro-earthquake" took place 12 miles NNW of Malone. The weird noise on the summit was a premonitory stimulus that resulted from the strain of pressure building up six hours ahead of the actual quake. A phenomenon known as dilatancy (an increase in volume during deformation of solids) causes a release of gases — mostly radon — and radical anomalies in electrical resistance and conductivity. The things you learn looking for thrushes.

Katrina brought a large fallout of shorebirds along Champlain on 31 August, with nine species at Noblewood Park, including 90 Semipalmated Sandpipers. The Chazy riverlands were productive through much of the season, with a first-year **Northern Shoveler** on 4 July and a juvenile male **Ruff** on 3 August, both on the Laurin farm, and at least a dozen shorebird species reported. Four Brothers Islands had 36 adult **Caspian Terns** at the start of the season and each of 18 nests probably fledged some young, although fledging was not seen. The first juveniles were at nearby Noblewood on 22 August, where the large terns were present throughout the season, with as many as 16 there 26-28 August. Caspians were also reported from Chazy Rivers and Wickham Marsh. Noblewood Park had Common Terns from 20-31 August, reaching a peak of 13 birds on the 28th. But Chazy Rivers had a maximum of 50+ on the Laurin farm as early as 31 July. Black Terns at Point au Fer during June-July and at Chazy Rivers July-August were highly encouraging, with as many as 14 at Chazy on 8 August and up to 7 immatures there by the 13th. A singing male **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was seen and heard on the Laurin farm on 2 July, then heard again on the neighboring Gravelle farm on 13 July. The sparrow was flat headed with orange in the face and a buffy, lightly streaked breast and was singing the "cold water on a hot skillet" song of a Nelson's from the middle strand of a barbed wire fence before moving to the top of a post, then flying off. The brief flight was low and undulating. Full details have been submitted to NYSARC.

Other seasonal rarities included a drake **White-winged Scoter** seen on Little Tupper Lake from 18 June to 8 August and briefly visiting nearby Long Lake on 16 July, two **Sandhill Cranes** on a Gabriels potato farm on 7 June, an **Upland Sandpiper** in Chesterfield on 13 June for the first Essex County record of Atlas 2000, a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at Willsboro Bay on 27 August, a **Wilson's Warbler** once again at Bloomingdale Bog this year on 2-3 June and **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Jay on 2-26 June but present there since 27 May. No less noteworthy were the numbers of cuckoos, mostly Black-billed but a few Yellow-billed, reported from wooded areas due to a major infestation of Forest [not Eastern] Tent Caterpillars in northern NYS. We also direct your attention to several interesting Addenda.

We're pleased to report that, once again, records were obtained from all 690 Atlas blocks in Region 7. Our profound thanks go to all of the observers, both within and from outside the four northeastern counties of NYS, whose collective efforts made this possible. Your trust and willingness in accepting assignments to survey often remote areas not birded in 20-25 years helped provide yet another benchmark standard for future generations of Atlas observers. You truly were an all-star team, and working with you was a joy.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Milt Adams, Michael Anderson, Gail Benson, Bernard Carr, Joan Collins, Kimberley Corwin, Chapin Davis, Charlcie Delehanty, John Delehanty, Susan Delehanty, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Bill Frenette, Ann & David Grove, Richard Guthrie, Judy & Roger Heintz, Brett Jesmer, Glen Johnson, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, Linda LaPan, Julia Lattrell, Gary Lee, William Lenhart, Kathy Linker, Peter Littlefield, Mark A. Manske, Larry & Nancy Master, Brian McAllister, Chita & Robert McKinney, Matthew D. Medler, Charles Mitchell, Charles Mitchell Jr., Lisa Muscatello, Jeff Nadler, Nancy Olsen, Paul Osenbaugh, Peter O'Shea, Ray Payson, George Roberts, Dana Rohleder, Angelene Ross, Larry Rowland, Thomas Salo, Marilyn Smith, Porgy Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Eric Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Philip Warren, Robert Wei, Daniel Wells, Hollis White, Uta Wister, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BB — Bloomingdale Bog; BP — Brandon P; CH — Cumberland Head; CR — Chazy Rivers; CRF — Cedar R Flow; FB — Ferd's Bog; FBI — Four Brothers Islands; LL — Long L; MB — Monty's Bay; NP — Noblewood P; PtF — Pt au Fer; SB — Sabattis Bog; TL — Tupper L; WM - Wickham Marsh.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**Canada Goose:** max 250 NP 28 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** CR 4 Jul (BK,CM).

**N. SHOVELER:** 1<sup>ST</sup> year CR 4 Jul (BK,CM).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER;** m Little Tupper L 18 Jun (MDM)-8 Aug (*fide* JN); also LL 16 Jul (JC).

**Com. Merganser:** f & 40 y NP 5 Jul (MDM).

**Spruce Grouse:** m Kildare 3 Jul (SP); brood Bay Pd (GJ); both Boreal Heritage Preserve.

**Com. Loon:** Chazy L platform produced 2 y.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** y Scotion CR 5 Jun (NO); y LL 11 Jul (A&DG); CRF 21 Jun; 3 calling CR 22 Jun; 2 y CR 4 Jul (BK,CM); a good showing.

**Red-necked Grebe:** basic ad LL 7 Aug (JC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug record.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** many FBI 15 Jun, no census figures.

**Great Blue Heron:** 20+ FBI 15 Jul; no Valcour I census.

**Great Egret:** NP 3 Jun; 2 Is "B" FBI 15 Jul; CR 11-13 Aug.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 3 NP 3 Jun; 9+ FBI 15 Jul.

### HAWKS — ALCIDS

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Jay 1 Jun, migrating n.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Jay 1 Jun, migrating n.

**Am. Kestrel:** 5 of 24 FRAN nest boxes produced 16+ chicks, 5 failed, 1 used for roosting; 6 had grackle nests, a starling nest, 6 were empty (MAM); 20 more boxes planned for '06.

**Merlin:** Deer R Flow, Jay, Little Simon Pd, Mirror L, Santanoni trail; transient CR 24 Aug.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Hurricane Mt, Jay, Keene, Split Rock Pt, Whiteface Mt, known eyries.

**Virginia Rail:** WM 5 Jun (MDM); CR 5 Jun-8 Jul (BK); Newport Pd, Moriah 27 Jun (JP,ET); LL 11 Jul (WL); only suggestive of range.

**Sora:** CR 28 Jun, 3 Jul; ad & 2 y CR 8 Jul (BK), only site reported.

**Com. Moorhen:** WM 5 Jun (MDM); CR 22 Jun (CM)-11 Aug (BK,CM), nice finds.

**Am. Coot:** CR (off Hobart Rd) 28 Jun-24 Aug (BK), excellent find.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** 2 Tucker potato farm, Gabriels 7 Jun (PS), undoubtedly same seen TL 17 May '05; 3rd FRAN & 7th Reg record.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 3 CR 30 Jul-19 Aug; 2 NP 22-31 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr CR 2 Jul; max 4 CR 7 Jul; NP 31 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 3 CR 7-30 Jul; NP 17 Jul-27 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Keene 5 Jun (J&PT), late ESSE; arr 7 Westport 31 Aug with Hurricane Katrina; 2 Boquet R Willsboro 27 Aug.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Pt Douglas Rd Chesterfield 13 Jun (DR), 1st ESSE Atlas 2000, only 2nd ESSE since 1980-85 Atlas.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 3 CR 27 Aug (BK), only report.

**Sanderling:** arr imm CR 31 Jul; 2 alt NP 20 Aug; MB 24 Aug; max 6 NP 31 Aug with Katrina.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr MB 24 Aug; imm CR 31 Jul; max 90 NP 31 Aug (MDM) with Katrina, ESSE record.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 8 CR 2 Jul; 3 NP 22 Aug; max 42 MB 24 Aug; 5 NP 31 Aug.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr CR 31 Jul (BK,CM), early CLIN & Reg; 2 CR 8 Aug; max 5 NP 31 Aug with Katrina, rare here.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr CR 13 Aug (CM,RP,PW), early CLIN & Reg; NP 17 Aug (L&NM); NP 31 Aug (MDM), simi-

larly rare here.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr CR 11 Aug; CR 13 Aug; max 3 CR 27 Aug; NP 31 Aug, uncommon here.

**RUFF:** juv m CR 3 Aug (BK), 4th CLIN & Reg record.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr MB 24 Aug, ID by voice.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** ad Blue Mt L 14 Jul (GB,TB), "many" Raquette L 16 Jul (JC), 5th & 6th HAMI records; 2 ad Upper Saranac L 30 Jul (PO'S,UW), 13th FRAN record; NP 15 Jul thru; CR 31 Jul, 2 Aug; max 500 NP 22 Aug (ET); 1st season with reports from all 4 counties.

**CASPIAN TERN:** 36 ads FBI (isl unknown) start of breeding season, where each of 18 nests probably fledged some y (Anon.); WM 1 Jun (JL); numbers NP 3 Jun thru; 1-4 CR 3 Jul-19 Aug (SJ,BK,CM); high 16 (3 juv) NP 26-28 Aug (MDM).

**Com. Tern:** max 50+ CR 31 Jul (BK); 2 NP 20 Aug; max 16 NP 31 Aug (MDM); no reports from FBI.

**Black Tern:** PtF Jun (J&RH); 2 PtF 8 Jul (BK); CR 30 Jul; CR 6 Aug, feeding y; max 14 CR 8 Aug (BK); 8 (7 imm) CR 13 Aug (CM,RP,PW), molting FY; heartening reports.

#### PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** FB, LL, L Lila, L Placid, Little Indian L, Inlet, Moriah, Sagamore L, Shallow L, Ticondroga, West Mt, other sites, due to Forest Tent Caterpillar outbreak.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** T Hope 23 Jun (LR); Belfrey Mt & Newport Pd 12 Jul (JP,ET), ditto.

**Short-eared Owl:** Gabriels 12 Jun (BM), an encouraging find.

**Com. Nighthawk:** Madawaska 3 Jul; 3-5 Peru 11-15 Jul, 20-21 Aug; max 12 Peru 9 Aug.

**Whip-poor-will:** Willsboro 5 Jun; Pt Kent 7 Jul.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:**

Willsboro Bay 27 Aug (MDM), still rare here.

**Am. Three-toed Woodpecker:** calling Osgood R 4 Jun (BC); SB area 3 Jul (SP); Moose R Plains 4 Jul (SP); f FB 2 Aug (WL), good finds.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** BB, BP, nest Chubb R, FB, Eighth L, Giant Mt, Newcomb golf course, Osgood R, nest Partlow Flow, nest Riverside Dr, West Mt, other sites.

**FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS**

**Willow Flycatcher:** Riverview 7 Jun (BK); Altona 13 Jun (J&RH); Rand Hill 14 Jun (BK), all CLIN.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** near Sisters L 4 Jun (WL); 2 Hurricane Mt 4 Jun (J&PT), in chase; near Constable Pd 20 Jun (WL), but undoubtedly more abundant than the paucity of Adk reports suggest.

**Gray Jay:** BB, Blue Mt, Blue Mt Rd, BP, Chubb R, FB, Helldiver Pd, LL, Madawaska, Osgood R, Partlow Flow, TL, other sites.

**Com. Raven:** nest Valcour I ledge, built in Mar (NO); NP 22 Aug (ET); reflect spread to shoreline, and even into waters, of L Champlain.

**Tree Swallow:** decreased HAMI (GL); FBI 15 Jul (MDM), where there are historic nest records.

**Barn Swallow:** decreased HAMI (RM); FBI 15 Jul (MDM), where there has been an historic ledge nest on the shale cliff of Isl "A."

**Boreal Chickadee:** BP, Bigelow Rd, Blue Mt, Blue Mt Rd, Calkins Bk, Chubb R, Eighth L, Elk L, FB, Goodnow Mt, LL, Lost Pd, Pillsbury Mt, West Mt, other expected sites.

**Tufted Titmouse:** Elizabethtown 25 Jun thru (JP); Peru to 11 Jul (EF); Moriah 12 Jul (JP,ET); max 3 banded Elizabethtown 22-25 Aug (JP).

**House Wren:** pr Plattsburgh raised y in outgoing mail slot of USPS lockbox (EF).

**Marsh Wren:** Scotion Cr 5 Jun (NO); WM 5 Jun (MDM); certainly more present.

**E. Bluebird:** 15 nests eggs, 11 nests y, 27 nests FL Rt 22 ESSE nestbox trail 16 Jun (KL).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** Allen Mt, Averill Pk, Blue Mt, Lyon Mt, Pillsbury Mt, Whiteface Mt; none Kempshall Mt 24-25 Jun; max 9 singing m Blue Mt 4 Jun (JC).

**Wood Thrush:** 1600' Rand Hill, CLIN all summer (J&RH), high elevation.

**N. Mockingbird:** 4 locations Lyons Rd & Rt 22 Plattsburgh Jun-Jul (EF); Akey Rd, CLIN 5 Aug (CM Jr).

**WARBLERS**

**Tennessee Warbler:** territorial Cedar R (KC); singing m LL (JC); Nehasane L (TS); Porter Mt (*fide* RW); but still no NYS nest located after two Atlas projects.

**Cape May Warbler:** singing m Moose R Plains 19 Jun (JN); Elk L 18 Jul (RW); Porter Mt 15 Aug (*fide* RW); welcome Atlas additions.

**Palm Warbler:** BB, BP, Little Tupper L, Madawaska, Osgood R, Paul Smiths, Santa Clara, SB, Shingle Shanty Bk, St. Regis Falls, St. Regis R; now found on virtually all Adk bogs.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** The Gulf CLIN 1 Jun (J&RH), possible breeder; New Russia 2 Jun (ET), probable late transient; LL 19 Jun (*fide* JC).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 600' Highlands Forge, T Willsboro 5 Jun (MDM); singing m 1050' Crowfoot Bk T North Hudson 24 Jun (JP,ET); along rushing brooks.

**WILSON'S WARBLER:** BB 2-3 Jun (BM), nesting not confirmed.

**TANAGERS—WEAVERS**

**Scarlet Tanager:** orange variant Redd Rd Peru (EF).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** singing m Stickney Bridge Rd T Jay 2-26 Jun (PO), present since 27 May, f present but species not identified.



**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** singing m seen Laurin farm CR 2 Jul; heard only neighboring Gravelle farm 13 Jul (BK, NYSARC) where first found 30 Jul-24 Aug 2002.  
**Purple Finch:** 58 banded Elizabethtown 21-31 Aug (JP), 3 with conjunctivitis.  
**House Finch:** Westport feeder Aug (CDa), conjunctivitis.  
**Red Crossbill:** LL 4 Jun (WL); Madawaska 3 Jul (MA,MDM); pr with heavy bills Westport 18 Jul (JP,ET).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** juv LL feeder 13 Jun (JC), only report.  
**Pine Siskin:** 2 Pillsbury Mt 6 Jun (JC); many Jay 8-15 Jun (PO); Elizabethtown Jun-Jul (JP); Madawaska 3 Jul (MDM).  
**Evening Grosbeak:** f recaptured Jenny L WARR 4 Jul (RY), banded Elizabethtown 23 Oct '97, previously captured Jenny L 28 Jul '03, age now 8 yrs, 1 mo; Westport feeder Aug (CDa), conjunctivitis.

#### ADDENDA

**CASPIAN TERN:** first nesting by 5 prs FBI 2004 failed late Jun due to proximity to Great Black-backed Gull parents feeding tern chicks to y; late report of re-nesting (high count ~17) in '04, but outcome unknown (Anon. obs.).

**BOREAL OWL:** Sagamore, T Inlet, caretaker's residence last 2 weeks Feb & 1st week Mar 2005 (*fide* GL), 1st HAMI & 7th Reg report.

**Palm Warbler:** max 15+ near Shingle Shanty Bk 27 May 2005 (TS), new HAMI & Reg record, but on only a small portion of 100+ ac bog, all suitable habitat; actual population may be as many as ~100 prs.

#### CORRIGENDUM

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Jay 30 May 2005 observer was Melanie McCormack, not Matthew D. Medler.

## REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Will Yandik**

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534  
wyandik@hotmail.com

Summer 2005 was hot and humid and the heat began early. June at Albany experienced eight days with 90+°F temperatures and ended the month 6.5° warmer than average. Rain occurred in heavy drenchers, some severe, causing portions of I-87 in Warren County to wash away in mid-June. July and August continued with high humidity, above average temperatures and a few periods of heavy showers. The season maintained a tropical humidity that most of the unfeathered sort found very unpleasant.

Northern Bobwhites were found this summer in Albany County at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, causing a very short debate about whether the birds are freely reproducing. Our Region has more than a century's worth of reported bobwhites, but, as Bob Budliger pointed out on a local listserve, our Region's historic record in many cases erroneously lists bobwhites as wild. It is unclear how far back in the record one must travel before trusting reports of wild bobwhites, but certainly those observed in the last few decades represent

releases from hunting clubs or random “deposits” from suburban farmers who believe that a nature center is a fine new home for unwanted birds.

A few truly wild birds that created some excitement this summer were the several reports of Upland Sandpiper, including Larry Alden’s report of nine birds in Root, Montgomery County. Fort Edward in Washington County and a few scattered farms in Saratoga County typically send in two or three sightings each summer, but there were many sightings this year from previously unreported locations. Sadly, the once locally-famous Cocksackie flats in Greene County, having been nibbled away by development projects, can no longer be considered an annual breeding site for these sandpipers. Most of the increased number of reports stems from last-minute atlas work in the eastern Mohawk Valley. Reports of multiple individuals in Schoharie County were also new and noteworthy. Much of the habitat for these birds consists of privately-owned farmland and fallow lots, which may be even more vulnerable than the birds that reside on them.

The headline news of the season also involved productive and previously unstudied hayfields in the northwestern part of the Region. Peter Dougherty, a farmer who deliberately delays mowing to allow grassland birds a chance to nest, discovered and photographed a colony of **Dickcissels** that successfully fledged four nestlings on his property. This undisturbed enclave also attracted three **Sedge Wrens**, that also fledged a brood. Special thanks to Jane Graves for following up on these reports and including these records in the NYS Atlas. As many birders drove to the area to observe the Dickcissels, good numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows and a previously unknown colony of **Henslow’s Sparrows** were discovered. Like the breeding locales of Upland Sandpiper, these lands are entirely unprotected and highly vulnerable to development and other disturbances.

Bob Yunick had some interesting summer encounters with Red Crossbills. He reported hearing a single bird on 22 August calling a very rapid “gyp-gyp-gyp-gyp,” apparently dissimilar to the calls of the *minor* and *neogaea* subspecies. Any summer crossbill is news for Region 8, but an unusual subspecies would be very interesting indeed. Bob spotted four more on 26 August and reported “they flitted about, but I could not get my binoculars on them.” Some later looks suggested a rather large-billed *neogaea*. We wish him good luck on this most difficult task of passerine parsing.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, Peter Dougherty, Kate Dunham, Mark Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club’s Birdline of Eastern New York, Bill Lee, Andrew Mason, Joyce Miller, Gail & Rich Nord, Barbara Putnam, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AUS — T Austerlitz COLU; BCM — Black Creek Marsh WMA ALBA; CHA — T Chatham COLU; COH — New St T Cohoes ALBA; CP — Cherry Plains SP RENS; FtE — T Fort Edward WASH; GP — Geoffroy's Pd T Claverack COLU; HR — Hudson Ri; JL — Jenny L SARA; MR — Mohawk Ri; NBA — T New Baltimore GREE; VF — Vischer Ferry NHP SARA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

**Canada Goose:** imm Rensselaerville RENS 15 Jul, caught by bobcat.  
**Gadwall:** 2 BCM 9 Jun; CHA 5 Aug.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** BCM 13 Aug; 6 VF 20 Aug; AUS 21 Aug.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 2 VF 20 Aug.  
**Hooded Merganser:** Box Board Pd CHA 10 Jun, fledglings.  
**Com. Merganser:** CHA 28 Jun, uncommon COLU in summer.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Jefferson SCHO 5 Jun.  
**Com. Loon:** 3 L George WARR 24 Jul; 3 ad JL 26 Jun, no evidence of breeding.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** GP 29 Aug; 3-4 scattered reports.  
**Am. Bittern:** Schoharie SCHO 30 Jun; BCM 13 Aug.  
**Great Egret:** East Greenbush RENS 23 Jul; 3 COH 31 Jul-11 Aug; 5 VF 13 Aug; 7 Niskayuna SCHE 18 Aug.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** NBA 12 Aug; Livingston COLU 23 Aug; GP 28 Aug.  
**Black Vulture:** Livingston COLU 24 Aug, only report.

### HAWKS — ALCIDS

**N. Goshawk:** AUS 11 Jul.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Blenheim SCHO 13 Jul, confirmed nesting.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** Efner L SCHE 19 Jun; NBA 10 Jul, carrying a snake.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 7 Root MONT 4 Jun.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** NBA 2 Jun, feeding fledglings.  
**Virginia Rail:** 3 BCM 9 Jun; 2 Copake COLU 26 Jun; Canajoharie SCHO 30 Jun; BCM 13 Aug.

**Sora:** VF 4 Jun; Lions Pk MR 24 Jul.  
**Com. Moorhen:** 4 BCM 9 Jun.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** COH 20 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 COH 13 Aug.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** GP 18 Aug, max 12 COH 21 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** COH 31 Jul; max 10 COH 11 Aug; GP 21 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** FtE 4-17 Jun; Rural Grove MONT 4 Jun; max 9 Root MONT 19 Jun (LA); 3 Ames MONT 23 Jun; 3 Canajoharie SCHO 30 Jun.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 4 COH 31 Jul; GP Aug thru.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 5 COH 11-20 Aug; GP 12 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2 Rensselaerville RENS 9 Jul (GC).  
**Least Sandpiper:** 7 COH 31 Jul; 15 VF 20 Aug.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 3 NBA 12 Aug; Coxsackie GREE 20 Aug.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** Clermont COLU 19 Jun; L George WARR 21 Jun; HR NBA 12 Aug.

### PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** numerous Region-wide, successful breeding year.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** somewhat less numerous than black-billed Region-wide, successful breeding year.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** Albany 21 Jun-21 Jul; max 9 BCM 15 Aug; CHA 20 Aug.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Plateau Mt GREE 19 Jun, only report.

## FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Deer Mt GREE 1 Jun; Schodack Town Hall RENS 20 Aug.

**SEDGE WREN:** 3 SHA 18 May-10 Aug, confirmed nesting.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Hunter Mt GREE 12 Jun; CP 25 Jun.

**Bicknell's Thrush:** max 6 Hunter Mt GREE 12 Jun; Plateau Mt GREEN 19 Jun.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 8 Hunter Mt GREE 12 Jun; Blenheim SCHO 13 Jul; AUS 28 Aug.

## WARBLERS

**Nashville Warbler:** FULT 14 Jun; Rensselaerville RENS 14 Jun; CP 25 Jun.  
**N. Parula:** CP 25 Jun; Five Rivers ALBA 13 Jul.

**Yellow Warbler:** last VF 18 Aug.

**Pine Warbler:** Saratoga Springs 25 Jun; 3 Tomhannock Res RENS 2 Jul; AUS 24 Jul.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Conesville SCOH 2 Jun; FULT 8 Jun.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** CHA 20 Aug.

**Mourning Warbler:** Palenville GREE 2 Jun; CON 6 Jun; banded JL 15 Aug (RY).

## REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

**Michael Bochnik**

86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

BochnikM@cs.com

The summer season was much warmer than normal, despite Poughkeepsie never reaching 100°F. The city did have highs of 97° or higher for five summer days. Monthly average temperatures were well above normal. June came in 5.8° hotter, July 3.2° and August 4.9° degrees above the norm.

Rain was plentiful in June and the first part of July. The Region then went into a dry spell for the rest of the summer, which continued into the fall. June precipitation was 1-1.5" above normal. Poughkeepsie was dry in July, but White Plains was an inch wetter due to locally heavy thunderstorms that dumped 2.6" of rain on 18 July, causing severe local flooding. August was very dry, with only 2" of precipitation, half that of normal, for both cities.

Highlights of the season were a **MANX SHEARWATER** found by Tom Burke off Milton Point in Rye on 15 June, along with 15 **WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS**. A Northern Gannet was also observed that day. This is the third year in a row in which a Manx Shearwater has appeared in this part of Long Island Sound and the fourth Westchester County report. In 2003 one was found 26 May and the next year on 7 August. It is the second report for Wilson's Storm-Petrel, with the previous one in the Hudson River off Irvington in 1933. The shearwater and gannet made it as count week birds for the Greenwich- Stamford (CT) Summer Bird Count, which partially falls into Westchester County and which was held on 11 and 12 June. Three storm-petrels were reported on the count, but they were found off Greenwich, not in NY waters. Interestingly, a Manx Shearwater was also found off Greenwich prior to the count on 5 June. An out-of-season

White-winged Scoter was off Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye 7 August. Sullivan County has never been known for its shorebirds, but low water at Swinging Bridge Reservoir exposed mudflats and changed that this season. The reservoir is located on the Mongaup River, upstream of its confluence with the Delaware River, in Forestburgh. It drew in shorebirds, and constant monitoring by John Haas resulted in three county records. Firsts for Sullivan County included a Sanderling on 28 August, then a Stilt Sandpiper and four Buff-breasted Sandpipers on the 29th. Impressive numbers of other shorebirds were found. Fifty Killdeer, 105 Lesser Yellowlegs, 150 Least Sandpiper, 6 Pectoral Sandpipers and 8 Short-billed Dowitchers were all at the reservoir on 28 August. To round off the list, an American Golden-Plover and Baird's Sandpiper also appeared at this location. An additional Stilt Sandpiper was found at Morningside Park on 31 August. In all, 18 species of shorebirds were recorded.

A Willet was found in Yonkers on 4 July along the Hudson River on a county-built demonstration tidal marsh at the Beczak Environmental Education Center. This is a first report for the city. Another Willet was at the Edith G. Read Preserve on 26 July. Bonaparte's Gulls were found off Rye on 16 June and at Neversink Reservoir on 4 August.

Inland, a Common Tern visited Neversink Reservoir on 1 June and two Caspian Terns were at Piermont Pier 21 August. In the sound, Forster's Terns appeared in June and August and two Black Terns were off Rye 15 June.

A Northern Parula was found feeding young in Narrowsburg 22 June. This is the first confirmed breeding for Sullivan County. A Northern Parula was also found at Denning Point 3 August. Red Hook Farm in Dutchess County produced both Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows from the beginning of June into July.

Other notable species included: White-rumped Sandpiper, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Kentucky Warbler and Evening Grosbeak.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Andrea Alterman, David Arner, Scott Baldinger, John Balint, Arlene Borko, Thomas Burke, Barbara Butler, Betsy Carswell, Bill Case, Drew Ciganik, Mary Collier, Renee Davis, Mike Dolan, Tom Fiore, Carol & Ken Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Marge Gorton, Carrie Grey, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Jude Holdsworth, Kelli Jewell, Astrid Kaessmann, Bonnie Koop, Mary Lewis, Andrew Mason, Tully McElrath, Doris Metraux, Allan & Barbara Michelin, Eleanor Pink, Carena Pooth, Kevin Quill, Barry & Edith Rosen, Herb Thompson, Joe Weise, Carol Weiss.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; MRG – Mianus Ri Gorge; PNR – Pawling Nature Preserve; RNC – Rye Nature Center.

## **WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES**

**Snow Goose:** Wurtsboro 1-23 Jun (AB).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 3 Swinging Bridge Res 25 Aug.  
**White-winged Scoter:** EGR 7 Aug (TB).  
**Hooded Merganser:** f & 5 y Poughkeepsie 25 Jun; 5 Nuclear L Pawling 7 Jul.  
**Com. Merganser:** 16 y Callicoon Center 2 Jun; ad w 15 y Beaverkill 28 Jun; L Carvel Pine Plains 13 Jul.  
**Com. Loon:** MC 2 Jun; EGR 7 Jun; Rye 15 Jun.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** swamp Rt 99 & Sherwood Rd 23 Jun; L Carvel Pine Plains 13 Jul.  
**MANX SHEARWATER:** Rye 15 Jun (TB).  
**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL:** 15 Rye 16 Jun (TB); 5 EGR 16 Jun (TB,AG).  
**N. Gannet:** MC 15 Jun; 2 EGR 17 Jun.  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Rye 15 Jun.  
**Black Vulture:** several Beacon Landing 14 Jun; 1 Stormville 31 Jul.

## **HAWKS—ALCIDS**

**Bald Eagle:** Rhinebeck 16 Jun; fledged from nest s DUTC16 Jun; ad Gidley Rd 6 Jul; imm Bowdoin Pk 12 Jul; ad, imm Tivoli South Bay 22 Jul; 2 Norrie Pt 27 Jul; 2 Poughkeepsie 2 Aug; imm New Hamburg 2 Aug; ad Crugers 1 5 Aug; Tivoli Bay 20 Aug.  
**N. Harrier:** m Monticello Airport 18 Jun.  
**Clapper Rail:** MC 2, 9 Jun, 26 Jul; 2 MC 22 Aug.  
**Sora:** swamp Rt 99 and Sherwood Rd 15 Jul; MC 22 Aug.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 MC 6, 8, 14 Aug; 10 MC 23 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** Swinging Bridge Res 31 Aug; Morningside P 31 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 9 MC 5 Jun; 3 Bronx Ri 7 Aug; 16 MC 8 Aug; 25 Swinging Bridge Res 14, 20 Aug.  
**Killdeer:** 16 Bronx Ri 7 Aug; 50 Swinging Bridge Res 28 Aug.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** MC 1 Jun; 2 Rye 15 Jun; 2 EGR 5 Jul; 2 MC 25 Jul; 9 EGR 26 Jul; 7 MC 5, 8 Aug; 4 EGR 5 Aug.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 70 L Tappan 28 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 105 Swinging Bridge Res 28 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** Ten Mile Ri Wassaic 20 Jul; 5 Bronx Ri 7 Aug.  
**Willet:** MC 6 Jun; Yonkers 4 Jul; EGR 26 Jul.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** Van Wagner Rd 6 Jun; 4 Bronx Ri 7 Aug; 18 Haverstraw Bay P 24 Aug.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 Rye 16 Jun; EGR 26 Jul; 2 EGR 7 Aug; 60 Rye 24 Aug; Piermont Pier 28 Aug.  
**Sanderling:** Swinging Bridge Res 28, 31 Aug (JHa, AB, RD, VF), 1st SULL report; 2 Piermont Pier 28 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 450 MC 25 Jul; 61 Bronx Ri 7 Aug; 700 MC 5 Aug (TB).  
**Western Sandpiper:** MC 8 Aug; 3 MC 22 Aug; MC 23 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 21 Bronx Ri 7 Aug; 150 Swinging Bridge Res 16, 28 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** MC 6 Jun; MC 5 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** 2 Swinging Bridge Res 15-28 Aug (JHa).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 7 East Fishkill 14 Aug; 9 Swinging Bridge Res 16 Aug; 6 Swinging Bridge Res 28 Aug.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** Goshen 24 Aug; Swinging Bridge Res 29 Aug, 1st SULL report (JHa); Morningside P 31 Aug.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Pine Island 24 Aug (JHa); 3-4 Swinging Bridge Res 29-30 Aug (JHa, AB, RD), 1st SULL report.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2 MC 25 Jul; 3 MC 8 Aug; 8 Swinging Bridge Res 28 Aug.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** Rye 16 Jun; Neversink Res 4 Aug (RD).  
**Caspian Tern:** 2 Piermont Pier 21 Aug.

**Com. Tern:** Neversink Res 1 Jun; 160 Rye 7 Aug.  
**Forster's Tern:** MC 2 Jun; EGR 22 Jun; 2 Rye 14 Aug; EGR 15 Aug.  
**Black Tern:** 2-3 Rye 15 Jun (TB).

#### PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

**Com. Nighthawk:** 80 Stony Pt 20 Aug; 32 Youngsville 20 Aug; 33 Stony Pt 21 Aug; 24 MC 22 Aug; 20 Mt Vernon 22 Aug.  
**Whip-poor-will:** Hyde Park 13-14 Jun; Clinton Corners 20 Jun.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Hastings-on-Hudson 28 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Claryville 7 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** RNC 1 Jun.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** PNR 5 Jun; 2 MRG 12 Jun; 4 locations SULL Jun; Amenia 13 Jul; Hardenburgh 23 Jul.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** Nellie Hill Preserve 1 Jun; Amenia 8 Jun; MC 9 Jun.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** Pine Plains 16 Jun; 12 Amenia 16 Jul.  
**Horned Lark:** 2 Red Hook 16 Jun; sev Red Hook 21 Jun; 12, 2 y Red Hook 2 Jul.  
**Purple Martin:** 8 EGR 7 Jun.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 20 Thompson Pd 31 Aug.  
**Bank Swallow:** 7 gravel pit Rt 199 & Mt Ross Rd 23 Jun; Union Vale 19 Aug.  
**Cliff Swallow:** 30 Cross River Res 19 Jun.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** arr migrants southern part of Reg 23 Aug.  
**Winter Wren:** 2 ad feeding 2 y MC 14 Jun.  
**Marsh Wren:** 8 MC 6 Jun; 5 MC 25 Jul; 5 MC 6 Aug; 8 MC 12 Aug.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** Shandaken 11 Jun; Hardenburgh 23 Jul.  
**Hermit Thrush:** Amenia 13 Jul.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 55 Swan L 29 Jul.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Nellie Hill Preserve 1 Jun; 1-3 Summitville thru Jun; Grooville 30 Jun.  
**"Brewster's Warbler":** 2 Tivoli Bays WMA 2 Jun (BB,C&KF,TM).  
**Nashville Warbler:** Shandaken 10 Jul; 3 Tusten 12 Aug; Wethersfield 17 Aug.  
**N. Parula:** ad feeding y Narrowsburg 22 Jun (RD, VF, MG), 1st confirmed breeding SULL; Denning Point 3 Aug.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** Tivoli Bays WMA 2 Jun; 2 Nellie Hill Preserve 1 Jun; Shandaken 10 Jul; Amenia 16 Jul; Hardenburgh 23 Jul.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 2 PNR 5 Jun; Locust Grove 10 Aug.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 Pine Plains 23 Jun.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 6 MRG 12 Jun.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** Pine Plains 23 Jun; 3 PNR 5 Jun; Amenia 13 Jul; RNC 17 Aug; Poughquag 20 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** MC 6 Jun; PNR 5 Jun; Shandaken 11 Jun.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** 7 MRG 12 Jun.  
**Ovenbird:** 18 Pound Ridge Reservation 11 Jun; 10 MRG 12 Jun.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 9 Pound Ridge Reservation 11 Jun; 9 MRG 12 Jun.  
**Kentucky Warbler:** Wolf Brook MUA 20 Aug (SB,MD).  
**Mourning Warbler:** Hornbeck's Basin Wurtsboro 1 Jun; MC 2 Jun; singing Callicoon Center 2-13 Jun (RD); Amenia 8 Jun; Cape Pond 6 Aug.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 2 Nellie Hill Preserve 1 Jun; 3 PNR 5 Jun; Neversink Unique Area 11, 16 Jun; 2 Union Vale 29 Jun; Nellie Hill Preserve 4 Jul; Cary Arboretum Pleasant Valley 9 Jul.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** MC 23 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** MC 1 Jun; Callicoon Center 2 Jun; 3 L Paradise 15 Jun; Woodridge 19 Jun; 3 RNC 23 Aug; Cary Arboretum 24 Aug.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 2-3 Wurtsboro  
1-28 Jun (JHa); 2 New Paltz 23 Jun.

**TANAGERS — WEAVERS**

**Vesper Sparrow:** 3 Red Hook Farm  
1-30 Jun (BB, KCF, A&BM, BCa);  
3, 1yg Red Hook 2 Jul (BB, A&BM).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 2 Red Hook  
Farm 1-30 Jun (mob); 6 Red Hook  
2 Jul (BB, A&BM).

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** MC 6,  
9, 12 Jun.

**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:**  
2 MC 6 Jun, 25 Jul, 6, 29 Aug.

**Bobolink:** 6 Rhinebeck 2 Aug;  
5 Wethersfield 17 Aug; 6 Rhinebeck  
20 Aug.

**E. Meadowlark:** LaGrangeville  
6 Jul; 9 Rhinebeck 6 Jul; Millbrook  
20 Jul; 14 Rhinebeck 2 Aug.

**Orchard Oriole:** 2 ad, 4 y MC  
21 Jun.

**Purple Finch:** 2 Poughquag 27-28 Aug.

**Pine Siskin:** Cape Pond 11 Jun  
(VF, MC); Roscoe 24 Jun (MG).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Claryville  
26 Aug (JW).

## REGION 10-MARINE

**S. S. Mitra**

Biology Department, College Staten Island,  
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314  
mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu

**Patricia J. Lindsay**

28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706

Although the National Climatic Data Center reported that New York State as a whole had its warmest June on record, our Regional average temperatures were near normal in both June and July at 69.4°F and 73.9°F, respectively. A 2.29 inch deficit in June's precipitation was partially recouped in July, when the Region received 4.03 inches of rain, 1.08 inches above average. August, though, was another story. With temperatures averaging 4.1° above normal and with rainfall at record lows for many locations, e.g. 4.46 inches below normal at Islip near the center of Region 10, we saw the grasses and forbs along the parkways shrivel and turn to various shades of brown and rust. The parched landscape did have one benefit for birders: mosquitoes were nearly non-existent in some normally infested areas. Local exceptions to August's drought included an exceptional downpour of 3.1 inches, a new daily maximum, at Central Park on 14 August, bringing that area a bit closer to average for the month. The Atlantic experienced an extremely active first half of the hurricane season, with twelve storms named by the end of August. But we felt little effect in Region 10. The remnants of Hurricane Katrina, one of the strongest ever to hit the US, brushed by us to the



west on the last day of August, bringing a gusty wind and some showers but no storm-driven birds. Yet, with the images of Gulf Coast destruction still fresh in our minds, the storm offered a sober reminder of just how powerful and devastating these weather events can be.

Migration and dispersal are conspicuous features of the summer months in our Region. In most years, a modest set of pelagic species can be seen from land at this season with a modicum of patience and dedication. This summer featured more seabird reports than usual, involving unusually large numbers of individuals and species inshore. As is usually the case, small numbers of Parasitic Jaegers were seen through June and July by observers training their scopes seaward along the South Shore. Small numbers of Black Terns are often reported locally in late spring and early summer, but this season they were unusually numerous and widespread throughout the month of June, with reports from Breezy Point, Democrat Point, Cupsogue County Park, and Mecox Bay. There was a single-site maximum of 11 birds at Cupsogue on 18 June. The significance of their presence during this period is unclear, but it might, as in the case of some of the shorebird species described below, reflect aborted or failed breeding efforts.

Even after the demise of the Cedar Beach tern colony around 1996, Roseate Terns have remained dependably present around Fire Island Inlet each summer. Local observers have assumed that small numbers must have continued breeding in the area, most likely with Common Terns on the marsh islands of western Great South Bay. This speculation was confirmed this summer by Brian Zitani, who reported six pairs of Roseates on Goose Flat just north of Gilgo (*fide* R. Paxton). Two very large colonies of Black Skimmers, ca. 500 adults at Lido Beach (near Pt. Lookout) and ca. 1,000 adults at Breezy Pt., nested very late this summer. Very small young were present at both sites at the end of August.

Although mid June is typically the nadir for Arctic-breeding shorebirds on Long Island, both abundance and diversity remained high throughout the month. Although noteworthy counts such as 15 White-rumped and 200 Semipalmated sandpipers at Pike's Beach on 11 June might be attributable to late northbound migrants, 16 and 80 of these species, respectively, were still present there a week later. Similarly, repeated counts on the order of 100 each of Red Knot and Short-billed Dowitcher around Moriches Inlet on 11, 18, and 29 June probably indicate over-summering. Indeed, a color-banded Red Knot seen at Cupsogue County Park on 29 June had been banded on Delaware Bay on 2 June (P. Atkinson, pers. comm.). Finally, 14 Black-bellied Plovers on 29 June were more than one would expect at this date, and the presence of at least half a dozen Dunlin around Moriches Inlet throughout June and July this year, in plumages ranging from pure basic to high alternate, provides further evidence that many shorebirds simply did not make the last big jump to the breeding grounds this year. Although not really rare on Long Island in mid summer, Dunlin are genuinely scarce at this season, often with only one or two reported Region-wide

between early June and late August.

The most unusual breeding record of the season was contributed by Steve Walter, who found and photographed a newly fledged Golden-crowned Kinglet at the Christie Estate South near Muttontown Preserve on 16 July. This bird of the northwoods has shown a tendency to nest in spruce plantings well to the south of its normal range at low elevations in southern New England, New Jersey, and western, central, and southeastern mainland New York State, but this is likely the first breeding record from Long Island since 1963 (Bull 1964: p. 348).

The intense coverage accorded Maple Swamp in late spring abated somewhat during the summer, but nevertheless yielded a number of interesting records from this large and complex Long Island woodland. As noted in this essay a year ago, the outlook is not good for woodland-breeding birds in our Region, as many once widely distributed species are quietly retiring from traditional stations. An early June survey in the heart of Easthampton's Grace Estate yielded mostly bad news. Black-and-white Warbler was unrecorded for the third straight year, and, for the first time in memory, not even one Scarlet Tanager was detected. Single Veery and Wood Thrush were slightly less discouraging but far fewer than the numbers routinely recorded at this site and date in previous years.

This summer's list of vagrants is rather long and varied. A Barnacle Goose present at Gilgo through July and August raised suspicions of captive origins, although such doubts were not attached to four Surf Scoters also summering there, nor to a group of seven similarly unseasonal Brant a few miles to the west at Jones Beach. Several reports of single Brown Pelicans during July constituted a more or less average year by recent standards. Much more unusual were one or more frigatebirds, presumably Magnificent, reported from eastern Long Island 28 July and 7 August. Howie Fischer and companions found an adult Mississippi Kite over Pouch Lake, Staten Island on 11 June. A Wilson's Plover at Tobay Beach 23 June deserves written documentation; this report could provide additional evidence of a very good year for this species in the Northeast. A one-year old Arctic Tern near Moriches Inlet, seen and described in detail by several observers in early July, conformed to a pattern observed in recent years, when roughly seven immature birds of this species have been found in as many years around favorable ocean inlets during the period late May through early July. A series of Sandwich Tern reports from late July and August extend a similar pattern, in which this formerly exceedingly rare vagrant, once almost unknown in our area except after hurricanes, has been appearing more regularly along our shores. Despite the perception of an upturn in this species' status in the Region, it remains on the NYSARC review list, and all reports deserve careful documentation.

Max and Nellie Larsen found a Say's Phoebe on the morning of 23 June at the Jones Beach West End boat basin (US Coast Guard Station). Seen by several more observers moving slowly eastward, the bird disappeared around noon and defied the efforts of a dozen or so birders for several hours. Ultimately it was

re-found in the evening by Marcia Specht, Ann Marie Pozzini, and Kevin O'Leary at the original location, where it spent more than an hour feeding from the construction fencing and adjacent signs and posts immediately west of the comfort station. Although this was the first June record for this species in New York State, landbird vagrants from western North America have appeared at this season surprisingly often over the years. A partial list of landbird vagrants to New York, during the period mid May to mid July, includes White-winged Dove, Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Townsend's Warbler, Western Tanager, Bachman's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Painted Bunting. Impressive on its own, this list is almost certainly a gross underestimate of actual rates of vagrancy because the scrutiny applied to landbirds at the most favorable locations, along the outer beaches and on eastern LI, is typically minuscule at this time as breeding landbirds and various kinds of waterbirds attract the bulk of birders' attention. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher found by Rich McGovern at Mount Loretto Park, Staten Island, on 5 June delighted many birders that day but was not seen thereafter.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, Deb Allen, Seth Ausubel, Terry Bain (TBa); Andy Baldelli, Gail Benson, Sue and Jim Benson (S&JBe), Mike Bergin; Steve Biasetti (SBi) Orhan Birol, Shane Blodgett, Tom Bogdan (TBo); Dan Brady, Thomas Brown, Thomas W. Burke (TWB), Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace; Brad Carlson (BrC), Gary Chapin, Kenny Clark, Jim Clinton, Sr., George Dadone, Tom Damiani, Robert DeCandido, Dave Eib, Mike Farina, Tom Fiore, Howard Fischer, John and Gerta Fritz, Doug Futuyama, Peregrina Garcia, Klemens Gasser, Joe Giunta (JGi), John Gluth, Jamie Glydon (JaG), Douglas Gochfeld; Tim Green, Robert Grover, Andy Guthrie, Nick Hamblet, Jean Held, Joel Horman (JHo), Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Jan Johnson, Kevin Karlson, Craig Kessler, Dave Klauber, Artie Koppelman, Robert Kurtz, Lenny Lampel, Max & Nellie Larsen, Anthony J. Lauro, Ernie Lewis, Patricia Lindsay, Jean Loscalzo, Carol Matz; Chuck McAlexander (CMc), Rich McGovern, Bob McGrath, Hugh McGuinness, Jack Meyer, Eric Miller, Shai Mitra, Chris Nagy, Kevin O'Leary, Al Ott, Jack Passie, Robert Paxton, Peter Polshek, Ann Marie Pozzini, Joan Quinlan, Don Riepe, Chris Roberts, Tim Sadler, Carl Safina, Eric Salzman, Saul Satin (SSa); Matthew Savoca (MSa); Mike Scheibel (MSch), Sy Schiff, Michael Shanley (MSh), John Shemitt, Dominic Sherony, Sean Sime (SSi), Bill and Eileen Singer (B&ESi), Marcia Specht, Dave Speiser (DSp); Lloyd Spitalnik, Joe Trezza, Wada; Steve Walter, Mike Wasilco, Alex Wilson (AWi); Marguerite & Miles Wolffsohn (M&MWo), Al Wollin, Seth Wollney (SWo).

## ABBREVIATIONS

APP — Alley Pond P; bas — basic plumage; BBG — Brooklyn Botanical Garden; BNL — Brookhaven National Laboratory; BP — Breezy Pt; CCP — Cupsogue County P; CHP — Conference House P, Staten I; CLP — Clove Lakes P, Staten I; CP — Central P; CSP — Caumsett SP; dm — dark morph; DP — Democrat Pt; EEB — East End Birds email summary; FBF — Floyd Bennett Field; FP — Forest Park; GA — Gabreski Airport; GE — Grace Estate, Easthampton; HLSP Hempstead L SP; HSP — Hecksher SP; JBWE — Jones Beach SP West End; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI — Long Island; MB — Mecox Bay; mi — miles; MI — Moriches Inlet; migr — migrating; MLP — Mt Loretto P, Staten I; MP — Montauk Pt; MS — Maple Swamp; OMNSA — Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area; OP — Orient Pt; PB — Pike's Beach, PP — Prospect Park; RMSP — Robert Moses SP; Shinn — Shinnecock Inlet; SPCP — Smith Pt County P; VCP — Van Cortland P; WNWR — Wertheim NWR; WSP — Wildwood SP.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Brant:** Shinn 16 Jun (OB); 3 Riverdale 30 Jun; 2 JBWE 29 Jul; 7 JBWE 15 Aug thru.

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** Gilgo thru (RP); origins suspect?, *intro*.

**Wood Duck:** hen with 4 y Brightwaters 3 Jul (RG), noteworthy breeding site; 7 JBWR 20 Jul (PL).

**Am. Wigeon:** JBWR 2 Jul.

**Blue-winged Teal:** m Sore Thumb 10 Jun (SM *et al*).

**N. Shoveler:** a few JBWR thru.

**N. Pintail:** JBWR 2 Jul.

**Greater Scaup:** m JBWR thru Jun.

**Com. Eider:** 5 MP 1 Jun (CM), continuing from last season.

**Surf Scoter:** pr Staten I fishing pier 18 Jun (CN *et al*); Montauk 27 Jun (JJ).

**Black Scoter:** f Oyster Pond, Montauk 13 Jun (VB).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Sore Thumb 10 Jun (SM *et al*).

**Bufflehead:** 2 Sore Thumb 10 Jun (SM *et al*).

**Hooded Merganser:** arr JBWR 7 Aug.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Sore Thumb 10 Jun; 2f JBWE 10 Jun (SM *et al*); f reported from JBWE thru.

**Wild Turkey:** 5 former Grumman property 11 Jun (SM *et al*); f Morningside

P 30 Jun and several days prior (*fide* NY RBA); f with poults Sunrise Highway, just n of WNWR 18 Jul (JG).

**N. Bobwhite:** Rt 51 Bike Path, Pilgrim State Hospital property (J&GF, JQ) & HSP (PL).

**Red-throated Loon:** 5 off Shinn 4 Jun (AB); JBWE 10 Jun (GC *et al*); DP 10 & 15 Jun (PL *et al*); Shelter I 21 Jun (NH).

**Com. Loon:** 8 migr DP 4 Jun; small numbers present off South Shore thru.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr JBWR 27 Jul.

**N. Fulmar:** 25 out 25mi s MP 6 Jun (JP, *fide* NY RBA); 1 out 25mi s MP 17 Jun (JP, *fide* NY RBA).

**Cory's Shearwater:** arr Shinn 29 Jun (BrC, PL, SM); 250 RMSP/DP 24 Jul (AG *et al*); RMSP 29 Jul (JQ); 71 DP 30 Jul (PL); 76 Shinn 30 Jul (TWB, GB); 15 DP 3 Aug (PL); generally smaller numbers thru Aug.

**Greater Shearwater:** 5 on 6 Jun and 50 on 17 Jun 25 mi s MP (JP, *fide* NY RBA); 'many' 75 mi s Shinn 19 Jun (*fide* NY RBA); 2 RMSP 24 Jul (PL, SM); RMSP 29 Jul (JQ); 'several' MP 29 Jul (AK); RMSP 31 Jul (RK).

**Sooty Shearwater:** small numbers from shore RMSP to MP thru; offshore max 50 out 25 mi s MP 17 Jun (JP).

**Manx Shearwater:** 2 off CCP 4 Jun (GB, TWB); 3 out 75 mi s Shinn 19 Jun (*fide* NY RBA); RMSP 24 Jul (SM); 2 JBWE 29 Jul (AO); RMSP 29 Jul (JQ).  
**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 30 off Shinn 4 Jun (AB); 16 e LI Sound, n of Great Gull I 18 Jun (SM); 'many' 75 mi s Shinn 19 Jun (*fide* NY RBA); 90 DP 22 Jun (PL, SM); 2 Shinnecock Bay, n of inlet, 9 Jul (ES), unusual location; n of Great Gull Is 19 Aug (SM); small numbers off RMSP thru Jul and Aug.

**N. Gannet:** eastbound flight continued into early Jun; small numbers present off South Shore thru, e.g. the following counts from DP: 110 migr on 4 Jun, 15 on 10 Jun, 9 on 22 Jun, 10 on 24 Jul; 10 on 30 Jul; 5 on 7 Aug.

**BROWN PELICAN:** MI 11 Jul (AB); NY Bight 16 Jul (TB); RMSP 31 Jul (RK).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** Bellport 28 Jul (*fide* MSch); Montauk 7 Aug (M&MWO).

**Least Bittern:** JBWR 27 Jun (SWO, *et al*); PP 13 Aug (AWi) and 24 Aug (*fide* NY RBA).

**Little Blue Heron:** Shinn 6 Jun (S&JBe).

**Tricolored Heron:** e side Shinn 5 Jun (JS); CCP 18 Jun (AB).

**Cattle Egret:** Staten I 8 Jun (MSa); present JBWR thru; Mecox Rd. 11 Jul (KG); 2 Drake P 13 Jul (GD).

**Green Heron:** 3 juvs, 2 ads CP12 Jun, nested here.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Shinn 19 Jun (JGi).

**Turkey Vulture:** Rocky Pt 22 Jun (JHo); 2 Rt 51 Bike Path 4 Jul (DF, PL); Southold 22 Aug (JQ); Staten I 24 Aug (JQ); 3 Eastport 28Aug (SBI).

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** ad Pouch L, Staten I 11 Jun (HF! *et al*).

**Bald Eagle:** Mashomack 9 Jun (KC); imm OP 13 Jun (S&JBe); imm Oyster Pd, Montauk 13 Jun (VB) and 26 Jun (TBo); Meadowbrook Parkway 19 Jun (TBa);

imm Riverhead 22 Jun (BA); JBWR 28 Jul (MSh); 2 immes Inwood Hill P (MB), hacking program birds.

**N. Harrier:** pr interacting Sore Thumb 13 Jun, but not seen subsequently (PL).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** two resident prs CP, one pr fledged young.

**Am. Kestrel:** Rt 51 Bike Path 18 Jun (BM); bred former Grumman property (TS); sev breeding locations Manhattan inc CP.

**Merlin:** CP 22 Jul (BC).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Mashomack 4 Jun (ES); pr RMSP Twin Causeway thru.

**Virginia Rail:** Big Reed Pond, Montauk 25, 28 Jun (VB *et al*).

**Sora:** arr e LI at Aquebogue 8 Jun (AB); OMNSA 18 Aug; juv JBWR 28 Aug.

**Com. Moorhen:** JBWR 18 Aug (PJ) thru at least 28 Aug (mob).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 14 PB 29 Jun, many for date.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr Riverhead 23 Aug (AB); Cutchogue 25 Aug (*fide* NY RBA); 9 Bridgehampton 30 Aug (AB).

**WILSON'S PLOVER:** Tobay Beach 23 Jun (LL).

**Piping Plover:** 15 ad PB 21 Jul (PL), habitat stress here increasing.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** 250+ JBWE 16 Aug (PL).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 350 JBWR 22 Jul.

**Willet:** 29 Oak Beach bar 19 Jul (PL); 70 Shinn 27 Aug, mostly *semipalmatus* (SM, PL *et al*).

**Upland Sandpiper:** GA 23 Aug (*fide* NY RBA); Riverhead 28 Aug (AB).

**Whimbrel:** arr Napeague 29 Jun; many reports of small numbers migr along outer beaches thru.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** arr JBWR 6 Aug (J&GF, mob), thru at least 10 Aug.

**Marbled Godwit:** arr JBWE 9 Aug (SJ), thru at least 12 Aug; DP 17 Aug (PL, SM); JBWR 17 Aug (LS, KK); PB 19 Aug (*fide* NY RBA) and 24 Aug (SA), presumably same bird reported from CCP and PB thru (AB, PL).

**Red Knot:** 50 PB 11 Jun (DS *et al.*); 65 CCP and 44 PB 29 Jun (PL, SM); ca. 100 around MI thru Jun, *intro*.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 200 PB 11 Jun (DS *et al.*); 1200 PB 23 Jul (SM, PL); 2000 JBWR 27 Jul (SM, PL).

**Western Sandpiper:** arr PB 9 Jul (*fide* NY RBA); arr JBWR 18 Jul (SB).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr PB 12 Jun; 15 MB 28 Jun (*fide* EEB).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 15 PB 11 Jun (DS *et al.*); 16 PB 18 Jun (PL, SM); 4 MB 22 Jun; 15 MB 30 Aug (AJL).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Oyster Pond, Montauk 27 Aug (AB); 2 JBWR 27 Aug (DK, mob), at least one remaining thru.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr Aquebogue 15 Jul (J&GF *et al.*).

**Dunlin:** 6 MI thru Jun, typically scarce at this season, *intro*.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr JBWR 15 Jul (DF).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr JBWE 11 Aug; 8 Riverhead 24 Aug (SA), high; 8 JBWE 30 Aug (SB, RJ), high; 2 Oyster Pond, Montauk 27 Aug (AB); unusually high number of reports from throughout the Region.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** ca. 100 around MI thru Jun, probably summered here, *intro*; 1500 JBWR 31 Jul; 500 PB 23 Jul (SM, PL).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** bas CCP 18 Jun (PL, SM), calling, unusual date; arr JBWR 23 Jul (SA, RK *et al.*).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR 25 Jul (TF); ad JBWR 6 Aug (SA, mob); juv JBWR 11 Aug (SSi *et al.*); Setauket Mill Pond 26 Aug (CK); JBWR 26 Aug (Wada *et al.*); ad JBWR 27 Aug (LS, DSp), diff from juv also being seen.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** PB continuing from May; last reported 4 Jun; juv JBWR 26 Aug — at least 28 Aug (MSh, SWo).

**Red Phalarope:** CCP 27 Jul (BrC, JaG, SM!), unusual date and location.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** ad dm DP 15 Jun (PL, SM); DP 22 Jun (PL, SM); 2nd summer DP 24 Jul (AG *et al.*); DP 30 Jul (PL); 2

RMSP 31 Jul (RK); Amagansett 20 Aug (AW); Shinn 30 Aug (AB); RMSP 30 Aug (SB, RJ).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr MB 28 Jun (HM, PP).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 2 fresh juvs JBWE 24 Jul (AG), early.

**Herring Gull:** first independent juvs 30 Shinn 23 Jul (SM).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad MB 30 Aug (AJL).

**Gull-billed Tern:** Great Kills Flats, Staten I 10 Jun (JT); 1-3 ads JBWR thru Jun and Jul; first juvs 6 Aug among 9 total, a large number.

**Caspian Tern:** OMNSA 21 Jun (MF); Peconic R 7 Jul; JBWR 23 Jul; ad JBWR 30 Jul (RK); ad & imm JBWR 17 Aug (LS, KK, DR); ad & juv OMNSA 31 Aug (MF).

**Royal Tern:** alt Shinn 11 Jun (GC, PL, SM, DS); a few MI-Shinn late Jun-early Jul, numbers building mid Jul thru; max 42 PB 24 Aug (SA); JBWR 31 Jul (*fide* NY RBA), unusual location.

**SANDWICH TERN:** MB 21 Jul (SSa); CCP 22 Jul (AB); ad and begging juv Breezy Pt 31 Aug (SB).

**Roseate Tern:** reported from BP, DP, MI, Shinn, MB, OP, and Napeague thru. **Com. Tern:** 6000-8000 BP 31 Aug (SB).

**ARCTIC TERN:** MI 3 Jul (PL!, SM!); MI 6 Jul (DF); MI 12 Jul (RJ, SB, SSi!), 1-2 birds 1st summer plumage.

**Forster's Tern:** Captree I 10 Jun (PL, SM), first summer plumage; 100 MB 30 Aug (AJL).

**Black Tern:** unusually numerous and widespread Jun-early Jul; smaller numbers present mid Jul thru; *intro*.

**Black Skimmer:** 1000 BP 31 Aug (SB); 500 Lido Beach; *intro*.

**Dovekie:** 25 mi s MP 6 Jun (JP).

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** VCP 9 Jul (PG); Shinn 27 Aug (SM, PL).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** GE 2 Jun (PL).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 4 GE 2 Jun (PL).

**E. Screech-Owl:** 6-7 CP thru; nested here early spring.

**Barred Owl:** CSP 21 Jul (DB), very unusual location.

**Com. Nighthawk:** Kissena P 1 Jun (EM); CP 1 Jun (BC); CP 25 Aug (BC); 8 WSP 28 Aug (JC), noted as worst start to migr season in years.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** 4 calling Westhampton 11 Jun (HM); at least two heard thru Jun here (mob); calling Napeague 15 Jun (CR).

**Whip-poor-will:** 9 calling Westhampton 11 Jun (HM); 3 Westhampton 26 Jun (JGi); Captree I 1 Jul, new location (RK).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** flight display GE 2 Jun (PL); Dune Rd 18 Jun (SM, PL).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr CP 4 Jun (GD); arr CP 16 Aug (TF).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** JBWE 16 Aug (JQ); Riverside P 25 Aug (*fide* NY RBA).

**E. Phoebe:** pr carrying food GE 2 Jun (PL).

**SAY'S PHOEBE:** JBWE 23 Jun (M&NL, mob!), *intro*.

**E. Kingbird:** 12 RMSF 26 Aug (PL), notable start of migr for this species.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** MLP 5 Jun (RM, mob!).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** ad feeding y CP 7 Aug (RD); listed as occasional breeder here, but last record found by DA was 1956.

**Horned Lark:** breeders present at many sites on the outer beach, from BP to Shinn and at Calverton and GA.

**Purple Martin:** several active colonies in Westhampton area, both bayside (e.g., Apacuck and Aspatuck creeks) and on the barrier beach, e.g. 12 pr Dune Rd colony (*fide* JQ).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** JBWE 24 Jun, unusual date.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** newly fledged young ph near Muttontown Preserve,

Nassau Co. 16 Jul (SW), likely the 1st LI breeding record since 1963, *intro*.

**E. Bluebird:** breeding sites include WNWR (JG).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Shelter I 1 Jun (NH); arr CP 25 Aug (*fide* DA).

**Hermit Thrush:** arr CP 25 Aug (*fide* DA).

**Am. Robin:** 530 peak count CP 29 Aug, going to roost (BC).

**Cedar Waxwing:** widespread and conspicuous LI thru.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** CP 18 Aug (TF); FP 18 Aug (JL); PP 26 Aug.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** CLP 27 Aug (DE); CP 28 Aug (PJ).

**Tennessee Warbler:** sev reports from NYC parks 18 Aug thru.

**N. Parula:** singing m GE 2 Jun (PL), in same general area as in past five or so years.

**Yellow Warbler:** migr PB 23 Jul.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr CP 18 Aug (*fide* DA).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** CP 19 Aug (DA), very early.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Montauk 5 Jun (VB *et al.*).

**Pine Warbler:** bred New York Botanical Garden (RD).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** singing m BBG 3 Jul and CP 9 Jul (RD); arr CP 18 Aug (*fide* DA).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** notably absent from some former breeding areas eastern LI.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Pleasure Drive, Flanders 5 Jun (ES); CP 16-17 Jun (SB, TF); arr CP (m) 28 Aug (JM *et al.*).

**N. Waterthrush:** arr CP 23 Jul (*fide* DA).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr CP 22 Jul (*fide* DA).

**Kentucky Warbler:** Riverside P 4, 12 Jun; PP 16 Aug (DG).

**Mourning Warbler:** APP 1 Jun (EM); FP 2 Jun (EM, JL); 1 banded Mashomack 6 Jun (MS); CP 12 Jun (SB); Riverside P

20 Jun (*fide* NY RBA); fall arr CP 14 Aug (*fide* DA).

**Hooded Warbler:** Mashomack 2 Jun (TD); CP 12, 23 Aug (*fide* DA).

**Canada Warbler:** arr CP 24 Jul (*fide* DA).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Montauk 2 Jun (CM); Riverside P 21 Aug (*fide* NY RBA).

#### TANAGERS-WEAVERS

**Summer Tanager:** f FP 1 Jun (EM); CP 1 Jun (TF); Sag Harbor 7 Jun (HM); BNL 27 Jun (EL, TG); Riverside P 29 Jun (*fide* NY RBA); CP 24 Aug (CMc).

**Lark Sparrow:** JBWE 23 Aug (SJ, AW).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 2 former Grumman property and 3 Rt 51 Bike Path 11 Jun, known breeding areas (DS *et al*).

**White-throated Sparrow:** JBWR 19 Jul (SB); Sag Harbor 20 Jun (JH); unusual dates; arr CP 18 Aug (*fide* DA).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** singing m GE 2 Jun (PL).

**Blue Grosbeak:** 2 m Rt 51 Bike Path thru 4 Jun (GB, TWB) 2 m singing 11 Jun (DS *et al*); 1 still present and singing 4 Jul (DF, PL).

**Indigo Bunting:** many breeders e-central LI; f feeding y GE 2 Jun (PL); 2 MS 5 Jun (B&ESi); MLP 6 Jun; CHP 6 Jun; HLSP (JGi); m Rt 51 Bike Path 11 Jun (DS *et al*).

**Dickcissel:** 2 m FBF 3 Jul (SB *et al*), apparently on territory.

**Bobolink:** ad m VCP 9 Jul (PG), early migrant/dispersant.

**Com. Grackle:** 259 peak count CP 25 Aug, going to roost (BC).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** 2 Captree I 10 Jun (PL, SM); present thru at usual breeding areas: JBWR, Dune Rd, CCP, Cedar Beach Marina.

**Orchard Oriole:** 1 CHP and 3 MLP 6 Jun (PL, SM); Rt 51 Bike path 4 Jul (DF, PL); nest with young CP 21 Jun.

**Purple Finch:** JBWE 23 Aug (SM).

#### EXOTICS

**Ringed Turtle Dove:** JBWE 15 Jul - 16 Aug (M&NL, SS, mob!).

**Budgerigar:** 2 CP 21 Jul.





## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY -adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P -park; Pd- Pond; ph - photographed; Pt -Point; Res - Reservoir;Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad -subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

**Region 1-Region 2** in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:  
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;  
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19  
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

**Region 2-Region 3** in Ontario County:  
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64  
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21  
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

**Region 3-Region 5** in Cayuga County:  
the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

**Winter Season:** December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

**Spring Season:** March, April, May

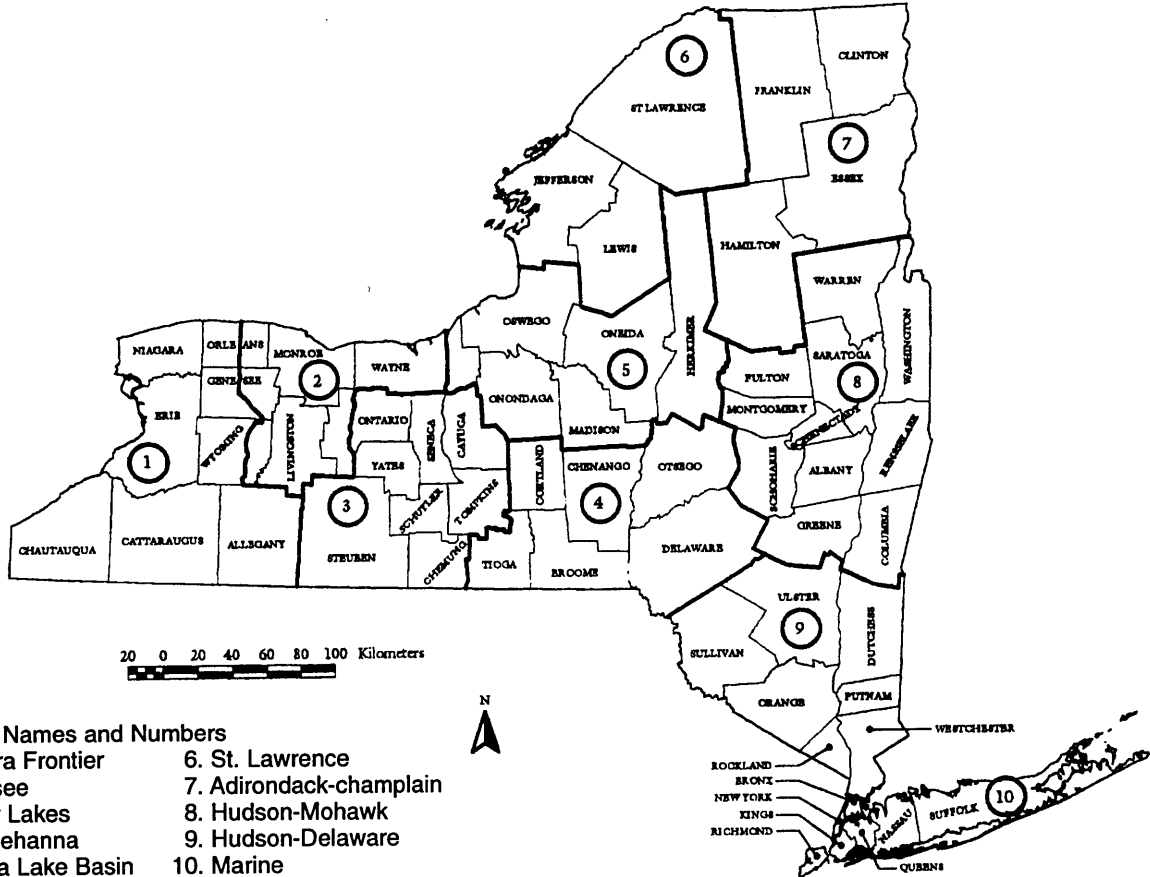
Deadline is 7 June

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

Deadline is 7 September

**Fall Season:** September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



**Editor of *THE KINGBIRD***

Shaibal S. Mitra  
Biology Dept., College of Staten Island  
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

**Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS***

Tim Baird  
242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

***Appointed Committees***

**Archives:**

Phyllis R. Jones, Chair  
9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy, NY 12770

**Awards:**

William Ostrander  
80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14905

**Conservation:**

Gail Kirch  
1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850  
John Confer  
651 Hammond Hill Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817

**Finance:**

Berna B. Lincoln, Chair  
P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

**John J. Elliott Memorial:**

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

**New York State Avian Records:**

Angus Wilson, Chair

**Send reports to:**

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC  
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

**Publications:**

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

**Waterfowl Count:**

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

**Web Site:**

Carena Pooth  
22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

***Elected Committees***

**Nominating:**

Joan Collins, Sue Adair,  
Bob Mauceli

**Auditing:**

Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo,  
Emanuel Levine

***The Kingbird***

**Publication of NYS Ornithological Assoc., Inc.**

**P.O. Box 95**

**Durhamville, NY 13054**

**Change Service Requested**

**DO NOT FOLD**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
3rd CLASS  
HOMER, NY 13077  
PERMIT NO. 8**