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A BRIEF GUIDE TO BIRDING FORT DRUM, NEW YORK

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The Fort Drum Military Installation is a 107,265 acre training facility for the United States Army located in Jefferson and Lewis Counties in Kingbird Region 6. Much of the installation lies within the Eastern Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence Plains ecozones, but the eastern portion is in the Western Adirondack Transition, and part of Fort Drum's southern border lies within the Black River Valley. Within the boundaries of the installation are a variety of ecological communities, including old hayfields, sandplain grasslands, shrubland, deciduous and coniferous forest, extensive wetlands, and several small to medium-sized ponds. This landscape diversity provides nesting habitat for more than 140 species of birds, including several species that are severely declining or difficult to find elsewhere in New York State, such as Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Golden-winged Warbler, and Clay-colored and Henslow's Sparrows. Historically, few birders have visited Fort Drum, at least partly because few realized that the installation was accessible or understood the process for gaining access. In this article we outline the procedure for obtaining permission to bird Fort Drum, and then describe several routes through the installation that provide access to habitat for nearly all of the local breeding species.

ACCESS

To access Fort Drum, visitors must obtain recreation passes and follow certain regulations. Regulations and applications for passes can be found at Fort Drum's Fish and Wildlife web page (<http://www.drum.army.mil/garrison/pw/FishAndWild.html>); all visitors should read these regulations carefully before visiting Fort Drum, so we will only briefly describe the process here. Recreational permits and access passes are available through the mail (or in person when the permit office is open). The application package for a pass includes a signed hold-harmless agreement, a photocopy of a driver's license or other government issued photo identification, and a small fee (\$5 in 2007) in the form of a U.S. Postal Service money order; passes are valid for the federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). Before entering the installation, visitors must call the Fort Drum Sportsman's Hotline (315-772-7153) to find out what Training Areas are open for recreation and to register their access pass number. The hotline lists all Training Areas that are open for recreation

and is generally updated daily at 6 pm for the next day only; entrance into any Training Area not listed on the hotline is prohibited. Purchasers of access passes will also receive a recreation map of Fort Drum, and if requested, a checklist of birds.

A few tips may help the first time visitor. At least part of Fort Drum is open for recreation most days of the year, but on any given day some of the installation is closed for military training. By far the best time to visit Fort Drum is on a major federal holiday weekend (Memorial and Independence Days for breeding species, including 1-2 days before and after each holiday), when training normally does not occur and nearly all of the training areas are accessible for recreation. Birders should be aware that hunting is allowed on Fort Drum and all recreational users are required to wear blaze-orange when in the field during any hunting season. A network of generally well-maintained gravel roads provides access to the training areas; heavy military vehicles sometimes create large potholes, so birders should drive cautiously. Most of these roads lack signs, so we suggest that visitors study their recreation map and the directions given below carefully before entering the installation.

GENERAL LAYOUT OF THE INSTALLATION

Fort Drum is divided into three general areas: the Cantonment Area, the Main Impact Area, and the Training Areas. The Cantonment Area (the developed portion of the installation, including Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield) has restricted access. At this time the public can enter the Cantonment Area with a photo i.d., vehicle registration, and proof of insurance, but birding is far better in the Training Areas, so we do not include the Cantonment Area in the following description. The Impact Area is where ordnance is fired into and is off-limits to all recreational use.

The Training Areas (TAs) consist of approximately 70,000 acres of mostly undeveloped land, and are identified by alphanumeric codes and divided into sub-training areas (e.g., sub-TAs 12A, 12B, 12C, and 12D make up TA 12); these designations are indicated on the recreation map. Before calling the Sportsman's Hotline, visitors should identify the TAs they hope to enter, as the recorded message lists them rather quickly.

Vegetative communities are varied across the installation, but tend to occur in several broad areas. The western half of the installation consists of a mosaic of old hayfields, shrubland, and woodland patches of various ages; at the core of this area is a 3500 acre patch of old hayfield in TAs 12 and 13 often referred to as "the Fort Drum grasslands". The southern one-third of Fort Drum is on sandy soil; vegetation in these sandy areas includes sandplain grasslands, open oak and pine-oak woodland, and successional northern hardwoods. A large expanse of wet mixed forest dominates the south-central training areas (especially TAs 8 and 9). The largest expanse of contiguous forest occurs in the northeastern corner of the installation and is adjacent to additional private and state forest off-post.

BIRDING FORT DRUM

The following tours describe the birdlife likely to be encountered on Fort Drum during the late spring and summer, when most birders are likely to visit. Birding is generally slow during the colder months, although during some winters good numbers of several northern species may be found, including Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll, and occasionally Snowy Owl. The roads in the TAs are not always well maintained in winter, however, and access can be difficult. Unless stated otherwise, directions for the following tours begin at the intersection of State Highways 3 and 26 in the village of Great Bend, near the southern boundary of Fort Drum.

Grassland tour

The grassland tour actually passes through a variety of upland habitat types in the western training areas, including sandplain grassland, old hayfields, shrubland, and open oak and pine-oak woodland. This tour can be covered in half a day and focuses on the species that are most sought after by most birders visiting Fort Drum.

From Great Bend, drive 1.2 miles northwest on State Highway 26 and turn right at the traffic light onto the Main Tank Trail. This gravel road follows the western and northern boundaries of Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield, passing primarily forest to the west and a mosaic of sandplain grassland and shrubland to the east. The proximity of extensive open woodland and numerous fields provides excellent habitat for Whip-poor-will, and patches of bare sandy soil provide abundant nesting sites for Common Nighthawk; both species can often be heard along the length of this road before sunrise or after sunset (however note that visitors are generally not allowed to be on Fort Drum from 1 ½ hours after sunset to 1 ½ hours before sunrise, and cannot use headlights at night).

Approximately 1.5 miles north of highway 26 the road crosses a patch of sandplain grassland, where Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows are common, and Horned Lark and Upland Sandpiper can occasionally be found. These sandplain grasslands are characterized by native bunchgrasses such as common hairgrass and support an assemblage of breeding bird species quite different from that which breeds in the old hayfields at the end of this tour. Unfortunately, most of this habitat is within the airfield fence and is thus off-limits to birders. This first stop includes the most extensive patch outside the fence, and is thus the best opportunity to find both sparrows and Horned Lark, but if missed here, they might be found at any of several grassy spots along the Main Tank Trail during the next 2.5 miles. Upland Sandpiper was formerly a common nester on Fort Drum, but has declined severely in recent years, probably because of a variety of problems, including development on-post; this stop presents the best chance of finding one, but birders can no longer expect to find one anywhere on Fort Drum.

Continue north on the Main Tank Trail 0.4 mile, where the road passes an open stand of oak (and a metal and concrete latrine; these are scattered

throughout the training areas); a pair of Red-headed Woodpecker has nested here for many years, and another pair has nested recently in the open pine-oak woods 0.5 miles farther north. Adjacent to this latter stand of trees, the road passes through a series of regenerating clear cuts, where increasing numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows have occupied territories in recent years; numerous Brown Thrashers and Field Sparrows also nest in these dense shrubby oaks, and Prairie Warbler occasionally shows up in this area. At the stop sign turn right and drive 1.1 miles to the intersection with old County Highway 29, the only paved road in the training areas. The fields SW of this intersection are another good place to look for Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, which can often be seen perched on the fence here. The open oak woodlands east of this intersection host 1-3 additional pairs of nesting Red-headed Woodpecker.

Turn left on the paved road and drive north 2.2 miles to Reedville Road. Turn right onto Reedville and drive 0.9 miles to Antwerp Tank Trail. During late May and early June Golden-winged Warbler (and the occasional Brewster's Warbler) can be heard singing along this stretch of Reedville Road. Continuing straight on Reedville for 4.0 miles past Antwerp Tank Trail brings you to the middle of the forest tour, which is described in the next section. However, for the grassland tour, turn left onto Antwerp Tank Trail and drive 2.4 miles north through a mix of shrubland and mostly early successional woodland to the intersection with Gray Road. The intersection of Gray Road and Antwerp Tank Trail is near the southern boundary of "the Fort Drum grasslands", a large expanse of old hayfield interspersed with patches of shrubland and successional woodland.

Northern Harrier, Savannah Sparrow, and Bobolink are easily found along Antwerp Tank Trail, but Henslow's Sparrow, Sedge Wren, and Clay-colored Sparrow require some effort to find. The latter three species can usually be found near Poagland Road (intersects with Antwerp Tank Trail 0.5 mile north of Gray Road), north of Dogwood Lane (2.4 miles north of Gray Road), or west of Zimmer Road (not shown on the Fort Drum map and closed to vehicles; begins at Antwerp Tank Trail 1.7 miles north of Gray Road and runs southwest to Poagland Road 0.6 miles west of Antwerp Tank Trail). During 2006, the most reliable place for Henslow's Sparrow was south of the intersection between Poagland and Zimmer Roads, but recent grassland management may produce good conditions (perhaps as soon as 2007) for this species west of Zimmer Road (especially the north end) and southeast of the intersection between Antwerp Tank Trail and Dogwood Lane. Sedge Wren is more unpredictable than Henslow's Sparrow, occurring in good numbers some years and virtually absent others; they are most likely during late June and July, when they can often be found in damp depressions with tall grass and sedge, often near Henslow's Sparrows. Clay-colored Sparrows nest throughout this area, usually in areas with scattered shrubs.

Several other grassland species are less reliable in this area. Short-eared Owls are sporadic breeders, nesting for 1-2 years and then not again for 1-4 years. When present, they are most easily seen hunting over the grasslands in or near TA 12C just before sunrise or in the late afternoon. Upland Sandpiper and Eastern Meadowlark formerly nested in good numbers here, but have virtually

disappeared since about 2001. Upland Sandpipers probably declined as shrubs increased in this area, and there is hope that they will return in response to ongoing efforts to control woody vegetation. The reason for the disappearance of meadowlarks from much of this area is less clear, especially given that individuals nesting on neighboring hayfields often forage along the edges of Fort Drum. A small patch of sandy soil west of Antwerp Tank Trail and 0.6 miles north of Dogwood Lane is the only location in Training Area 12 where Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows are regularly found; Henslow's Sparrow was common a few hundred yards to the west of this site as recently as 2003.

From the grasslands you can exit Fort Drum by continuing north on Antwerp Tank Trail, which veers eastward to an intersection with U.S. Military Highway. From this intersection, turn left and drive north to the village of Antwerp; remain on this road until it reaches US Highway 11, where you can turn left to Watertown or right toward Canton. If you are not ready to leave the installation, you can cross U.S. Military Highway and follow the directions in the Wetlands section to the best marsh on Fort Drum.

Forest tour

This tour passes through a variety of forest types, including northern hardwood forest, successional hardwoods, open oak and pine-oak woodland, various mixed forest types (especially white pine-northern hardwoods), and both natural and planted conifer stands. The forest tour can be covered in half a day, depending on how thoroughly it is birded. A larger patch of contiguous forest can be reached by way of FUSA Boulevard, but this road is often closed for training (although it should be open on major federal holidays), and is a longer drive (see below).

To begin the forest tour, drive east on State Highway 3 from Great Bend for 1.8 miles; turn left onto County Highway 3A shortly after crossing the Black River. Continue on highway 3A, crossing a set of railroad tracks 3.8 miles from Great Bend. Before sunrise or after sunset, the red eyeshine of a Whip-poor-will can often be seen along the shoulder of highway 3A during the 2 mile stretch of road east of the RR crossing. The left turn onto Lake School Road is 6.1 miles from Great Bend.

Drive north on Lake School Road, passing through a diverse forest. Stands of pine and aspen along the southern stretch of Lake School are good for Nashville Warbler, and Common Raven nests in nearby pine plantations (ravens also nest on Fort Drum in open sheds and on cliffs). The shrubby border of a small stream 1.0 mile north of highway 3A can be excellent for migrating passerines, and often hosts nesting Canada Warbler; Blackburnian and Pine Warblers often sing from the large white pines adjacent to the stream. The stretch of Lake School Road between Gormley (1.1 miles) and South Tank Trail (2.2 miles) is particularly good for Common Nighthawk, which nests in the open pitch and jack pine plantations here. Blue-headed Vireo and Red-breasted Nuthatch are also common here, and Mourning Warbler nests in stands of recently thinned trees with extensive undergrowth, especially of blackberry and raspberry.

Two side trips off Lake School Road are worth exploring. At Gormley Road, turn right and drive 0.5 miles east to a small pull out on the north side of the road. A short walk north leads to Butts Road (not shown on the Fort Drum map and open to foot traffic only). For the first 250 yards, Butts Road passes along the western edge of a Norway spruce plantation, one of the few reliable locations on Fort Drum for nesting Magnolia Warbler; during some years Sharp-shinned Hawks nest in this spruce stand, and a Long-eared Owl was heard here in May 2006. Typical species found in the wet woods along Butts Road include Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Waterthrush, Canada Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. Return to Lake School and continue north, crossing South Tank Trail; 1.3 miles north of this intersection is a small road on the left that leads to Conservation Pond. Spotted Sandpiper and Hooded Merganser are often on this pond or along the stream that feeds into it, and the surrounding forest is home to nesting Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Hermit and Wood Thrushes, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers, and Northern Waterthrush.

Return to Lake School Road and drive another 0.7 miles north to the intersection with Reedville Road. Golden-winged Warblers are common along most of Reedville Road; to find one, drive west, stopping to listen for the “bee-buzz-buzz-buzz” song. Brewster’s Warblers also occur here, but so far fewer Blue-winged Warblers have been found along Reedville Road than in other parts of Fort Drum. By driving 4.0 miles west from Lake School Road you can join the grassland tour at the intersection of Reedville Road and Antwerp Tank Trail; otherwise drive east to U.S. Military Highway (0.8 miles from Lake School Road).

Cerulean Warbler is one of the rarest and most difficult to find species that regularly nests on Fort Drum. Most sightings have been in stands of large sugar maple in the center of the installation, and most of these stands are in relatively inaccessible areas. Perhaps the best place to look is in TA 15 along Canfield Road. If TA 15 is open for recreation (most likely on federal holidays), turn right off U.S. Military Highway 0.3 mile north of Reedville Road (this road is definitely closed if a red flag is flying at this intersection) and drive northwest for 2.2 miles, checking each stand of large maples on your way. In recent years Cerulean Warblers have been found 0.3 and 2.0 miles from U.S. Military. When you reach a “T” intersection (at 2.2 miles), you can either turn around and backtrack to U.S. Military Highway, or turn left and follow Nauvoo School Road to U.S. Military farther north. The latter route passes extensive shrubland and early successional woodland where winged warblers nest, and the scrubby fields at the intersection of Nauvoo School Road and U.S. Military Highway support large numbers of Brown Thrashers and Field Sparrows, and some years Clay-colored Sparrows.

Once back on U.S. Military Highway, drive south to the intersection with South Tank Trail (2.3 miles from the intersection between Canfield Road and U.S. Military). Turn left onto South Tank Trail and follow it for 1.3 miles to Russell Turnpike. For several years the best place to find Prairie Warbler on Fort Drum has been in TA 14D east of Russell Turnpike. You might find one by working Weaver Road (described below), but you’ll have a better chance of

spotting one by birding the western end of TA 14D first. To do this, turn right onto Russell and look for narrow, unused sandy roads on the left at 0.1 and 0.4 miles; a short walk down each of these trails should turn up one or more Prairie Warblers in June. To get to Weaver Road, return to the intersection with South Tank Trail and continue driving 0.3 miles northeast to the next gravel road on your right.

Turn right onto Weaver Road and drive 0.5 miles to the top of a short hill. Prairie Warblers were formerly abundant in the scrubby woodlands to the south, but have become less common in recent years. Heading south, Weaver Road passes through the most diverse conifer forest on Fort Drum, with stands of white cedar, balsam fir, scattered spruce, and plantations of several species of pine. During irruption years, this is the most reliable place on the installation to find Pine Siskin and Red and White-winged Crossbill; nesting has been confirmed for the former two species. Regular nesting species include Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Nashville, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Pine, and Canada Warblers and Purple Finch. Continue south on Weaver Road to State Highway 3, where you can exit Fort Drum; see the next section for continuing on to FUSA Boulevard To return to Great Bend, turn right on highway 3 and drive 3.9 miles; turn right onto highway 3A and drive to the western intersection of highways. 3 and 3A; turn right again and drive to Great Bend.

FUSA Boulevard

FUSA Boulevard (FUSA) passes through the northeast corner of Fort Drum, which is the most rugged and remote portion of the installation. The birds here are generally the same as along the forest route described above, but with fewer nightjars (although Whip-poor-will can be abundant during migration) and the addition of nesting Common Loon and Osprey. FUSA also offers the greatest possibility for finding Northern Goshawk or Bald Eagle, although these raptors are occasionally seen elsewhere. The southern portion of FUSA is often used for military exercises, so this road is frequently closed, but should be open on major holiday weekends.

To get to FUSA from Weaver Road at the end of the forest tour, turn left and drive 0.4 mile on highway 3 to Lewisburg Road; turn left onto Lewisburg and drive 1.6 miles north to the intersection with FUSA. To get to FUSA from Great Bend, follow the directions for the forest tour, but instead of turning onto Lake School Road (where that tour begins), continue east on highway 3A 0.8 mile. Turn left onto highway 3 at the stop sign and flashing red light and drive 3.9 miles to Lewisburg Road. Turn left onto Lewisburg and drive 1.6 miles north to the intersection with FUSA. Turn right onto FUSA; just before making this turn you will enter Lewis County, through which FUSA passes for its entire length.

To bird FUSA, drive north, stopping occasionally to look for birds. Much of the southern portion of FUSA parallels the Indian River, where Wilson's Snipe, American Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Sora can be heard. At 1.7 miles from the beginning of FUSA, a side road to Quarry Pond provides access to a series

of wooded ponds where Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, and Common Moorhen have nested; Quarry Pond itself generally lacks birds, although Eastern Phoebe nest on the cliffs above the pond. Approximately 2.8 miles farther north the road passes a small finger of Indian Pond; you can park here and hike through the woods to the edge of the pond, where loons often summer and Merlin has been seen during June. Another place to look for loons is at Indian Lake, which you pass 1.4 miles north of Indian Pond; an Osprey nest on the pond west of FUSA here has been active for several years. Continue 0.6 miles north to another side road (often closed for training) that heads west to a fishing access site, which is the best spot from which to scan Indian Lake for loons. FUSA continues north for another 5 miles, mostly passing through dense forest where a good variety of forest birds can be found. You can exit Fort Drum at the north end of FUSA, but it may be easier to turn around and drive back the way you came, as the off-post roads north of the installation can be confusing.

Wetlands

Fort Drum has several thousand acres of wetlands, beaver ponds, and other habitat for waterbirds and waterfowl, but much of this habitat is isolated and difficult to observe. Perhaps the best place to see wetland birds on Fort Drum is a cattail marsh on Mattoon Creek in TA 17B. To get to this site, follow the directions from the end of the grassland tour to Antwerp, but instead of turning left onto U.S. Military Highway, cross it onto Carr Road, which parallels U.S. Military a short distance and then veers northeast. Drive 2.5 miles to a small gravel road on the left; turn left and drive 0.6 miles to a small pullout on the left. Park here and backtrack about 100 yards until you see a narrow grassy lane that heads to the northeast. This lane passes through wet shrubland for about 250 yards and ends at the edge of a cattail marsh surrounded by extensive shrub wetlands.

Birds frequently observed here include Wood Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, Green Heron, American and Least Bitterns, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, and Marsh Wren. This is the only spot on the installation where Black Tern has been documented (three years since 1991), and is among the best locations on the Fort Drum for migratory waterfowl.

Black River Lowlands

Perhaps the best place to witness the passerine migration on Fort Drum is near the Black River in TA 6A. To get to TA 6A, drive east from Great Bend on State Highway 3 for 0.6 mile, looking for a sign on the left indicating the road into the TA. Turn left; the road will head north and then curve eastward. Roads on the left at mile 0.7 and 0.9 form a loop, with the north edge of the loop following the river. This loop passes through pine plantations, mixed forest, and shrubland, which support a good variety of nesting species and if conditions are right, excellent concentrations of migrating passerines. TA 6A is also the most likely place on Fort Drum to find Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse,

Carolina Wren, and Northern Cardinal, species that are generally absent from the installation (perhaps because there are no bird feeders in the training areas). This training area can be heavily used by hunters during the spring Turkey season and in the fall, so birders should be aware of other recreational users.

Pleasant Road

We did not include a specific shrubland bird tour because shrublands are widely scattered throughout Fort Drum, and birds typical of this habitat type can be found along the grassland and forest tours. In case there are shrub birds you may have missed on these tours, a good place to look for them is along Pleasant Road, which runs northeast from State Highway 26 to County Highway 29 near the west end of Reedville Road. Pleasant Road passes through extensive shrubland and early successional woodland, with stands of more mature trees and numerous streams and wetlands. Common nesting species here include American Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers, Eastern Towhee, and White-throated Sparrow. Fort Drum has five summer records for Yellow-breasted Chat since 1991, with four of them coming from TA 3 west of Pleasant Road.

Postscript

Since this article was written, Fort Drum has developed a new training exercise that may result in closure of the portion of County Highway 29 that is on Fort Drum. Such a closure will require an alteration of the directions given for the grassland tour relating to travel from the airfield area to the core Fort Drum grasslands. When you reach Highway 29, follow these directions instead: turn left onto Highway 29 and drive north 0.8 miles; turn right onto a gravel road; drive north, then northeast, for 1.4 mile to the intersection between Reedville Road and Antwerp Tank Trail. Resume following the directions in the grassland tour at this intersection. However, if Highway 29 is completely blocked off, backtrack 0.5 mile on the Main Tank Trail to a gravel road that heads north (this will be on your right as you come from Highway 29); turn right onto it and drive 1.9 mile north to the intersection of Reedville Road and Antwerp Tank Trail.

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Ray Rainbolt, Fort Drum's Fish and Wildlife Program Manager, reviewed a draft of this paper and provided comments that greatly improved the manuscript. Ray asks that birders report any new or unusual sightings at 315-772-9636 or 772-4999, or by mail addressed to: Fish and Wildlife Management Program, 85 First St. W, IMNE-DRM-PWE, Fort Drum, NY 13602.

A TALE OF TWO RAILS

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The Marine Nature Study Area (MNSA) is a small, protected piece of the original tidal wetlands on Nassau County's South Shore, in the village of Oceanside. The MNSA was opened to the general public in April of 1970 as a site for public education and studies explaining the importance and productivity of this local ecosystem. Years of observation have yielded a rich record of the numbers and diversity of birds at this little 52-acre preserve. To date, the MNSA has recorded 271 species of birds, including escapees, which have made their way to this hidden jewel behind suburban Long Island. Counts of selected bird species are conducted twice a day, an hour at opening and again an hour before closing.

On 8 June 2006, the weather was rainy but began to clear around 4:45 pm, during the end of the day bird count. I noticed a Great Black-backed Gull swoop down toward the marsh and flush a chestnut-colored bird from the grass. To my surprise and amazement, there stood a King Rail, a new species for the MNSA checklist. Flabbergasted that I had no camera on-board my cart, I made my way back to the office to gather my equipment. The tide was high and still rising, so I changed shoes and went out into the flooding marsh to see if I could relocate and photograph this rare sighting. After 30-45 minutes of wading knee-high in the marsh and playing a King Rail call, the bird popped its head up and responded with what sounded to me like a Clapper Rail call. The bird was foraging along the flooded creeks, walking on the tall grasses. As it continued along it met up with a Clapper Rail. Both birds continued to move through the marsh together, the King just a few steps ahead of the Clapper. Their consistent proximity suggested to me the possibility that they were paired.

The odd couple was seen on and off in the same general location for the next a few days (Fig. 1). On 14 June, while checking on the status of a Tree Swallow nest box, I stumbled on a surprising discovery. Out of the marsh grass popped the King Rail, a mere three feet from me, but this time its behavior was remarkably different. Instead of popping up and scurrying away into the dense cordgrass, it stood its ground and gave typical-sounding King Rail calls. Moreover, it performed an injured bird distraction display (Fig. 2). I took a closer look at the site it had emerged from, and there, underneath a dome of grass blades, I found a woven, bowl-shaped nest containing ten white and brown speckled eggs.

During the next few weeks, the nest was watched at limited intervals, to minimize disturbance. During these brief periods of observation, I observed that the King Rail (presumably the female) did most of the daytime incubation, whereas its Clapper Rail mate incubated from dusk to dawn.



Figure 1. King and Clapper rails, June 2006,
Marine Nature Study Area, Nassau County, NY © M. Farina.



Figure 2. King Rail performing distraction display near nest, 14 June 2006,
Marine Nature Study Area, Nassau County, NY © M. Farina.

On the afternoon of 4 July, the incubating King flushed from the nest, and I was able to note that all that remained in the nest were egg shells. Concerned that a predator had found the nest, I went in a little closer to investigate. Out of the corner of my eye I saw movement. Then heard some peeping and saw black downy chicks the size of golf balls scattered around the perimeter of the nest. I retreated immediately, having discerned only three or four chicks, but I suspected that all ten were somewhere close by. Both parents circled around me performing their injured bird routine.

Over the next few weeks, sporadic observations were made. The family was observed feeding the chicks outside the parking lot in the creek behind the interpretive board. This was the first time more than three chicks were visible. A total of seven chicks were seen huddling around the Clapper as it brought in a freshly killed Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*). The parents kept the chicks divided between them most of the time, perhaps to prevent destruction of the entire brood by a predator, or perhaps simply to ease the feeding burden. The Clapper was seen dragging in Blue Crabs, killing them, and then allowing the chicks to pick on their own (Fig 3). The King caught mainly individual fiddler crabs or clam worms and then fed these to each individual in its care (Fig. 4). After a feeding session was complete, the parents would feed themselves and preen for a couple of minutes. The chicks would then explore on their own or stay with one of the parents. The Clapper would then strut with its wings fanned horizontally and puffed out until one of the chicks took shelter under its umbrella. The Clapper made a low hooting call before making its way with some of the chicks south down the creek.



Figure 3. Young with Clapper Rail parent, July 2006,
Marine Nature Study Area, Nassau County, NY © M. Farina.



Figure 4. Young with King Rail parent, July 2006,
Marine Nature Study Area, Nassau County, NY © M. Farina.

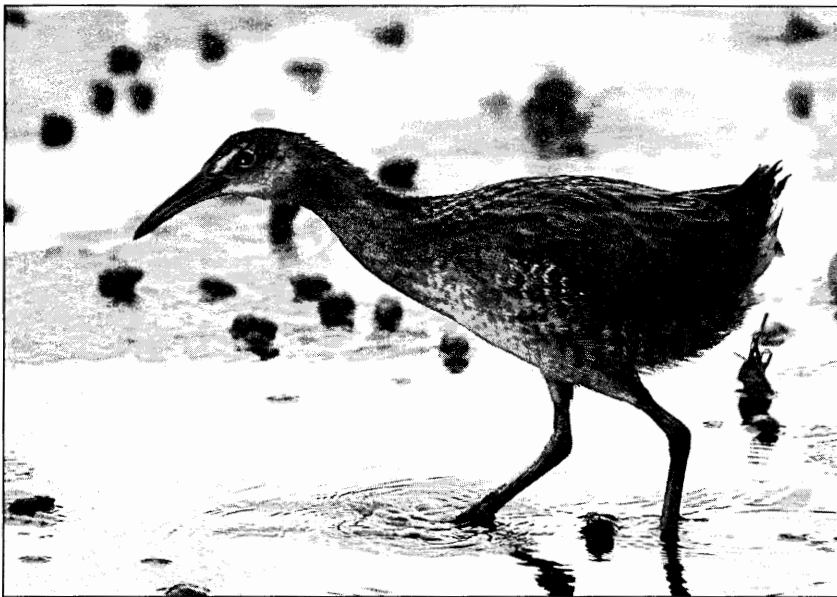


Figure 5. Possible King x Clapper Rail hybrid, August 2006,
Marine Nature Study Area, Nassau County, NY © M. Farina.

A few weeks later, three juvenile rails that had been foraging around the east bridge were loudly chased by the King Rail. These chicks were of a different age class than the young of the hybrid pair, three of which were nearby, and were presumably Clapper Rail young from a different pair. Making matters even more complicated, a noticeably small Clapper Rail (not the bird from the focal pair) was also present nearby, with two older chicks. Thus, three different age classes were seen in close proximity. In mid-August, I observed several immature rails showing color patterns suggesting they might be hybrids (Fig. 5).

In conclusion, these observations add to a growing body of data on mixed pairings of King and Clapper rails (Poole et al. 2005). In this instance, an individual of the typically fresh to brackish water inhabitant King Rail survived, nested, and successfully fledged young in a high salinity saltmarsh habitat, typically regarded as optimal Clapper Rail habitat. It is noteworthy that a King Rail was seen well and photographed in saltmarsh habitat on Nassau County's barrier beach, near Tobay Pond, from 16 April to 5 May 2006 (Lindsay and Mitra 2006).

LITERATURE CITED

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**NEW YORK STATE
ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
59TH ANNUAL MEETING**

**SUNY College at Oneonta, Oneonta, NY
September 30, 2006**

The 59th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA), hosted by Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed there were 40 delegates from 26 clubs, and a quorum was present. Valerie Freer made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2005 Annual Meeting and Jane Graves seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy stated our organization is in good shape and meeting our mission statement. Andy then introduced the officers, directors, and committee chairs to the delegates. Andy reviewed the change in governance issue and reported to the delegates that this issue has been tabled because there was no strong support for the change. Andy also reported the deaths of Paul DeBenedictis in May and John Bull in August.

Reports and Elections:

Brenda Best reported that we currently have 575 annual members and 54 life members. Because Four Harbors Audubon Society did not renew their membership, we have 48 member clubs. Audubon New York applied for membership. Dorothy Crumb made a motion to accept the application and Tim Baird seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2005, was issued and Bill Reeves discussed the various funds and our income and expenses. Our major source of income is membership dues, and our major expense is for our publications. The Auditing Committee Report was presented and clearly states that our statements fairly present our financial condition.

Valerie Freer reported that the Atlas is proceeding on schedule, with publication in Spring 2008. The database has been corrected and finalized. Maps are updated and final. Effort data is now complete for both atlases. The book will be approximately 600 pages. Original artwork will be exhibited at the State Museum at the time of publication.

Shai Mitra, editor of *The Kingbird*, is working on correcting the publication backlog. With the most recent NYSARC report, a new *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* is in the works.

Tim Baird, editor of our newsletter, *New York Birders*, is looking for contributions and suggestions. Member clubs should be sending their newsletters to Tim.

Carena Pooth reported that the most heavily used section of our website is the NYSARC section. Carena has uploaded the minutes of past Board meetings as well as the checklist changes needed to comply with NYSARC and the American Ornithologists' Union changes. Carena also thanked photographers who have submitted their pictures for use on our site.

Gail Kirch reported that letters were written to NYSDEC regarding the Bob Marshall area and low elevation boreal forest areas in the Adirondacks, the Wakely Mountain fire tower and helipad and Sawyer Mountain summit, and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the 15-year plan for Shawangunk NWR. NYSOA has developed a draft position on wind power, and it was recommended that a committee be set up for input on this issue. John Confer agreed to serve and others will be contacted. John Ozard reported the DEC staff person who is working full time on wind power, birds, and bats is Brianna Gary.

NYSARC held an annual meeting in September 2005 and Shai Mitra feels face-to-face meetings are valuable. NYSARC has finished its review of 2004 submissions and is ahead of schedule. Jeff Bolsinger is the newest member. Changes to NYSARC operating guidelines are in process. The Board has approved investigating putting NYSARC records into electronic form, but because these records are not open to the public, we are looking more at preservation than archiving.

Bill Ostrander reports that the Lillian C. Stoner award will be given to three students this year. There were no club grants given this year. Certificates of Appreciation were given during the year to:

- Management, owners, and directors of the Empire State Building for exemplary bird conservation practices
- Robert Schumann, owner, and Dick Zeccola, caretaker of Nuthatch Hollow Nature Preserve for providing a welcoming and "birdy" environment for meetings of the NYSOA Board of Directors
- Mike Grager and family, Cathy and Louis DuBois, and Cindy and Don DuBois, Northern Hawk Owl hosts, for welcoming flocks of birders to their homes
- Kevin Griffith, Genesee Region Editor, *The Kingbird*, March 1983 to September 2005, for dedicated service and 93 regional reports

New York eBird, a joint project between NYSOA, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Audubon New York, is up and running. We hope birders across the state will enter their sightings so that we may use the data for regional reports for *The Kingbird*. Lab personnel are setting up the geographical layer for Kingbird Regions.

Proposed by-laws changes were presented to the delegates:

1. In Article IV, Section 3. Council of Delegates: one delegate is authorized for a member club with regular dues-paying members less than 101 (was 1-100)

2. Article XI, Section 1, NYSARC shall consist of seven members, (was an uneven number of), add with advice from the Committee after “appointed by the President,” and change the term to three years (was five)
3. Article XI, Section 2. Resignation of Members: is new.
4. Article XI, Section 3. Removal of Members: is new.
5. Article XI, Section 4. Vacancies: add after “...President, with the approval of the Board, shall within three months of the effective date of the vacancy, appoint...”
6. Article XI, Section 5. Responsibilities of the Committee. Section Title is new.

Nancy Kern made a motion to approve the by-laws change to Article IV as proposed. Barbara Butler seconded. Approved unanimously.

Bob Mauceli made a motion to approve the by-laws change to Article XI as proposed. Gail Kirch seconded. Approved unanimously.

Bob Mauceli presented the report from the Nominating Committee. Nominated for 2006/07 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 2008 class are Kathryn Schneider, Jane Graves, and Carena Pooth. 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 Nancy Kern seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Phyllis Jones collects our documentation; indexing and organizing at Cornell continues. Phyllis received lots of papers on the Stoner Award dating from 1977 to 2002.

Our next Annual Meeting will be held in Batavia, is scheduled for the first weekend in October 2007, and will be hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society. More information is forthcoming. In 2008, the Rochester Birding Association will be our host and the meeting is planned for September 19-21 at the airport Marriott. No host has come forward yet for 2009.

There were no resolutions presented.

The Nominating Committee for 2007 consisting of Bill Lee, Gail Kirch, and Tim Baird was elected unanimously after a motion by Valerie Freer, seconded by Bob Mauceli. With a motion by Berna Lincoln seconded by Chita McKinney, the Auditing Committee for 2007 consisting of Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo, and Emanuel Levine was elected unanimously.

John Ozard, the NYSDEC representative, presented a handout showing the status of projects they are working on:

1. Shorebird Conservation Literature Review
2. Long Island Colonial Waterbird and Piping Plover Survey
3. Ruffed Grouse Hunting Log
4. August Wild Turkey Sighting Survey
5. Fall 2005 Wild Turkey Harvest and Leg Collection
6. Spring 2006 Wild Turkey Harvest
7. Wild Turkey Youth Hunt
8. Assessing Harvest and Survival Rates of Male Wild Turkeys
9. Wild Turkey Winter Flock Survey
10. Black Tern Survey
11. Grassland Birds
12. Golden-winged Warbler Habitat Restoration
13. Boreal Birds Study
14. Migratory Songbird Stopover Habitat
15. Common Loon
16. Marsh Bird Conservation
17. Breeding Waterfowl Surveys
18. Mute Swan Survey
19. Northern Bobwhite Quail Surveys
20. Osprey surveys planned for 2007
21. Peregrine Falcon Surveys
22. Short-eared Owl Study
23. Spruce Grouse Surveys
24. Bald Eagles of the Upper Delaware R.
25. Bald Eagle Productivity
26. Wintering Bald Eagle Surveys
27. Common Tern
28. Double-crested Cormorant
29. Type E Botulism
30. Breeding Bird Atlas
31. Bird Conservation Areas
32. Grassland Restoration in the St. Lawrence Valley
33. Hudson River Birding Trail
34. Avian Influenza

Old Business:

The issue of governance has been tabled for now. This may be re-visited in the future if strong interest is expressed.

New Business:

None

Motion to adjourn was made by Gail Kirch, seconded by Gail Seamans, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Awards presented during the Saturday evening banquet:

John J. Elliott Award, given for the best article contributed to *The Kingbird* each year, was awarded to Patricia J. Lindsay for co-authoring "An Unprecedented Spring IncurSION of Southeastern North American Landbirds to Coastal New York" which appeared in *The Kingbird* Vol. 55 No. 3.

Lillian Stoner Awards went to Jackson Mesick nominated by the Audubon Society of the Capital Region, Matt Podolsky nominated by the Cayuga Bird Club, and Brian Glidden nominated by High Peaks Audubon Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Best
Recording Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SPRING 2006

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THE WEATHER

Spring 2006 was generally mild, continuing the trend established during the winter season. March temperatures were above average in the far western portions of the state although closer to long-term averages elsewhere. Even in the Regions that had more typical overall temperatures, there were stretches of warm days. April and May were for the most part warmer than usual, although periods of extended northerly winds affected raptor migration in April and passerine migration in early May. Downstate suffered the most from high precipitation totals with rainfall 3.16" above normal in Region 10 during April, and heavy rains in Region 9 during mid-May.

SPRING MIGRATION

Keeping with the mild conditions this spring, passerine migration seemed somewhat ahead of schedule, particularly early in the season. A number of earlier-than-normal sightings blurred the line between early arrivals and winter lingerers. Some early sightings lacked the detail necessary to confidently eliminate similar species more likely to be present in early spring. It is easy to imagine that if our winter weather continues to be mild, we will see an increase in both survival of overwintering "half hardies" and an earlier movement of medium distance migrants from the south as milder conditions allow these species to survive further north. As mentioned in several Regional reports, Neotropical migrants would be less affected by regional weather conditions, and these species typically arrived closer to their long-term arrival dates. The Regional reports contain a parade of record-early or near record-early sightings, as well as discussion on the phenomena. See in particular the Region 10 report for an in-depth discussion of possible causes and the difficulty of sorting through some early records. After the mild weather in early spring, a lingering low pressure system produced conditions unfavorable to migration across much of the state in early to mid-May. In many regions this was followed by a good burst of late migrants but in others this weather pattern seemed to disrupt the movement of later migrants, as in Region 5, where according to the seasonal report, "Late migrants were barely mentioned."

Warbler variety, if not always numbers, was good in many regions. Region 2 tallied all 35 "expected" warbler species, including rare-in-spring Connecticut Warbler and other less common species such as Worm-eating and Kentucky, and multiple sightings of Orange-crowned, Prothonotary and Yellow-breasted Chat. Two well-observed Connecticut Warblers were also reported to the west in Region 1, where additional warbler highlights included an early Prothonotary

on April 30, Worm-eating Warbler, two Yellow-breasted Chats, and a window-killed Kentucky Warbler. Another Kentucky Warbler was identified in Region 3 when the observer recorded the song and matched it with commercial recordings. Upstate, Yellow-throated Warblers were found in Regions 3, 7, and 9; the bird in Region 3 was discovered by birders following a report of Red Crossbill seen earlier that day in the same tree. In addition to the sightings in Regions 1 and 2, Orange-crowned Warblers were found in Regions 6, 7, 9 and 10, a good spring showing. Following last spring's remarkable incursion of southeastern breeding warblers into Region 10, a smaller but similar wave occurred this spring. Species involved included Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers, as well as Summer Tanager. A Swainson's Warbler was also reported without details. See the Region 10 report and the separate summary for details and a comparison with last year's event.

Many regions remarked that cuckoo numbers were up this spring, along with, variously, Eastern Tent, Forest Tent and Gypsy Moth caterpillars on which the cuckoos feed. Conversely, Common Nighthawk numbers were described as low, if mentioned at all, with the exception of a good (for recent years) spring count of 17 in Region 3. These were presumably migrants, as the species no longer regularly breeds in the Region. Whip-poor-wills arrived early at Fort Drum in Region 6 and were found in good numbers there, but were generally reported only in small numbers elsewhere in the state. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6; many of these were birds returning to traditional breeding locations of the past several years. Fox Sparrow was reported in good numbers in Regions 2 and 5. White-crowned Sparrows were found in good numbers in Regions 2 and 9 but were low in Region 5. Comments on Lincoln's Sparrow included a mention of low numbers in Region 5 and a record-early 14 April arrival in Region 10. Additional comments of note from the various reports included a good movement of Red-headed Woodpeckers, good April kinglet movements, and excellent totals for both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles in Region 2; a flock of 65 Rusty Blackbirds, a good number for recent times, in Region 8; and migrant Bicknell's Thrushes in Regions 9 and 10.

WATERFOWL/WATERBIRDS

Waterfowl migration seemed to revert to more normal timing following the apparent facultative northward migration some species undertook during the mild winter season, although generally open conditions may have facilitated the rapid passage of many species through the state. In particular, favorable conditions during the second week of March led to large movements of geese and Tundra Swans in western and central Regions. Maximum Snow Goose numbers were found in the Montezuma area in Region 3, where 110,000 were counted at the Savannah Mucklands in early March. Many of these birds were presumably tallied again in Region 5 on their way back north, with counts of 70,000+ on 11 March and 50,000+ on 25 March. Regions 6 and 7 also recorded counts of multiple thousands of Snow Geese. Good counts of Tundra Swans included 720 in Region 2 on 23 March and 500 in Region 3 on 18 March.

Other waterfowl high counts included 175 Wood Ducks in Region 1, a record Regional spring count; good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers in Region 2; and 500 Green-winged Teal, 1,000+ Redhead, and 20,000 diving ducks, mostly Greater Scaup, in Region 6. Described as "more dubious" was the new Regional maxima of 17 Mute Swans on 10 May in Region 1. On the flip side, Blue-winged Teal were recorded in notably low numbers in Regions 1, 2, and 5. See the Regional reports for additional high and low counts.

Rare geese included Greater White-fronted Geese in Regions 1, 3, 5, and 10; Ross's Geese in Regions 1, 2, and 3; Cackling Geese in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 7; Barnacle Goose in Region 5; and both Black and intermediate-type Brant in Region 10. Eurasian Wigeons were recorded in good numbers in Regions 1, 2, and 3, where ten individuals were found at various locations on 18 March; other reports came from Regions 4, 7, and 10. Other unusual ducks included an adult male Harlequin Duck in Region 1, King Eider in Region 2, and "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal in Region 10. The highlight waterfowl of the season were three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks which touched down in Jamaica Bay, Region 10 on 28 May and remained through the end of the month.

Loon numbers were low on Lake Ontario in Regions 2 and Region 5, including no Red-throated Loons reported in the latter. Conversely, Red-throated Loons were found in less likely locales, including two in Region 4 and one in Region 7, the first Hamilton County record in decades. Red-necked Grebes were well reported this spring, with sightings recorded in every Region except Region 4. Generally above-average numbers on Lake Ontario included 61 in Region 5 on 7 April; several Region 1 counts exceeding 100 in late March and early April, including 248 counted on the Buffalo Ornithological Society Spring Count on 9 April; and a remarkable 1088 counted in Region 2 on 24 March. This latter number continues a string of extraordinary spring counts from Region 2, all much higher than the maxima listed as of the publication of Bull's Birds of New York.

Notable heron reports were highlighted by a White-faced Ibis at Jamaica Bay in Region 10, at least the third consecutive spring that the species has been seen at that location in late April or May. Upstate, unusual reports included Tricolored Heron and Cattle Egret in Region 1, the former sighting a 6th Regional record; Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret in Region 2; Tricolored Heron in Region 3; Least Bittern in Region 4; a flock of 5 Snowy Egrets in Region 5, the highest Regional count since 1965; Glossy Ibis in Region 8 and Region 9, the latter the third Sullivan County record; and Cattle Egret in Region 9.

Sandhill Cranes continue to be an increasing presence in much of the state, with reports from 7 of the 10 Regions. Most are presumed migrants, many seen only in flight, although a pair bred again in the Savannah Mucklands at the edge of Regions 2 and 3. Once again wayward Whooping Cranes from the Florida reintroduction program strayed into Region 6, this time an adult accompanied by a juvenile. A report from Vermont near the NY border in Region 8 may have referred to one or both these individuals as well, but in any event they stayed east of the state border and didn't stray into NYS. The birds in Region 7 were captured on 5 May by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and transported to Wisconsin to join the remainder of the experimental flock.

RAPTORS, ETC.

Comparative migrant raptor numbers were hampered this year by a lack of coverage at one of the state's major spring hawkwatches, Braddock Bay in Region 2. Prevalent northerly winds for the first part of March also served to hold down counts of early migrant hawks. The tide turned with a strong southwesterly flow on 31 March which carried large numbers of Turkey Vultures past the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario hawkwatches. From west to east, the day's tallies were 2,208 at Ripley and 1,569 at Hamburg in Region 1; 3,119 at Braddock Bay in Region 2; and 1,703 at Derby Hill in Region 5. These large early season totals led to record seasonal counts at the Region 1 watches and a remarkable seasonal record of 11,375 at Derby Hill. Bald Eagles were seen in good numbers again this spring. Migration highlights included a seasonal record 114 at the Ripley Hawkwatch in Region 1 and, in Region 5, record daily (73) and seasonal (363) counts at Derby Hill. Nesting pairs also remain on the increase; in Region 1, nests were "too numerous" to list individually, although several nests were noted as occupied for the second consecutive year; in Region 9, Westchester County's first nesting record represents the southernmost on the Hudson River. Nesting Peregrine Falcons continued to be newsworthy with pairs noted in at least five Regions, including results of two dramatic confrontations in Region 1. The other falcon on the increase in the state is Merlin, which this season was reported nesting at last year's site in Buffalo in Region 1 and at a new location within the City of Ithaca in Region 3. It's hard to imagine that since the first recorded nest in 1992, breeding Merlins have expanded across much of the state and are now found breeding in urban centers. Golden Eagle was widely reported, with records in all regions except coastal Region 10. Of note was an apparent adult sighted at Fort Drum, Region 6, in mid-May. Occasional late spring and summer records from here suggest this may become a breeding location, although such sightings are sporadic and this year's bird was not relocated. Also lingering at Fort Drum were small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks, including one found on 27 May. Rare raptors were just that this spring, with the only standouts a handful of out-of-range Black Vultures upstate in Regions 1, 3, and 5, plus an impressive series of sightings in Region 10; and a Swainson's Hawk in Region 5.

Owl migration along the Lake Ontario plain was slow this spring, perhaps due to the unfavorable early spring conditions. Region 5 had only one report of Long-eared Owl and none of Short-eared, and the migration of Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls in Region 2 was described as "less than spectacular". Snowy Owls lingered into the spring season in a handful of Regions, but none longer than the individual which loitered in Region 3 until the remarkable late date of 19 May.

SHOREBIRDS

The overall feeling about the spring shorebird season seemed to match the description from Region 1: "hit or miss". Many areas reported low overall numbers without any sizeable fallouts, but there were a few highlights scattered

throughout the state. Long-billed Dowitchers made rare spring appearances in Region 1 (for the first Regional spring record) and Region 3, where a half-dozen birds were initially identified by their distinctive call. Other highlights from Region 1 included an early Least Sandpiper, two Purple Sandpipers at Niagara Falls, and a Whimbrel and up to five Red-necked Phalaropes at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant in late May. Four more Red-necked Phalaropes were found on 16 May in Region 7, and a stunning female lingered for a week in late May at Pike's Beach in Region 10, presumably the same bird returning from last year. Noteworthy reports from Region 2 included record early Solitary Sandpiper, Whimbrel, and Least Sandpiper, as well as a spring American Golden Plover and decent numbers of Semipalmated Plovers. "Lowlights" from there included poor counts for both yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Upland Sandpiper. In addition to the Long-billed Dowitchers, Montezuma NWR in Region 3 also hosted a good count of 19 White-rumped Sandpipers on 27 May, and elsewhere in the Region a Whimbrel made a flyby appearance at Myers Point, Cayuga Lake on 30 May. In Region 4, "shorebird activity was excellent" with Regional highlights including Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher. General comments from Region 5 echoed those from Region 2 to the west – migrant shorebirds appeared in scattered, low numbers, and some expected species, such as Ruddy Turnstone and Short-billed Dowitcher, were missed entirely. A lack of reports in Region 6 was attributed at least in part to reduced observer effort by birders frustrated by dwindling numbers of birds at traditional "hotspots" in recent years. The only passage-migrant shorebirds recorded in the Region this spring were Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper. Region 8 editor Will Yandik notes that the only migrant shorebird species of note reported there this season, a Pectoral Sandpiper, occurred at "an unassuming splotch of mud in Columbia County," the type of small-scale habitat which can be critical stopover points for migrating birds and is most at risk for development. Birders may be able to provide useful support for the preservation of such habitats at the local level. In Region 10, the peak shorebird migration occurred during the last week or so of May. Shorebird counts during this period at Pike's Beach in Cupsogue, Suffolk County included an encouraging count of 500+ Red Knots and 750 Ruddy Turnstones, the latter possibly the second highest count ever for New York State.

GULLS

Gull excitement dwindled somewhat from the winter season, and there were no major rarities reported. Some rare and uncommon gulls were still found and some winter visitors lingered into late spring. On 15 April, a Little Gull accompanying three Bonaparte's Gulls at Iroquois NWR in Region 1 provided the first inland record for the species, which occurs regularly on the Niagara River about 35 miles to the west. Eight Little Gulls at Hamlin Beach on 2 April were highlights in a "pretty lackluster" gull season for Region 2, which included low Bonaparte's Gull numbers in the Region. A Thayer's Gull was also identified at Perinton Pond. Iceland Gulls were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10, including individuals lingering to 7 May in Region 2 and 17 May

in Region 1. Glaucous Gulls were found from these same Regions, as well as Region 6; the latest lingerers were from Long Island in Region 10 where two different birds were seen on 14 May. Single Laughing Gulls strayed inland to Region 3 in March and Regions 5 and 7 in the latter half of May. Also in Region 5, Derby Hill hawk counter John Van Dort turned his attention away from the skies and toward Lake Ontario on a day with strong westerly winds and found an adult Black-legged Kittiwake. The sighting is notable in two regards since most kittiwake sightings on Lake Ontario are young birds found during fall migration. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in varying numbers from central and western Regions, with high counts of eight in Region 1 and five in Region 5. There were May reports from Regions 1 and 2, with the last on May 14 in Region 1.

Tern comments from the Regional reports were generally negative. Region 2 reported lower than usual numbers of Caspian, Common, and Forster's Tern. Black Terns continued a downward trend in most reporting Regions, although a count of 51 on 12 May from Iroquois NWR and Tonawanda WMA in Region 1 was good for recent years. Caspian Tern nests on Little Galloo Island in Region 6 were down from 1789 last year to 1589, the first year of decline following a series of increasing numbers, possibly due to mortality from botulism.

WINTER FINCHES AND OTHER WINTER LINGERERS

Winter finches were generally lackluster with most species occurring only in small numbers, if at all. Pine Siskin was the only "winter finch" reported from all ten Kingbird Regions, but small flocks were the rule. Common Redpoll was widely scattered as well, with reports from all Regions except Region 10, again in mostly small numbers although maximum counts of between 100-200 birds were noted in Regions 2, 5, and 7. The Hoary Redpolls at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 during the winter season lingered until 19 March, and two more were found in Region 7. Red Crossbills were found in Regions 3, 4, 6, and 7, with breeding activity and fledglings noted in Regions 4 and 6. The breeding birds in both Regions were large-billed "Type 2s" using Red Pines; according to Region 4 editors Matt Young and Jon Weeks this is the only type that can use Red Pine for nesting. Medium-billed Type 1s were also noted in Region 4. White-winged Crossbills were scarcer with reports from Regions 4 and 5. The only report of Pine Grosbeak was from Region 7. Evening Grosbeaks were relatively widespread, with reports from eight Regions. The Region 4 editors noted it was the best showing since the winter of 2001-2002, although still far fewer compared to numbers from the 1970s to early 1990s. Among other winter birds, Bohemian Waxwings were generally scarce. Good numbers were found in Regions 6 and 7, the largest flock totaling more than 1000 individuals in the Canton and Potsdam areas of Region 6. Outside of these two Regions, there was only a single report, an individual found with large numbers of Cedar Waxwings on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, Region 3. Northern Shrikes were reported in all Regions with the exception of downstate Regions 9 and 10, lingering until late March or early April. The latest report was on 15 April from Clinton County in Region 7.

BREEDERS

Non-native swans “highlighted” breeding waterfowl in Region 2, where Mute Swans continued to increase, occupying “just about every suitable location” and Trumpeter Swans returned to nesting sites in Wayne County. Although Trumpeter Swans were noted in three other Regions no further nesting activity was reported this season. As has been typical for recent years, nesting activity of marsh birds showed mixed results. Common Moorhen “continues to be a bird of major concern” in Region 2, although numbers are better along the east lakeshore there than along the west lakeshore. News was more positive in Region 5, where regenerating marsh habitat in the Three Rivers WMA attracted Common Moorhens as well as Marsh Wren. Also in Region 5, intrepid birders exploring remote wetlands in southeastern Herkimer County found good populations of Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail, and Sora, along with several Least Bitterns.

Among corvids, Fish Crows were reported from central and western New York in Regions 2, 4, and 5. The birds in Region 2 were noted engaging in flight display during early May. Common Ravens continue to increase in non-traditional areas. There were numerous reports of wandering birds as well as evidence of increased breeding activity in Region 4, where a large group of up to 34 individuals was found in March and April.

Breeding sparrows again included two species heading in different directions, population-wise. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from multiple locations in Regions 1, 2, and 6, along with a returning breeder in Region 3. Conversely, Henslow’s Sparrow continues to linger in dwindling numbers at a handful of traditional locations. Efforts to locate the species at one of the State’s traditional strongholds, Fort Drum in Region 6, turned up only a single male by the end of May.

In addition to Henslow’s Sparrow, two disparate grassland breeders continue to show signs of decline. Upland Sandpipers were reported in low numbers from most traditional sites. Region 6 editor Jeff Bolsinger notes the species is becoming “increasingly scarce” and this year were reported from only four hayfields in Jefferson County. The single report from Region 8 came from Columbia County, where the species had not been observed for several years in the shrinking grasslands where it formerly bred. Sedge Wrens were only reported this spring from Region 3, where one was found at Montezuma NWR; Region 6, where numbers in southern Jefferson County and Fort Drum were smaller than in May 2005; and Region 7.

Orchard Orioles seem to be increasing and expanding northward in recent years; this spring there were reports from all ten Kingbird Regions, with possible breeding noted in Region 6 and a note that the species is “increasingly widespread and numerous” in Region 10. Also of interest is that the geographically widespread Regions 1, 8, 9 and 10 all noted first arrivals during a two-day period, 25-26 April.

Westchester County in Region 9 tallied first breeding records for three species this season - Saw-whet Owl, Great Blue Heron, and Bald Eagle, somewhat surprising for this populous county with a long birding history.

RARITIES

In addition to the highlights mentioned above, rarities this spring included a few holdovers from the winter season, including the Northern Hawk-Owl that remained at Yates in Region 1 until 10 March, the wintering Varied Thrush at Webster Park in Region 2 that was last seen on 8 March, and the Pacific Loon on Cayuga Lake in Region 3 that stayed until 18 March. American White Pelicans were a noticeable presence in the western part of the state, with four stopping over at Dunkirk Harbor in Region 1 in mid-April, and nine appearing at Braddock Bay in Region 2 on 21 May and then likely the same nine birds lingering at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 from 24-30 May. Local rarities in Region 1 included Eared Grebe and Forster's Tern. Another Eared Grebe was found in Region 2, the first there since 2004. Cattle Egrets made appearances upstate in Regions 1, 2, and 9. Other rarities that made appearances in multiple Regions were Varied Thrush and Yellow-headed Blackbird. In addition to the over-wintering Varied Thrush at Webster Park in Region 2, individuals were seen in Region 7 and Region 10, the former accompanying a flock of American Robins. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Regions 2, 7, 8, and 10. Additional Region 2 rarities included Loggerhead Shrike, a former breeder now only a very infrequent stray, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird. Reminiscent of last spring's influx, there were Swainson's Warbler reports from Region 3 and Region 10; unfortunately, unlike last year's relatively confiding individuals, these were only briefly seen and didn't linger long enough for follow-up sightings. A Northern Wheatear, much rarer in the state in spring than in fall, was found above treeline in Region 7 on 27 May. A Red Phalarope which provided the first Dutchess County record on 13 May was almost certainly influenced by the same weather systems which brought large numbers of phalaropes to the New England coast and carried smaller numbers inland. The Region 8 report contains some thoughts on the difficulty in some cases of determining if an individual sighting is an escaped "exotic" or a wild individual. The Eurasian Collared-Dove sighted in Columbia County this spring could be a forerunner of the species' eventual expansion northward from more established populations in the southern United States, but as is often the case with unusual waterfowl, the fact that the species is kept in captivity complicates the analysis. It is good practice to maintain a record of even obvious exotics in order to maintain a complete ornithological history of the state. Region 10 hosted a number of vagrants in addition to the rarities listed above. Major rarities just a handful of years ago, both Wilson's Plover and Arctic Tern have been appearing with some regularity in recent years. Unlike some recent sightings, this spring's Wilson's Plover was a "one-day wonder," only seen on 28 April at Robert Moses State Park in Region 10. Increased Arctic Tern sightings from the past several years are likely in large part attributable to dedicated searches for over-summering birds, mainly subadults, which have been found in small numbers among more common species at various points on Long Island's south shore. This year's sightings began with an adult and a second-summer bird found at Cupsogue County Park, Suffolk County, on

29 May. Farther west on Long Island, a confiding King Rail delighted many observers at Tobay by appearing repeatedly, often at close range and in the open, during its three week stay from mid-April to early May. Finally, a White-winged Dove at Jones Beach West End on 5 May continued a string of spring sightings at that location of western strays more often seen in New York during fall migration.

MISCELLANEOUS

Additional exotics reported this season included sightings of European Goldfinch at two Region 5 locations, a free-flying immature Black Swan in Region 7, and two Red-headed Conures and a Budgerigar in the vicinity of Forest Park, Queens, in Region 10. The European Goldfinches, which can be found for sale in pet stores, were most likely local escapes, but as noted in the Region 5 report there have been reports of the species breeding in the Great Lakes region following a mass release of a number of European songbirds several years ago in Michigan. The Black Swan provides an interesting data point in the discussion of origins of odd waterfowl – native to Australia, it's not a species that will get here under its own steam; a free-flying immature may be a bird raised by captive adults which escaped before it could be secured by pinioning or other methods. An odd-looking warbler found at Doodletown Road in Region 9 appeared to be a hybrid between American Redstart and another species. In the better-late-than-never category, the first Franklin County record of Wood Stork, two birds present in early June 2001, was documented with a digital photograph.

BIRD OF THE SEASON

There were a number of excellent rarities across the state, including multiple reports of vagrants such as Varied Thrush, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Swainson's Warbler, and additional highlights such as Pacific Loon, King Rail, Wilson's Plover, Arctic Tern, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Hawk-Owl, White-winged Dove, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Wheatear, and Brewer's Blackbird. Many of these would make a respectable BOTS, but my choice this season goes to the three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks which touched down at Jamaica Bay. This is apparently the first record of the species in New York since 1981, and, interestingly, occurred at the same location and the same dates as the second record for New York State in 1965.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The summer highlights essay was not received in time for inclusion in this issue. If possible, it will be included in the next issue.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

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June continued the trend from spring of being warmer and drier than usual as western New York escaped the excessive rain that fell further east. The average temperature was 68.3°F, 2.5° above average. A total of 3.38" of rain fell, 0.44" below normal, with most from several events during the last week. July was hot and humid and was the ninth warmest on record. The average temperature was 73.7°F, 2.9° above normal. Rainfall was highly variable by location due to numerous thunderstorms, with 4.60" of precipitation, 1.46" above average, at the Buffalo airport. The weather was fairly typical for August, with an average temperature of 69.7°F, 0.6 degrees above normal. There was 3.28" of precipitation, 0.59" below average. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

In the first summer since 1999 without any coverage from the Atlas 2000 project, it seemed like there were fewer birders afield in June, although that cannot be quantified. The summer season brought some excellent breeding records and some very unusual findings.

For the second consecutive year, some late passerine migrants extended well into June. However, unlike 2005, there was no apparent connection to weather or an overall "late migration". Tardy spring migrants may be a regular, but rarely documented, occurrence in June, as few birders are looking for passerine migrants after May. Most unusual was a male Black-throated Blue Warbler in a Buffalo neighborhood on the 19th. A Mourning Warbler and an American Redstart in a Wilson backyard on the 13th were considered by the observers to be late migrants, and a Black-throated Green Warbler at Fort Niagara State Park on the 17th was either a late migrant or far from its usual breeding range. Flycatchers are typically later migrants, but a Yellow-bellied on the 9th and an Olive-sided on the 14th were still later than usual.

While conducting the Youngstown BBS on 11 June, Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, and Dean DiTommaso found two **Dickcissels** along Youngstown-Wilson Road in the Town of Porter. Subsequent visits over the next six weeks by D'Anna and other birders revealed at least four birds, one confirmed nest with young, and a probable second nest. Unfortunately, the nest with young was found destroyed following ditch mowing by the town. This was the second consecutive summer that a group of Dickcissels was found in Niagara County. Movements beyond their traditional breeding range may possibly be the result of continued drought in the Midwestern states.

After breeding was documented for the first two times in the Region last year, nesting **Merlins** continued to make news in 2006. Merlins were active at both areas, the west side of Buffalo and Salamanca, again this year although the actual nests were not found. Peter Yoerg reported that Merlins also nested at another location in Buffalo this year, possibly related to the birds that roost at the SUNY Buffalo (Main Street) campus. **Peregrine Falcons** had another

successful year. Three young fledged at the downtown Buffalo nest, while three young also fledged at the Niagara Falls nest, where a new female replaced the bird killed in April.

On 11 June, Dave Neveu returned to a trail in Arkwright to follow up on his spring sightings of territorial **Northern Goshawks** there. He was greeted rudely by a dive bombing goshawk that repeatedly swooped near his head and chased him 1/8 mile down the trail. Two adult goshawks were also seen at Allegany State Park in June.

There were continued sightings of several **Common Nighthawks** in North Buffalo throughout June and July. Hopefully this is evidence that there is at least one pair still breeding in the Region. **Henslow's Sparrow** is another breeder barely hanging on in the Region. Four singing males were found at the William Street field in Lancaster where their presence continues to hold up pending development of a subdivision. Two Henslow's Sparrows were also found in the town of Grove at the only other location in the Region where breeding has been relatively regular this decade.

No Golden-winged Warblers were reported this summer. While this was likely influenced by reduced observer effort, it is still a grim sign that we are losing this colorful songbird as a pure breeder. It is also telling that there were more reports of "Brewster's" Warbler (1) and "**Lawrence's**" Warbler (1) than Golden-winged, while Blue-winged Warbler continues to increase. **Yellow-throated Warblers** nested in the Red House Section of the Allegany State Park for the third year in a row. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at their regular location at Tonawanda WMA again. Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported: one in Niagara County in June, where this species has been found with increased regularity over the past two years, and one in Cattaraugus County in late August that was probably a migrant. Completely unexpected was an "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** found by Mike DeSha in the Town of Yorkshire on 14 June, representing the first summer record for this subspecies in the Region and likely the first in the State.

The most bizarre warbler found this summer was an **unidentified hybrid** netted by David Junkin at his MAPS station in Bliss, Wyoming County. He captured, measured, and photographed the bird on 27 June. Subsequent discussion on birding listserves included speculation that the bird's heritage could include Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, and even Blue-headed Vireo! Fortunately, Junkin recaptured the bird on 14 July and pulled the two outer tail feathers, which were sent to Dr. Irby Lovette at Cornell for DNA analysis. Details of the findings are forthcoming in an issue of *The Living Bird*.

There were no consistently productive locations for finding shorebirds in the Region this summer. Most birders spent their shorebirding time along Lake Erie in Ontario, and high gas prices may have reduced observer effort. The highlight was a Regional record maximum of **55 Stilt Sandpipers** found by Jim Pawlicki when a large group of shorebirds descended to a muddy construction site puddle in Amherst during a heavy rain event on the evening of 14 August. A **Willet** at Tift Nature Preserve was a good summer find and at an unusual location.

Not only have Great Egrets been increasing as breeders at the Motor Island colony, but late summer and fall reports have also been increasing in recent years. Another Regional maximum was achieved this summer when Bill Watson counted **140 Great Egrets** at Tonawanda WMA on 17 July.

There were some very good warbler counts and diversity of migrant passerines in the second half of August. A number of passing cold fronts was likely responsible for the seemingly increased, and slightly early, passerine migration.

In addition to the many rarities and oddities described already, there was an unprecedented presence of immature small gulls in June. After a trip to see the Dickcissels in Porter on 13 June, Jim Pawlicki stopped at Fort Niagara State Park and was surprised to see a group of 120 immature Bonaparte's Gulls, a Regional maximum for June. Even more remarkable was the presence of a **Black-headed Gull** and a **Little Gull**, which represented the first occurrence for both of these species in June. Many birders made the trip to see these unseasonable gulls while they remained for the next few days.

Other rarities this summer included a shrike briefly observed by Melissa Coniglio in Newstead on 5 August that was undoubtedly a **Loggerhead Shrike** given the date, three **Long-eared Owls** in North Tonawanda, an early migrant **Connecticut Warbler**, **Clay-colored Sparrows** at several regular breeding locations, and a **Pine Siskin** at a feeder in South Wales.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, Doug Beattie, Elizabeth Brooks, Greg & Melissa Coniglio, Tom Connare, Willie D'Anna, Elaine Dart, Mike DeSha, Dean DiTommaso, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Ron Hacker, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Alec Humann, Dave Junkin, Jerry Lazarczyk, Ellwood Meyers, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Damon Praefke, Richard Rosche, Richard Salembier, Christine Sousa, Erik Stratton, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; SPNS – Sinking Ponds NS, E Aurora ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Mute Swan: 2 ad + 6 yg Wilson NIAG 15 Jul, no reports from other locations.
Am. Wigeon: arr SPNS 16 Aug.
Blue-winged Teal: BWWTP 24 Jun; arr 6 BWWTP 9 Aug.
N. Shoveler: arr SPNS 15 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 6, 5 BWWTP 24 Jun, 7 Jul (WW), good counts for early summer; arr 2 TWMA 9 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: last INWR 2 Jun (WW!); 2, 6, 1 BWWTP 2, 24 Jun, 7 Jul (WW).
Bufflehead: BWWTP 2 Jun (WW!), first June record for Reg.
Com. Goldeneye: Sheridan CHAU 15 Jul – 4 Aug (DN), rare in summer.
Com. Merganser: 10 BWWTP 7 Jul; max 44, 68 Sheridan CHAU 15 Jul, 20 Aug (DN), good counts for summer; 12 Silver Creek CHAU 12 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: 28, 22, 62 BWWTP 2 Jun, 7 Jul, 9 Aug, fewer than recent summers.
Double-crested Cormorant: NYSDEC nest and bird reduction at Motor I and Strawberry I NR continued; 510 BuSP 28 Jul; max 680 Buffalo NR 15 Aug.
Least Bittern: 2 TWMA 9 Jul (PY), only report
Great Egret: 50 Motor I NR 12 Jun (WW), 27 nests at colony, continued growth; 15 TBNP 15 Jun (PH); max 140, 100 TWMA 17 Jul, 4 Aug (WW), record count for Reg; 22 BWWTP 9 Aug (WW); 20 Tift NP 26 Aug; excellent showing.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 75 Devil's Hole SP NIAG 17 Jul (DP), high numbers counted along NR during 1.5 mile hike; 15 TWMA 19 Jul, only report away from NR.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: Tillman WMA ERIE 11 Jun; WoBSP 23 Jul; Wilson NIAG 13 Aug; only reports away from nesting areas.
Bald Eagle: sick im Amherst ERIE mid Jun, captured and later released by NYSDEC; 2 ad Sheridan CHAU 15 Jul (DN); max 8 im Sheridan CHAU 4-29 Aug (DN); im Caneadea ALLE 7 Aug; im Williamsville ERIE 10 Aug; ad Sardinia

ERIE 12 Aug; ad Hamburg ERIE 16 Aug; im WoBSP 20 Aug; reports away from nesting areas.

N. Goshawk: 2 ad AISP 2 Jun (JP); Arkwright CHAU 11 Jun (DN), bird chased observer 1/8 mile down trail.

Broad-winged Hawk: im Wilson NIAG 10 Aug (WD), unusual location for date.

Merlin: W side of Buffalo ERIE (AH), pair nested in same vicinity as last year; 3 Salamanca CATT (TB), pair nested in same vicinity as last year; E side of Buffalo ERIE (PY), new nest location near SUNY Buffalo roost area with 2-3 yg; arr Porter NIAG 18 Aug (WD); Wilson NIAG 27 Aug (WD).

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 3 fl Buffalo ERIE thru, frequently seen near nesting area; 2 ad NF 18 Aug (JL), new female replaced bird killed in Apr, pair fledged 3 yg.

Sora: Ellicottville CATT 12 Jun (MD), only report.

Com. Moorhen: 5 ad, 8 yg BWWTP 7 Jul, traditional location.

Black-bellied Plover: last 2 NF 10 Jun (JP, WW).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2, 9 Clarence ERIE 19, 28 Aug; 2 Wilson NIAG 27 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr TWMA 7 Jul; DH 9 Jul; max 8 Tift NP 26, 30 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 TWMA 7 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 5 Lewiston NIAG 5 Jul; max 52 Amherst ERIE 14 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr BWWTP 7 Jul.
Willet: Tift NP 21 Aug (TC, AH), unusual location.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 47 BWWTP 7 Jul (WW), good count.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Tillman WMA 4 Jun; NF Airport NIAG Jul (AH), traditional locations.

Sanderling: arr 2 WoBSP 23 Jul; 3 DH 28 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 13 BWWTP 2 Jun; last 5 Silver Creek CHAU 4 Jun (DN); arr 3 Sheridan CHAU 16 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 7 Silver Creek & 14 Hanover CHAU 4 Jun; arr 2 Silver Creek CHAU 6 Jul; max 23 Sheridan CHAU 16 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 8 Amherst ERIE 13 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr, max 55 Amherst ERIE 14 Aug (JP!), blown down by rain storm, record Regional max.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Amherst ERIE 13 Aug, only report.
Little Gull: first-summer FNSP 14 Jun (JP, WD!), first Jun record.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: first-summer FNSP 14-17 Jun (JP! mob), first Jun record.
Bonaparte's Gull: 120 FNSP 14-17 Jun (JP, WD), record count for Jun; BWWTP 9 Aug, only inland report.
Caspian Tern: 5 Hanover CHAU 3 Jun; 2 Buffalo NR 11 Jun; 2 DH 27 Jun; many reports in Jul and Aug.
Forster's Tern: FNSP 16 Jul (JP! WW), early; Wilson NIAG 25 Aug.
Black Tern: max 21 INWR 2 Jun; 19 TWMA 9 Jul; 3 Alexander GENE 27 Aug (ED, DB), unusual location.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

LONG-EARED OWL: 3 N Tonawanda NIAG 9 Jul (RH), rarely reported in summer.
Com. Nighthawk: 2-6 Buffalo ERIE thru Jul, records are now scarce from potential breeding areas in summer; arr 2 Amherst ERIE 13 Aug; 2 Orchard Park ERIE 18 Aug; max 30, 20 Buffalo ERIE 25, 27 Aug; 20 Clarence ERIE 26 Aug; Ashford CATT 28 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 Dunkirk CHAU 4 Jun; LBSP 11, 12 Jun; Barre ORLE 14 Jun; Hamburg ERIE 9 Jul; 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Jul; 2 FNSP 16 Jul; more reports than recent summers.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: AISP 4 Jun (JP); last E Holland Bog ERIE 14 Jun (RR); arr AmSP 30 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Alfred ALLE 9 Jun (EB), late; arr Almond ALLE 13 Aug (JP); Tiftt NP 15, 26 Aug; 2, 1 AmSP 19, 30 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: max 7 Pomfret CHAU 18 Jun (DN); 5 + n Portland

CHAU 8 Jul (TM); last AISP 6 Aug (TB); eight other reports.

"Traill's" Flycatcher: Tiftt NP 26 Aug, few reports received of Alder, Willow, or "Traill's" beyond mid-August.

Least Flycatcher: arr 2 AmSP 19 Aug.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Newsstead ERIE 5 Aug (MC), shrike species observed briefly was likely Loggerhead per date.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 Alexander GENE 2 Jun; Perrysburg CHAU 6, 23 Jun; 2 Bethany GENE 20 Jun; Irving ERIE 23 Jun; only reports away from INWR & vicinity.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr AmSP 19 Aug (JP, RS).

Com. Raven: no reports away from ALLE, CATT.

Purple Martin: 24 Amherst ERIE, 15 Clarence ERIE 26 Aug, both groups reported moving southwest before dusk with nighthawks.

Cliff Swallow: 20 FNSP 16 Jul; max 123 Tonawanda I NR 18 Jul; continues to increase along NR and Buffalo waterfront.

Carolina Wren: 8 reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Tiftt NP 27 Aug (RS), early.

Winter Wren: 4 Holland ERIE 24 Jun; 6 E Holland Bog ERIE 25 Jun (MM); only reports away from ALLE, CATT.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last TBNP 3 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: last Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 2 Jun; Salamanca CATT 11 Jun (PY); max 3 AISP 18 Jun - 8 Jul (PY, PH); rare breeder in southern tier.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Tiftt NP 27 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Pomfret CHAU 7 Jul (TM), only report.

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: Newsstead ERIE 31 Aug (JP!), very rare.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Eden ERIE 23 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: Alfred ALLE 3 Jun; Andover ALLE 6 Jun (EB); E Holland

Bog ERIE 25 Jun (MM), very rare as breeder in ERIE; AISP 1-7 Jul; arr 2 AmSP 19 Aug.
N. Parula: 2 AISP 4 Jun (JP); 2 Allegheny Ind Res CATT 11 Jun (PY); regular breeding locations.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 19 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 19 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 21 Aug (BP); Tift NP 26 Aug; INWR 31 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Buffalo ERIE 19 Jun (PY), very late; arr Williamsville ERIE 23 Aug.
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*D. c. auduboni*): Yorkshire CATT 14 Jun (MD!), unprecedented in summer.
Black-throated Green Warbler: FNSP 17 Jun (BP, WD), late migrant?; arr Tift NP 26 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr AmSP 22 Aug.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 2 ad AISP 2-13 Jun (JP, WW!, EM), same breeding area as recent summers.
Pine Warbler: Bond L P NIAG 2, 14 Jun (BC); Wilson NIAG 10 Jun (WD); 2 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 13 Jun (MM); Sheridan CHAU 25 Jun (DN); Swift Hill SF ALLE 9 Jul (MM); continued increase.
Prairie Warbler: Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 6 Jun (DD!); Sardinia ERIE 25 Jun (MM!); only reports outside ALLE, CATT, increasing.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr AmSP 22 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 6 Jun; arr AmSP 22 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: 2 Bethany GENE 18 Jun (DB), only report away from INWR or southern CATT.
Black-and-white Warbler: Alfred ALLE 1-23 Jun (EB); 2 + n w. 4 eggs Salamanca CATT 18 Jul (TB), nests rarely found; Almond ALLE 13 Aug; arr AmSP 19 Aug.
Am. Redstart: last Wilson NIAG 13 Jun (BP, WD), suspected late migrant;

arr AmSP 19 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: 1, 2 TWMA 7,24 Jun (PH, BP, WD), regular recent breeding location.
N. Waterthrush: 4 Ellicottville CATT 12 Jun (MD); 3 E Holland Bog ERIE 25 Jun (MM); arr AmSP 19 Aug.
Louisiana Waterthrush: reports from six locations.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Tift NP 29 Aug (RA), slightly early.
Mourning Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 13 Jun (BP, WD), suspected late migrant; arr Wilson NIAG 21 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: arr Tift NP 27 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 21 Aug.
Canada Warbler: Pike WYOM 6 Jun (JL); 2 Holland ERIE 24 Jun (RS); E Holland Bog ERIE 25 Jun (MM); arr Tift NP 15 Aug.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Somerset NIAG 11 Jun (WD); Farmersville CATT 31 Aug (CS), rarely recorded in fall migration.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 4 Andover CATT 1 Jun -27 Jun (EB); Alfred ALLE 7 Jun (EB); Yorkshire CATT 8 Jul (PY); previously documented locations.
Vesper Sparrow: Newfane NIAG 2 Jul; Andover ALLE 5 Jul; 2 Ashford CATT 8 Jul; only reports.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 Tillman WMA 4, 25 Jun; 2 Andover ALLE 24 Jun, 2 Aug; 4 Porter NIAG 9 Jul; 2 Akron ERIE 18 Jul; only reports.
Henslow's Sparrow: 4 Lancaster ERIE 13 Jul (ES); 2 Grove ALLE 30 Jun (EB); only reports.
White-throated Sparrow: E Holland Bog ERIE 25 Jun (MM!), very rare in ERIE in summer.
Dark-eyed Junco: Alden ERIE 3 Aug (G&MC), unusual location for date.
DICKCISSEL: 4 max Porter NIAG 11 Jun - 29 Jul (WD! DD! mob), 2 nests probable, one nest with young observed on 16 Jul, same nest destroyed before 20 Jul; second consecutive summer reported in NIAG.

Bobolink: max 210 Porter NIAG
10 Jul (WD).
Orchard Oriole: 3 Silver Creek CHAU
6 Jun - 2 Aug; 2-3 Porter NIAG 11 Jun-
29 Jul, multiple locations; Wilson NIAG
16 Jun.
Pine Siskin: S Wales ERIE 13 Jun,
only report.

OTHER
Unidentified hybrid passerine:
"Junkin's Warbler" banded at MAPS
station in Bliss WYOM 27 Jun,
recaptured 14 Jul (DJ), see intro.
Monk Parakeet: Niagara NIAG 13 Aug
(WD), determined to be escapee.
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REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The summer season started out on a rather pleasant note, with a warm but comfortable June. The average temperature was 67.8° F. That was 2° above normal. It was cloudy a good portion of the time, but the 3.72" of rainfall was 0.36" below normal. July raised the bar a bit. The term "tropical" was bantered about in the description of the month. It was the warmest July in 51 years, with an average temperature of 75.0° F, which was 4° above normal, with significant humidity. This was accompanied by above normal thunderstorm activity. Rainfall was the 3rd largest amount ever for July at 8.02", 5.09" above normal. The 3.33" of rain that fell on the 12th was the largest total ever recorded for a single July day. August toned things down a bit. The first couple of days were hot and humid, but after that the pattern fell into a more typical August scenario. The average temperature was 1.4° above normal at 70.3°. Rainfall was fairly typical totaling 2.75", with a departure from normal of 0.79".

The late spring migration into June was relatively slow. There were reports of lingering species, but no consistent coverage. This was especially true of the hawk flights which continued but received only minor coverage. June can often be a good month. For raptors, yet there were few days of coverage. As was the case in the past, after the Breeding Bird Atlas work is done, reports dwindle. Conditions seemed right for a good breeding season, and there were some indicators that pointed in that direction. Those will be addressed as individual species are reviewed. The natural food supply was good. The warm temperatures and abundant rainfall prompted excellent plant growth, and as a result seed and fruit production was good. Insect populations were stable and provided excellent food sources for many species.

Bill Symonds and other observers carried out the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach on a semi regular basis. The return migration in July and August was often described as SLOW. This was particularly true for shorebirds. Habitat scarcity continues to be a problem in the Region.

Waterfowl nesting was a mixed bag as usual. Trumpeter Swans were again nesting at multiple locations in the Region. At one, a total of 7 cygnets was observed, while two other sites didn't produce any young this year. Mute Swans once again had a banner year. Efforts to stem the population trend are not keeping up with the swan production. Canada Geese again were found almost anywhere there was a bit of water. The local nesting population continues to build. Possibly related to the continued increase in Mute Swans, American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal went unreported as breeders. The later has completely disappeared from the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area as a breeder. Historically, they were fairly common. Other puddle ducks were reported as singles or in low numbers, but none were noted as breeding. Wood Duck and Mallard numbers were good. Hooded and Common merganser were reported as breeding away from the lakeshore. A few Red-breasted Mergansers lingered on the lake in the early part of the season. Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck each received single reports.

There were few loon reports on the lake for the season. A June Horned Grebe was late. Pied-billed Grebe only nested in the East Lakeshore marshes and south of Rochester. Once again the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area was devoid of the nesting grebes. The Brown Pelican observed by Jim Barry flying along the lakeshore was a seasonal plus. Bittern reports were very limited, and the only possible wader highlight was the few Great Egrets that seemed to hang around for the summer. Pheasants continued scarce, but Wild Turkey once again looked good.

It was an interesting season for raptors. Numbers of Broad-winged Hawks were noted into mid June, and excellent numbers of Bald Eagles were reported. The Golden Eagle videotaped by Dave Tetlow on 18 June was unusual for that time of the year. Dave Tetlow also reported a imm. Mississippi Kite in early July. The nesting highlight was nesting pairs of Merlin. One pair in Rochester fledged four young, while another pair along Honeoye Lake in Ontario County produced three young. The former pair was reported to have nested last summer, but the news didn't reach the birding community until late winter. The Peregrine Falcons that have nested on Kodak Tower were again successful, but only three of the six eggs resulted in fledging. This result was due in part to a leg injury that kept the female from incubating the eggs effectively.

The Wayne County Sandhill Cranes again produced young. The two hatchings didn't survive, which so far has been the norm for this pair. Common Moorhens again were rare along the west lakeshore marshes. One juvenile was sighted at Shore Acres, Town of Hamlin, in August. The only other breeding reports came from the Geneseo area and from marshes in Wayne County. Of note in the shorebird department was the appearance of a male Wilson's Phalarope in a pond in Greece in mid June. Upland Sandpiper went unreported as a breeder this year. Gull highlights included an adult Franklin's Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull. A small colony of nesting Ring-billed Gulls was reported again on a small island in a borrow pit at Marketplace Mall in Henrietta. An uncommon bird in summer, Forster's Tern was seen at Braddock Bay. An adult and an immature Black Tern were also seen there, a surprise as there are currently no known nesting Black Terns in the Region.

Both cuckoos were reported in good numbers. Common Nighthawks were reported in early June but not after that, which indicated no nesting again this year. The Regional bird of the season was undoubtedly the male **Broad-billed Hummingbird** in the Town of Rose, Wayne County. The bird was seen on two consecutive days in late June. Photos were taken and the bird will almost certainly be accepted by NYSARC as a new bird for the Region and State.

Again, probably because the Atlas work was over, there were not an abundance of summer nesting reports for passerines. Fish Crow and Raven were both reported. The former has shown up with some regularity, but confirmation of nesting has not occurred. Cliff Swallows were nesting in small groups under bridges along the lakeshore creeks and streams. The larger colonies of a few years ago are no longer active. Sedge Wrens were found at two different sites. Prairie Warbler reports were good. This species continues to breed in small numbers in the Region. The 15,000+ Cedar Waxwings observed by David Tetlow at Hamlin Beach in August was a record high for New York. Clay-colored Sparrows were again reported from multiple sites. This is a continuing trend. Henslow's Sparrows continue to be found only in very low numbers. Again this year only a single location was noted. There was some disagreement as to the status of Bobolink; some observers indicated reduced numbers in traditional grassland sites, while other observers reported usual numbers. They were in agreement on Eastern Meadowlark; numbers were down. Observers noted that Baltimore Orioles were numerous, and Orchard Orioles again had a good year.

179 species were reported in June. This is just about the 10-year average. July totaled 147 species, below the 10-year average. August totaled 176 species, right about at the 10-year average. 10 new species were added for the year, bringing the total for the year to 285.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, MONR; CA - Canadice lake area, LIVI; CH - Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; CU - T Cuylerville, LIVI; G - Greece, MONR; GE - Geneseo, LIVI; H - T of Hamlin, MONR; HB - Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HL - Honeoye Lake, ONTA; HP - Hogan Point, T Greece, MONR; I - T Irondequoit, MONR; IB - Irondequoit Bay, MONR; LP - Long Pond, T Greece, MONR; M - Manitou, MONR; PB - Point Breeze, ORLE; R - City of Rochester, MONR; S - Savannah, WAYN; SP - Sodus Pt, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad WAYN all Jul; 2 ad, 7yg S 1-31 Jul; 2 S 1-31 Jul, different location.

N. Shoveler: 1 m GE 7, 10 Jun, uncommon in summer.

Green-winged Teal: 1 HP 16-18 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 HB 11 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: 1 f BB 29-30 Jun.

Com. Merganser: arr 10 HB 18 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 12 HB 10 Jun.

Ruddy Duck: 1 m G 7 Jun; 1 IB 18 Aug.

Red-throated Loon: 1 HB 25 Jun (WS); 1 HB 11 Jul; 1 HB 18 Jul; 1 HB 22 Aug.

Horned Grebe: 1 LP 2 Jun.

BROWN PELICAN: 1 G 4 Jul (JB), very rare.

Am. Bittern: 1 H 8 Jul, only report.

Great Egret: scattered single thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 imm BB 6 Jul (DT).

Bald Eagle: max 17 BB 18 Jun (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 75 BB 18 Jun.

Golden Eagle: 1 BB 18 Jun (DT), late.

Mertin: 2ad, 3yg HL 25-14 Jul (RS, DD, mob), 1st breeding record for the county in at least a century; 2 ad, 4yg R all Jul.

Com. Moorhen: 1 juv H 17 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 2 ad, 2 yg S 1 Jun - 31 Jul; 1 ad CU 15 Jun (JK); 2 ad T of York LIVI 31 Jul (AS, PC).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 HB 22 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 1 CH 10 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 GE 21 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 HP 23 Jun, early;

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 9 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: max 12 GE 24 Jul.

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Whimbrel: 1 HB 27 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: 1 HB 26 Aug.

Sanderling: 2 HB 10 Jun, often missed in spring; arr 4 CH 11 Jul

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr CU 14 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 H 2 Jun.

Dunlin: last 1 SP 1 Jun.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr CU 27 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr CU 21 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 m HP 17 Jun (DT), late.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr HB 16 Aug.

Franklin's Gull: 1 ad K 18 Jun (DT).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 imm HB 10, 20 Jun (WS); 1 ad SO 1 Jun (DS).

Black Tern: 1 BB 2-28 Jul (DT, DN, JB); 1 ad BB 10 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Whip-poor-will: 1f R 13 Jul (JF), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: max 9 G 1 Jun; last 1 G 6 Jun.

Chimney Swift: max 120 T of York LIVI 13 Aug.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD:

1 ad m T of Rose WAYN 24-25 Jun (D&HL-photos), report to NYSARC.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 11 M 1 Jun; last 1b M 12 Jun; arr 1b M 12 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: 1b M 31 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1b M 22 Aug.

Fish Crow: 1 G 13 Jun (KG), calling.

Com. Raven: 1 BB 17 Jun; 2 BB 18 Jun; 1 LW 28 Jun; 1 BB 1 Aug.

The Kingbird 2006 December; 56 (4)

Sedge Wren: 4 ad w/ yg PB 2-30 Jun, 1-16 Jul (R&SS, mob); 2 S 19-30 Jun (R&CMc, mob).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1b M 1 Jun, late; arr 1 HP 27 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: last 2b M 12 Jun; arr 1b M 31 Aug.

Hermit Thrush: arr 1b M 16 Aug, early.

Cedar Waxwing: max 15,820 HB 26 Aug (DT), new high for State; 7860 HB 27 Aug (DT).

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1b M 8 Aug.

Tennessee Warbler: last 1b M 1 Jun; arr 1b M 23 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 1b M 14 Jul; 2b M 17 Jul, unusual date for location.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1b M 12 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 1 CA 25 Jun; 1 HL 25 Jun; 1 Dalton 25 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 G 17 Jun, late; arr 1b M 16 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 I 30 Jun (DT), very late; arr G 28 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 RO 8 Jun; 1 G 10 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 1b M 12 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 GE all Jun.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 3 H all Jun, 1-13 Jul; 2 GE thru Jun & Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 GE thru Jun & Jul.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1b M 1 Jun; 1 HP 6-17 Jun, unusual in summer; arr G 12 Aug.

Red Crossbill: arr HP 28 Aug (DT), very early.

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

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Summer 2006 was fairly normal in terms of temperature, but very wet. The average temperature in June was just 0.1° F warmer than normal, July was 2.9° F above normal, and August was 0.4° F above normal. Rainfall in June was 7.52 inches, 194% of normal. July precipitation was 6.77 inches, 191% of normal. August rainfall was 4.84 inches, 142% of normal.

Comparing this year with last year, there was little significant change in waterfowl numbers. Common Mergansers and Wood Ducks were both down in numbers. Certainly the mergansers, and possibly also the Wood Ducks, were affected by the abnormally high precipitation. High water in the Chemung River prevented Common Merganser families from gathering on the shoals. Interesting species present included a possibly injured Snow Goose through most of the season at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. A second individual joined it 2-7 July. Early in June, there were six **Snow Geese** at Seneca Lake State Park. Benjamin Clock found two **Eurasian Wigeons** at Montezuma in early July. Four birders from Ithaca spotted two Common Goldeneye at Mud Lock at the northeast corner of Cayuga Lake in late June.

All of the reports of Common Loon came from Cayuga Lake, with no more than two seen at a time. Single Horned Grebes were found on Seneca Lake, Cayuga Lake, and even on tiny Eldridge Lake in Elmira.

Great Blue Herons were again plentiful, particularly in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. The only wandering heron to be detected was a Cattle Egret at Montezuma NWR.

Eighteen Bald Eagles at Montezuma NWR was a Regional record high count for the summer. Bald Eagles were also noted with frequency through the summer along the Chemung River. The big raptor news was of successfully nesting Merlins in Ithaca and Cayuga Heights, both conveniently nesting near the homes of avid birders, and another family group spotted at Montezuma NWR.

As the quality of habitat in the Main Pool at Montezuma NWR continued to decline, so did the numbers of nesting Common Moorhens and American Coots, the latter having its second consecutive significant decline. Sandhill Cranes were seen occasionally in Montezuma NWR and in the Region 3 portion of the Wetlands Complex. More surprising were the two that Noah Hamm found in the Town of Lansing in early June.

Puddler's Marsh along Towpath Road in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex was the season's hot spot for shorebirds. Short-billed Dowitchers were way up this year, marking the second consecutive year of increases for that species. A Willet at Watkins Glen, 22 Hudsonian Godwits and two Red Knots at Puddler's Marsh, and a Marbled Godwit flying off the spit at Myers Point comprised the shorebird highlights.

More than 1000 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls and three pairs of Herring Gulls nested in the colony in the Chemung River in downtown Elmira. Unfortunately, their island was completely flooded by high water on 3 June carrying hundreds of young birds downstream. At least several dozen of them managed to land on shore on one side of the river or the other. Adults continued to care for these and many of them fledged. By 6 June, the water had receded. Only three young had managed to stay on the island by clinging to or simply being caught in vegetation. More than a thousand adults were back on the island that day. Courtship, copulation, and nest-building resumed. The island was again flooded 28 June. A couple hundred gulls were on the island the following day, but there was no more nesting activity observed. It is likely that no Herring Gull young survived, the first newly hatched young having been observed the morning of the first flood.

The Snowy Owl, which first showed up in May in the Town of Genoa, Cayuga County, was reported from the neighboring Town of Venice in early June, the first June record for this species in the Region. Several observers reported migrating Common Nighthawks in late August. Mourning Doves showed a significant increase in the Region for the third consecutive year.

John and Sue Gregoire banded an adult female Yellow-bellied Flycatcher with a "highly edematous brood patch" on 8 July and recaptured the same individual, 5 August. The capture of a juvenile on 10 August led them to suspect local breeding.

The only Golden-winged Warbler reported in the Region this summer was a migrant at Sapsucker Woods, 28 August. The male Yellow-throated Warbler which appeared at Harris Hill Park in early May continued to hold territory through at least 3 July. No female or young were ever observed. Observers reported migrant Blackpoll Warblers through mid-June. A breeding-plumaged male was silently feeding in a White Oak at Newtown Battlefield Reservation on 5 July. The only report of Worm-eating Warbler came from the species' stronghold at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Yellow-breasted Chat, on the other hand, was absent from the Preserve. One was reported from the Town of Ithaca.

Clay-colored Sparrow returned to its breeding ground in Caroline. Bill Purcell checked historic sites of Henslow's Sparrow in Steuben County and found two in the Town of Rathbone. A thorough survey at the grassland Important Bird Area at The Center at Horseheads turned up a total of 47 Grasshopper Sparrows in mid-June. Three observers heard an early night-migrating Dickcissel over Cornell University on 30 August.

Winter finch specialist Matt Young located the Region's only Red Crossbill at Summerhill State Forest. Brian Sullivan found two Pine Siskins in the Town of Dryden in mid-June and Chris Wood found one at Myers Point in mid-July for the only reports of that species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

HHP – Harris Hill Park CHEM, MNWR – Montezuma NWR, MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex, MyPt – Myers Point, SW – Sapsucker Woods.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

SNOW GOOSE: 1-2 MNWR 3 Jun - 19

Aug (mob); max 6 Seneca L SP 6 Jun (LBl, CR, FS), high.

Trumpeter Swan: max 4 MNWR 9 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 44 MNWR 11 Aug, -.

Gadwall: max 12 MNWR 16 Aug (CW), high.

EURASIAN WIGEON: 2 MNWR

7 Jul (BC).

Am. Wigeon: max 12 MNWR 30 Aug (JA), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 35 MNWR 16 Aug (CW), high.

N. Shoveler: max 8 MNWR 16 Aug (CW), high.

N. Pintail: arr MNWR 12 Aug; max 3 MNWR 13 Aug (KR), high.

COMMON GOLDENEYE: 2 Mud Lock CAYU 26 Jun (AH, SKr, JMcl, AM).

Com. Merganser: max 13 Elmira Dam CHEM 18 Jul, -.

Ruddy Duck: last & max 4 MNWR 3 Jun.

Wild Turkey: max 20 Ithaca 14 Jun, +.

HORNED GREBE: last Seneca L SP 6 Jun (FS); Ledyard 2 Jun (CSc); Aurora Bay, Cayuga L 29 Jul (Sbi, TL); Eldridge Park 1 Aug thru (JSc, AT).

Great Blue Heron: max 422 MNWR 11 Aug (LSC), high.

Great Egret: max 102 MWC 25 Aug (MiH, TL), high.

CATTLE EGRET: MNWR 9-10 Jul (GC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last SW 14 Jun (JR), late; arr MNWR 4 Jul; max 18 MWC 29 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 18 MNWR 11 Aug (LSC), high.

Merlin: max ad, 4 FL MNWR (Sbi, TL) 29 Jul; 2 ad, 3 FL Ithaca 29 Jul (PHu),

high; 2 ad, 2 FL Cayuga Heights (SH) 10 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: arr Elmira 21 Jul; MNWR 22 Aug.

Wild Turkey: max 20 Ithaca 14 Jun, +.

Com. Moorhen: max 15 MNWR 12 Aug, -.

Am. Coot: max 20 MNWR 12 Aug, -.

SANDHILL CRANE: 2 Cherry Road Research Pds TOMP 4 Jun (NH); MNWR 10 Jun (GJ); max 5 MNWR 16 Aug (CW), high; 4 MWC 26 Aug (PHu).

Black-bellied Plover: arr & max 61 MyPt 19 Aug (TL), high.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 MWC 23 Aug; max 13 MWC 25 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 MNWR 11 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 11 Jul; max 50 MWC 29 Aug, -.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 21 Jun (TL), early; max 50 MWC 25 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last MNWR 4 Jun (RD), late; arr MNWR 21 Jun; max 425 MWC 29 Aug (MA, TL), high.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 21 Jun; max 11 MNWR 15 Jul.

WILLET: Watkins Glen 19 Aug (GU).

Whimbrel: MyPt 12 Jul; max 12 MyPt 22 Jul (BoM).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: max 22 MWC 29 Aug (MA, TL, BoM), high.

MARbled GODWIT: MyPt 19 Aug (KR!).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 16 Aug; max 2 MWC 29 Aug.

RED KNOT: 2 MWC 20 Aug (DL!, TL, BoM, NS).

Sanderling: arr MyPt 13 Jul (CW), early; max 6 MyPt 19 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 35 MNWR 11 Jun; arr 16 MNWR 11 Jul; max 330 MWC 27 Aug (Sbi, ToJ, GS), high.

Western Sandpiper: MNWR 11 Jun, only report.

Least Sandpiper: last MNWR 21 Jun (TL), late; arr MNWR 1 Jul; max 200 MWC 26 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last 6 MNWR 11 Jun (M&TL), late; arr MNWR 9 Jul (MA, TL), early; max 15 MWC 29 Aug (MA, TL), high.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MyPt 22 Jul (CW), early; max 10 MWC 27 Aug, -.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 4 Jul; max 250 MWC 29 Aug (MA, TL), high.

Dunlin: last 3 MNWR 11 Jun (M&TL), late; max 22 MWC 3 Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 12 Jul (MV!), early; max 55 MWC 27 Aug (SBI, ToJ, GS), high.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: MWC 30 Aug, only report, -.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MWC 10 Jul; max 350 MWC 26 Aug (MCh, RD, ToJ), high, +.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 MNWR 29 Jul; max 6 MNWR 4 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 8 MNWR 19 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: last MNWR 4 Jun (fide MV), late; arr MNWR 1 Jul (JBr), early; max 5 MWC 27 Aug (SBI, ToJ, GS), high, +.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 16 Aug; max 3 MWC 26 Aug (LBI, JBU, BG, L&PHo, CJ, LL, CR), high.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr MyPt 22 Jul; max 3 Long Pt SP 29 Jul.

Caspian Tern: arr MyPt 17 Jun; max 35 MWC 29 Aug.

Com. Tern: max 2 MyPt 17 Jun.

FORSTER'S TERN: MyPt 10 Aug (KR); max 3 Stewart P TOMP 19 Aug (ToJ); MyPt 21 Aug (PHu).

Black Tern: max 42 MNWR 18 Jul (CW), high.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: max 75 Stewart P TOMP 6 Aug, +.

Mourning Dove: max 170 Romulus 20 Aug, +.

SNOWY OWL: Venice thru 4 Jun (fide MV).

Com. Nighthawk: last Elmira 14 Jun; arr MWC 20 Aug; max 31 Elmira 27 Aug, +.

Chimney Swift: max 200 Elmira Dam CHEM 27 Aug (D&JC), high, +.

Downy Woodpecker: max 8 Ithaca 14 Jun, +.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 3 HHP 3 Jul, +.

N. Flicker: max 8 HHP 15 Jul, +.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last SW 10 Jun; arr Finger Lakes National Forest 25 Aug; Dryden L Trail TOMP 27 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last MNWR 4 Jun; 1 ad f banded Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU 8 Jul, same bird retrapped 5 Aug; 1 juv Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU 10 Aug, *intro*.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr SW 28 Aug; max 2 SW 30 Aug.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Caroline 29 Aug (AM&TiJ), only report.

Swainson's Thrush: last 2 Caroline 6 Jun (SKe), late; arr Flat Rock TOMP 23 Aug.

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler (Hy): SW 2 Jun, only report.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: SW 28 Aug (BC), only report.

Tennessee Warbler: arr HHP 26 Aug.

N. Parula: last Mulholland Wildflower Preserve TOMP 6 Jun, only report.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: HHP thru Jul 3 (BO).

Pine Warbler: max 8 HHP 26 Aug (BO), high.

Prairie Warbler: max 10 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 5 Jul (GKl), high.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 SW 29 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Horseheads 16 Jun (MCA), late; Newtown Battlefield Reservation (BO!) 5 Jul; arr SW 30 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: MNWR 11 Jul, -.

Worm-eating Warbler: max 3 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 24 Jun, only report.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Dryden 24 Aug; max 4 SW 28 Aug (MCh, BrM, CoT), high.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: max Ithaca 11 Jul (SG).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: max 38 HHP 26 Aug, +.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:

Caroline 1 Jun (CW).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: max 2

Rathbone 27 Jun (BPu).

DICKCISSEL: Cornell University 30

Aug (MiH, ToJ, TL).

Bobolink: max 500 Rafferty Road Pd

CAYU 13 Aug, +.

Com. Grackle: max 10,000 MNWR 26 Aug (JBU, CJ), high, +.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 20 Ithaca 14 Jun, +.

House Finch: max 10 Hammond Hill Children's Camp 15 Jun, +.

RED CROSSBILL: Summerhill State Forest 1 Jul (MY).

PINE SISKIN: max 2 Hammond Hill Children's Camp TOMP 15 Jun (BS); MyPt 21 Jul (CW).

House Sparrow: max 105 Riverfront P CHEM 30 Aug, +.

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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The summer season for Region 4 weather began with the wettest month on record for the Binghamton Weather Service with 11.45", surpassing the September 1977 record of 9.66". This total is almost one-third of the normal rainfall expected for the entire year. 27 June had the all-time maximum daily precipitation of 3.70". It should be noted that local reports at that time from the eastern part of the Region were about double the Binghamton area. The result was the highest flood on record for some areas of the Region. Hurricane Agnes in 1972 is the only flood that had a higher flow at the mouth of the Susquehanna River, but that storm dropped most of its precipitation to the west of Region 4.

The rest of the season remained wet. 23.50" of precipitation for the three months was more than double the normal rainfall of 10.64". Heating degree days were 15% below normal and cooling degree days were 13% above normal indicating a slightly warmer than normal summer despite the days with cloud cover and precipitation.

The question is what was the disastrous weather's effect on birds? Since the heaviest precipitation occurred at the end of the breeding season, loss of many nest sites was probably avoided. However, some species were still nesting as demonstrated by dead Tree Swallow nestlings floating in the floodwater. Thousands of acres of habitat were disrupted, which would have caused displacement of large segments of populations at least temporarily. Andy Mason and John Birkett observed expected species either missing or relocated along the Susquehanna River at Oneonta and Bainbridge.

After the flood there was an explosion in the mosquito population in valley areas, which persisted throughout the abnormally wet summer. Along with the

mosquitoes came West Nile Virus paranoia and a clamoring for widespread spraying of insecticides. The WNV epidemic did not materialize. One explanation from Kevin McGowan at the Lab of Ornithology was that "they may very well be the 'floodwater mosquitoes' that are not important in WNV transmission." Dr. Anne Clark at Binghamton University reported "no positive birds in Broome this year" in birds tested by 10 October and only two positive mosquito pools.

Great Egrets appeared sporadically throughout the Region, an improvement over the one seen last year. Two Ardeidae species were seen for the first time in at least the last four years; a Snowy Egret and a Little Blue Heron were seen in the Susquehanna River at Vestal, Broome County.

The first reported nesting of Bald Eagles in Tioga County since their recovery occurred on Hiawatha Island in the Susquehanna River just east of Owego. A male and a female fledgling were banded by NYSDEC. Peregrine Falcons nested in Binghamton with a successful fledging. Unfortunately a dead male fledgling was found on a Binghamton street on 7 August. Tom Salo found a congregation of at least fifteen American Kestrels in Burlington, Otsego County. Otherwise kestrel numbers appear to be down.

Shorebird reports were down. A newcomer to the recent reports was a Sanderling observed off Route 12A in the Town of Chenango, Broome County. Two larids were also new to the Region 4 list. A Common Tern was observed at Dorchester Park and off River Road in Endwell, both in Broome County. The other larid was a Black Tern at the height of a minor flood in early June on the Susquehanna River in Bainbridge, Chenango County.

A Broad-billed Hummingbird was a frequent visitor at Jim Ballard's feeder on Day Hollow Road, Town of Owego, Tioga County during August. He has submitted a NYSARC report on this ultra-rare sighting, the second for the State. One must wonder about the relationship with the earlier late June bird in Wayne County.

In the eastern part of the Region it was noted that there were good numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos, but there seemed to be fewer Eastern Wood-Pewees. This was largely attributed to an outbreak of forest caterpillars defoliating large parts of the forest. Charlie Dahan and Andy Mason are each involved in studies of acid rain effects on E. Wood-Pewees and other species. Could it be that what is beneficial to one species is to the detriment of another species or is there another cause for the missing E. Wood-Pewees?

The Warbling Vireo is doing well as shown by numerous reports and Tom Salo's 12-mile canoe trip down the upper Unadilla River. He "paid close attention" and "heard one singing about every 200 yards." In the less suitable habitat of the last 3 miles "there were only 3 or 4 per mile" to give a total of about 120. Katie Ray reported a "western" subspecies Palm Warbler, with extensive description, at Buckhorn Lake Otsego County. The most notable passerine report was from Matt Young on the number of Red Crossbills he found nesting in the Pharsalia area and in other state forests of the area. He also reported on an abundance of cones on all conifers, except White Pine, that may provide for a good finch year.

Missing from the Region was Golden-crowned Kinglet, and scarce birds included Am. Woodcock and Northern Waterthrush. There were seven single reports for Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the western part of the Region, but surprisingly with the forest caterpillar outbreak in the eastern part there was only one report. There were 154 species reported for the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ba - Bainbridge CHEN; Bing - Binghamton BROO; BPd - Boland Pond BROO; BL - Buckhorn Lake OTSE; CR - Chenango River; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park BROO; DHRd - Day Hollow Road, T Owego TIOG; DP - Dorchester Park BROO; En - Endwell BROO; OL - Otsego Lake OTSE; PIBA - Pharsalia Important Bird Area CHEN; RS - Richfield Springs, OTSE; SR - Susquehanna River; TB - T Burlington OTSE; TCa - T Candor TIOG; TC - T Chenango BROO; TL - T Lisle, BROO; TO - T Owego TIOG; TOt - T Otego OTSE; UR - Unadilla River OTSE; VBS - Vestal Banding Station BROO; Ve - Vestal BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Wood Duck: max 50+ BPd BROO
12 Jul.

Ruffed Grouse: max 9 T Walton DELA
26 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2ad
1 imm Hillcrest BROO 23 Jul.

Am. Bittern: BBS DELA 4 Jun, only
report

Great Egret: SR BROO thru; 10 reports;
numbers up.

SNOWY EGRET: SR-Ve BROO 16,
17 Jun.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: imm SR-Ve
BROO 26 Jul thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 2 OL OTSE 2 Jun.

Bald Eagle: CO 2 ad, 2 y banded TO
TIOG thru Jun.

N. Harrier: Oxford CHEN 17 Jun; TC
BROO 23 Jul; only 2 reports.

N. Goshawk: imm PIBA CHEN 13 Aug;
ad T Otselec CHEN, only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: T Maine
BROO 22 Jun, 23 Jul, only reports:
numbers down.

Am. Kestrel: max 15+ TB OTSE (TS);
numbers down.

MERLIN: PIBA CHEN 13 Aug,
only report.

Peregrine Falcon: CO Bing BROO thru; FL found dead Bing BROO 7 Aug.
Virginia Rail: BPd BROO 1 Jun; VE BROO 8 Jun; West Corners Marsh BROO 16 Jun; only reports.
Greater Yellowlegs: SR-Ve BROO 10, 11 Jul; CR-TC BROO 23 Jul; TL BROO 16 Aug; only reports.
Lesser Yellowlegs: DP BROO 30 Jul; CR-TC BROO 29, 30 Aug, only reports.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 8 SR-Ve BROO 27 Jul.
SANDERLING: CR-TC BROO 29 Aug, uncommon.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: SR-Ve BROO 1 Jun; DP BROO 11 Jun; only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: SR-Ve BROO 22 Jul; SR-En BROO 28 Jul; only reports.
Wilson's Snipe: max 8 BBS DELA 4 Jun (BD).
Am. Woodcock: TIOG Jun; OL OTSE 18 Jun; only reports.
COMMON TERN: DP BROO 11 Jun (JW); SR-En BROO 19 Aug (BK), uncommon.
BLACK TERN: Ba CHEN 3 Jun (JBi); SR-En BROO 19 Aug (BK); uncommon.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 17 BBS DELA 4 Jun, doing well.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: BL OTSE 3 Jul, only report from eastern part of Region; 7 other reports.
Barred Owl: max 2 CVSP BROO 25 Jun; only two other reports.
Com. Nighthawk: 6 Ba CHEN 24 Aug; max 20+ BPd BROO 25 Aug; 15 SR-Bing BROO 28 Aug; two other reports; scarce.
Chimney Swift: 30+ Ve BROO 29 Jul; max 60+ Bing BROO 22 Aug; 8 BL OTSE 22 Aug.
BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD: m DHRd TIOG Aug to 27 Aug (JB), report to NYSARC, 2nd State record both this summer.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: few reports in eastern part of Region; many reports elsewhere.

Willow Flycatcher: max 6 UR OTSE 16 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 120 UR OTSE 16 Jun, doing well.
Fish Crow: T Tioga TIOG 10 July; SR-En BROO 24 Aug; only reports.
Com. Raven: max 15+ PIBA CHEN 25 Aug.
Horned Lark: TL BROO 25 Jun, only report.
Tree Swallow: many dead nestlings seen floating in SR during floods of late Jun.
Bank Swallow: 16+ nest holes Bpd BROO 9 Jun; max 4 BPd BROO 24 Jun; few reports, numbers down.
Cliff Swallow: UR OTSE 16 Jun; DP BROO 6 Aug; only reports.
Marsh Wren: BPd BROO 1, 10 Jun; West Corners BROO 16 Jun; only reports.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: TO TIOG 4 Aug (C&JB); max 4 Upper Reynolds Rd BROO (MP&RY); only 2 reports.
Veery: max 5 TOf OTSE 19 Jun.

WARBLERS

Magnolia Warbler: TCa TIOG 30 Aug, banded.
Cape May Warbler: DHRd TIOG 30 Aug, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: m TC BROO 5 Jun, only report.
Blackburnian Warbler: CVSP BROO 25 Jun; CO TOf OTSE 9 Jul; Roundtop P BROO 19 Aug; ym VBS BROO 24 Aug.
Pine Warbler: TL BROO 9 Jul; f Middelndorf P BROO 23 Aug; only reports.
Prairie Warbler: CO TCa TIOG Jun, Jul.
Palm Warbler: BL OTSE 31 Aug (KR), "western" subsp; one other report.
Black-and-white Warbler: DP BROO 13 Aug; VBS BROO 24 Aug; TO TIOG 30 Aug; only reports.
N. Waterthrush: T Barker BROO 4 Jun; Bing BROO 18 Aug, found dead; only reports.
Mourning Warbler: max 7 TB OTSE 3 Jun; doing well.
Canada Warbler: TC BROO 19 Jul; ad m VBS BROO 24 Aug; TCa TIOG 30 Aug, banded.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 12+ PIBA CHEN
25 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: Ely P BROO 19 Jul,
feeding Cowbird, only report.

Savannah Sparrow: CO TB OTSE 6
Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: T Pitcher CHEN no
date (MT), uncommon.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 12+
PIBA CHEN 25 Aug.

Bobolink: max 50+ RS OTSE 20 Aug;
few reports, numbers seem down.

Baltimore Oriole: max 50+ PIBA CHEN
25 Aug.

Red Crossbill: CO 15 ad PIBA CHEN
thru 13 Aug (MY).

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was warm and wet, very wet. Syracuse had its highest recorded rainfall for July, Utica had 8.66 inches of rain in June, and Old Forge had 8 inches of rain over three days in June. At the Syracuse Airport the average temperature in June was 67.2° F, 1.3° above normal, with 5.09 inches of rain, 1.38 inches above normal. In July the average temperature was 74.1°, 3.2° above normal, with 10.12" of rain, 6.1" above normal. It was the wettest July on record. The average temperature for August was 69.2°, the same as the long-term average, with 3.22" of rain, 0.34" below normal.

There was lack of waterfowl variety over the summer. American Wigeon was the only unexpected species. There were no reports of lingering Brant or the odd summering Snow Goose and no divers other than mergansers. Two Snowy Egrets spent a week at a relatively quiet pond behind a shopping plaza. Great Egrets were widespread across the Erie Canal corridor and sightings at Hamilton and Stillwater Reservoir were at higher elevations. Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen late in the season at Stillwater Reservoir and Utica Marsh but may have been post-breeding wanderers. There is no firm evidence that the species breeds in the Region.

Gary Lee reported that many Common Loon nests were lost in Herkimer County after heavy June rains. At Dart Lake a floating nest with three feet of slack attached to a 60 pound block moved a thousand feet to the outlet. It was noted after heavy June rainfall that Utica Marsh looked more like a reservoir, and high water in many wetlands must have covered nests. Some species re-nested as several family groups of Common Moorhens were seen in Utica Marsh late in August. A Sandhill Crane was photographed in Oneida County, a first summer record for a species we hope will expand into the area as a breeder. There is one record of an unidentified crane flying over Camillus in the summer of 1980.

High water from all of the rain closed portions of the Erie Canal for long periods of the summer, and no water needed to be drawn from Delta Lake to

maintain canal levels. As a result, there was no shorebird habitat at the lake and few herons, egrets, and waterfowl feeding there. With the lack of habitat, shorebird numbers were generally low although most species were reported and there was one high count of Semipalmated Sandpipers. American Golden-Plover had arrived by the end of the season, Buff-breasted Sandpiper had not, and there was no fall arrival for Black-bellied Plovers during the season. Good sightings included two small flocks of Whimbrel, two Wilson's Phalaropes, Ruddy Turnstone, White-rumped and Baird's sandpipers, and Stilt Sandpiper.

The Region experienced a widespread forest tent caterpillar infestation this year. Both Perry and Purcell felt that singing birds were present in about the usual numbers in affected areas, but it would seem that the defoliation must have had a negative effect on breeding success. Yellow-billed Cuckoo certainly took advantage of the caterpillars as they were found on the Tug Hill Plateau and into the Adirondacks, where seven were recorded on the McKeever BBS route. By way of comparison, they had never been found on that route through 2004.

A mid-June report of a Snowy Owl near Onondaga Lake was checked, and the result was the Region's first summer record for the species. The owl, thought to be a young male, appeared to be healthy and was capable of flying and feeding itself. Southbound Common Nighthawk numbers were up somewhat this year, but all of the reports received for this species were of migrants. There are no known breeding nighthawks in the Region. The only Whip-poor-will report came from an historic site that is seldom visited at night.

A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was moving through in mid-June, and two southbound birds were noted in August. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo were both seen by the end of the season. Warbler migration was off to a good start, with small flocks moving during the last ten days of August. Prothonotary Warbler continues to nest at Toad Harbor, and Cerulean Warbler was found at a new location in Hannibal. Pine Warbler may well be nearing peak numbers as pine plantations mature. On the McKeever BBS route, Pine Warbler was first observed in 1992 and in 2006 a total of 17 were found. There was a single report of Golden-winged Warbler on territory.

A male Dickcissel was at the Oswego County Airport in Fulton on June 17, and a female was found on the 23rd. The male was seen feeding the female on July 4, but only the female was seen afterwards. Breeding was never confirmed, but the pair were the first Dickcissels reported in the Region during the breeding season since 1937. Eastern Meadowlark is a species of concern, and both Garcia and Herrgesell noted declines in areas they recently covered for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Matt Young found Red Crossbills in the highest elevations of Onondaga and Madison Counties, with breeding occurring in at least one area of the latter county. With the good cone crop, as noted below, there are hopes for a large winter finch invasion for this winter, but with similar conditions throughout the Northeast U.S. and into Canada, the birds might not get this far south.

The cone crop was abundant for white and red spruce, Norway spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, red pine, and larch. Most white pines had no cones. Deciduous trees with a good seed crop included ash, beech, birch, black cherry,

black gum, hickory, ironwood, and maple. Alder, common elderberry, and common buckthorn all had good production. Oaks had a mostly fair to moderate production.

For the season 197 species were reported. Highlights included Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Snowy Owl, Dickcissel, and Red Crossbill. Species missed included Red Knot, Little Gull, Red-headed Woodpecker, and, in what has become a worn refrain, Sedge Wren and Henslow's Sparrow were not found.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CM - Clay Marsh; DH - Derby Hill; HIWMA - Howland Island WMA; HVWMA - Happy Valley WMA; OneiL - Oneida Lake; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; SCH - T Schroepfel; SHF - Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS - Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan - Skaneateles; SPd - Sandy Pond; SVB - Sylvan & Verona Beach; Syr - Syracuse; TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA; UM - Utica Marsh; WM - West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Am. Wigeon: 2 Skan 8 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: 4 SCH 4 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 TRWMA 6 Jul.

Green-winged Teal: 4 Lenox 22 Jul; 8 SPd 22 Aug.

Hooded Merganser: 2 Skan 13 Aug.

Com. Merganser: 3 Salmon R Res 7 Jul.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1-2 LOL to 8 Jun.

Com. Loon: HERK nests inundated by heavy rains.

Double-crested Cormorant: Woodull L 13-15 Jul.

Least Bittern: reports from SCH 6 Jul & UM in Aug.

Great Egret: max 7 Jordan 26 Aug; Stillwater Res 22 Aug, unusual; widespread along Erie Canal corridor.

Snowy Egret: 2 Oneida 29-31 Jul (DL, mob).

Green Heron: max 15 CM 7 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm Stillwater Res 28 Aug (TS); ad UM 30 Aug (JK).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Merlin: nesting Old Forge, Big Moose, and Stillwater Res, areas frequented by birders; Camillus 20 Aug; SCH 26 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 3 y Syr fledged 17 Jun.

Sora: TRWMA 29 Jul; 5 UM 30 Aug.
Com. Moorhen: ad & 3 fl TRWMA 6 Jul; 8 juv UM 23 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: Paris 30 Jul (fide JH, ph), first summer record.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 OnonL 3 Jun, only report.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 SHF 26 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: max 8 SPd 22 Jul.
Killdeer: max 150 Hannibal 23 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 OneiL 21 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 21 WM 27 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Skan 10 Aug & 4 Granby 19 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 27 OnonL 6 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: 6 Sullivan 22 Jun; 6 Renssen 25 Jun; 5 Fulton 20 Aug.
Whimbrel: 9 DH 2 Aug (GS); 3 DH 20 Aug (BP, DW).
Ruddy Turnstone: SPd 22 Jul & OneiL 29 Jul.
Sanderling: max 22 SPd 22 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 OnonL 3 Jun; max 380 SPd 22 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: max 25 SPd 14 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 OnonL 3 Jun; arr Lenox 3 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: 3 SHF 26 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 OneiL 29 Jul; 4 Lenox 3 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: SPd 22 Jul & 22 Aug; Lenox 23, 30 Jul.
Short-billed Dowitcher: SPd 14 Jul; max 4 SPd 22 Jul.
Wilson's Phalarope: Lenox 5 Jul (BB) and 3 Aug (GC).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 210 SVB 20 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 75 SPd 22 Jul.
Com. Tern: max 170 SVB 10 Jun.
Black Tern: max 23 SPd 27 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 3-5 per day.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 7 McKeever BBS 25 Jun; widespread, 2-3 per day.
SNOWY OWL: OnonL 14-28 Jun (MV, ph, mob), first summer record.

Com. Nighthawk: max 57 Syr 24 Aug; total 139 Syr 19-31 Aug, numbers up over preceding 3 yrs; 11 at four other sites after 17 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: 3 Rome Sand Plains 6 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last TRWMA 12 Jun; arr WM 23 Aug; TRWMA 26 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: DH 4 Jun; arr Hastings 26 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: HIWMA 2 Jun; 2 Whiskey Hollow thru Jul.
Willow Flycatcher: max 13 CM 5 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 18 SPd 22 Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Hastings 30 Aug.
Fish Crow: Syr University area 21 Jul.
Horned Lark: max 25 SHF 15 Jul.
Purple Martin: max 42 Cicero 20 Aug, postbreeding.
Tree Swallow: max 250 Lenox 18 Aug.
Bank Swallow: max 1000 SHF 15 Jul.
Cliff Swallow: nesting Phoenix 3 Jun; 30 Hannibal 23 Aug.
Barn Swallow: max 300 Skan 8 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SFNS 17 Aug, early.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: m SFNS thru 20 Jun.
Tennessee Warbler: arr SFNS 26 Aug; 2 Hastings 31 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: SFNS 12 Jun, late; arr SFNS 17 Aug.
N. Parula: 3 McKeever BBS 25 Jun; Redfield 20 Jun.
Yellow Warbler: max 85 SPd 22 Jul.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Hastings 23 Aug, max 4 per day after.
Cape May Warbler: arr SVB 20 Aug, early; Hastings 31 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 18 McKeever BBS 25 Jun; arr SFNS 26 Aug; 12 UM 29 Aug, early for large numbers.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Hastings 26 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr SFNS 24 Aug.

Pine Warbler: 17 McKeever BBS
25 Jun, excellent count.
Prairie Warbler: Hannibal 17 Jun; pair
Tully 13 Jul.
Palm Warbler: arr UM 25 Aug, early.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SFNS
21 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 2 per day to
7 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: Hannibal 17 Jun,
new location.
Prothonotary Warbler: breeding Toad
Harbor swamp.
Wilson's Warbler: 1-2 per day several
sites after 23 Aug.
Canada Warbler: 1 per day after
20 Aug.

TANAGER - WEAVER
Scarlet Tanager: max 8 SVB 20 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 5 m Fulton
26 Jun.
DICKCISSEL: m Fulton 17 Jun - 5 Jul,
and female after 22 Jun.
E. Meadowlark: decline in several areas
since 2000.
Baltimore Oriole: max 16 SVB
20 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: max 3-4 Cato thru Jun;
SFNS 21 Jul, 14 Aug.
Red Crossbill: max 10 Georgetown
4-6 Aug, including several fl; Morgan
Hill SF 10 Aug; Pollack Swamp
31 Aug.

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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Weather data for Watertown indicate near average summer temperatures and below average precipitation, although the seasonal rainfall total is somewhat misleading. Mean temperatures were within 1° of normal for June and August and 2° above normal for July. Watertown received 4.5 inches of precipitation in June, which is 1.7 inches above normal, but rainfall totals for July (1.1 inches) and August (1.2 inches) were well below the historic means of 2.5 and 2.9 inches, respectively. Total precipitation for the season was consequently 1.4 inches below normal. Overall, Region 6 did not have the unusually warm and wet summer experienced by much of the state.

The higher than average rainfall in June led to widespread minor flooding that several observers believed responsible for low numbers of fledglings in June and early July, especially of ground-nesting birds. Suspected nest losses were especially noted for waterfowl and grouse; for instance, I saw only two Ruffed Grouse broods on Fort Drum during the entire month of June, well below the 1-2 broods per day I usually encounter late in the month. Similarly, few loon or duck broods were reported before mid-July, suggesting that early nesting attempts failed.

Type E botulism reached eastern Lake Ontario with disastrous results. A team of NYSDEC biologists led by Ward Stone monitored the effects of this outbreak at Little Galloo Island throughout the summer. Caspian Terns were especially hard hit, with more than 700 carcasses collected by the end

of August and additional sick individuals seen on and near the island. All four pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls nesting on the island died from botulism, and numerous sick and dead Double-crested Cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls were present, with small numbers of several other species affected as well. By summer's end DEC personnel were preparing to monitor mortality to migrant and wintering loons and other water birds.

During the late spring DEC personnel drained Stone Mills Pond at Perch River Wildlife Management Area, creating a large expanse of wet mud that attracted numerous birds until it eventually dried out and became overgrown with smartweed. As many as 42 Black-crowned Night-Herons and 5 Great Egrets foraged on these mudflats during June, and on 12 July I found an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** here. Modest numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers gathered here in July, but no large concentrations of shorebirds were noted. Other waders of note included up to 50 Great Egrets on a pond in Canton during much of August.

At least three and possibly four immature Rough-legged Hawks found on Fort Drum during June and early July appeared to be moving through, as each individual was not relocated after the original observations. More surprising were two **Snowy Owls** that appeared on Point Peninsula in July; one was picked up in poor health and taken to a wildlife rehabilitator shortly after Edgar Walker, a local resident, spotted the owls. This owl responded well to treatment, and the other continued to be seen on Point Peninsula in good condition through the remainder of the season. Other raptor highlights included a Peregrine Falcon at Perch River on 19 June, many Merlin reports from throughout the Region, and a Short-eared Owl fledgling in early August, representing the first documented nesting in Region 6 since 2001.

As in most recent years, shorebird reports were few and unimpressive. One possible exception was the report of "many shorebirds" seen by the DEC team monitoring Little Galloo Island, but unfortunately this report did not include numbers or species. Otherwise, most of the reports I received were of small groups of shorebirds at interior ponds with low water levels. Several observers noted high water levels and few birds at El Dorado Shores Preserve and other Lake Ontario sites.

Several nightjar survey routes were run in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties as part of a Regional effort to evaluate and monitor these nocturnal birds. The 27 Whip-poor-wills detected on one Fort Drum route represented the highest number recorded on any route in New York State. Numerous Whip-poor-wills were also present in parts of St. Lawrence County, but the 15 Common Nighthawks detected on one Fort Drum route far exceeded nighthawk numbers found anywhere else. Also on Fort Drum and in much of the surrounding area, the tent caterpillar outbreak of recent years appears to have diminished, and cuckoos were generally less conspicuous than during 2004 and 2005, although Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to be reported in greater numbers than during most non-outbreak years.

Grassland birds were reported in generally low numbers. Upland Sandpiper has become quite scarce in recent years, and this summer I received only 4 reports. As is often the case, Sedge Wrens were present in small numbers

during early June, but increased modestly later in the month and in July; of the six reports I received, all but one were of multiple singing males (2-5). Most Henslow's Sparrows also arrived late, with apparently new arrivals showing up well into June; this species was reported in slightly higher numbers than in 2005, but still well below the numbers found in the 1990s.

Notable late spring migrant passerines included an Olive-sided Flycatcher on Fort Drum 8 June. Although spring migration generally seemed rather protracted, Blackpoll Warblers moved through more quickly than is often the case, and the last Blackpoll was reported on 3 June. I observed numerous warblers migrating south on Fort Drum during the last week of August, including a Cape May Warbler on 28 August and the first southbound Blackpoll Warbler on 29 August. Also on 29 August, Jerry and Judi LeTendre spotted the first Western Palm Warbler of the season in Cape Vincent.

For the season I received reports of 194 species. Highlights not mentioned previously include excellent numbers of Common Terns nesting on the St. Lawrence River (thanks largely to the work of Lee Harper), a Hooded Warbler in Mannsville, 35 singing male Clay-colored Sparrows on Fort Drum, territorial Orchard Orioles on Fort Drum and nearby Rutland, and Rusty Blackbirds and Red Crossbills in the Adirondacks. Most notable by their absence are several boreal species (Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpecker) and migrant shorebirds that were formerly reported annually (White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, etc.). Despite these misses, I was encouraged by an increase in the number of observers reporting birds, especially from several birders visiting from other regions of the state. To these people I am especially grateful.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; CB - Chaumont Barrens Preserve; ED - El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg JEFF; FD - Fort Drum Military Reservation; KC - Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LG - Little Galloo Island; PRWMA - Perch River WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton STLA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Canada Goose: max 145 ULLWMA 26 Aug.
Trumpeter Swan: pair with 7 y PRWMA 19 Jun.
Wood Duck: max 115 PRWMA 28 Jul.
Am. Black Duck: max 6 ULLWMA 19 Aug.
Mallard: max 150 ULLWMA 19 Aug.
Blue-winged Teal: max 100 PRWMA 22 Aug.
N. Pintail: ED 17 Aug; 2 ULLWMA 26 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: max 32 ULLWMA 19 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: max 116 ULLWMA 18 Aug, including 6 broods.
Lesser Scaup: 2 PRWMA 22 Aug.
Hooded Merganser: max 16 FD 15 Aug.
Ruffed Grouse: very few broods reported.
Com. Loon: max 10 ad in group and nearby f on nest ULLWMA 5 Jul.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 53 ULLWMA 19 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: numerous dead and sick birds LGI Jul and Aug.
Am. Bittern: max 5 Fish Creek WMA 2 Jun.
Least Bittern: Beaver Meadows Marsh Watertown 3 Jun; ULLWMA 4 Jul.
Great Blue Heron: 31 nests Clarkson U. Potsdam 14 Jun.
Great Egret: PRWMA early-mid Jun; 4-50 per day in Canton pond 15-30 Aug (CS), high.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 35-42 Stone Mills Pond PRWMA Jun through early Jul.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: ad PRWMA 12 Jul (JB, DB, DP; NYSARC), third Regional report.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 6 active nests.
N. Harrier: 2-8 per day FD Jun and Jul; 2 juv PRWMA 28 Jul.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 reports from Canton, Parishville, and FD.
Cooper's Hawk: 8 reports from Potsdam, Canton, and FD.

N. Goshawk: Wanakena early Jul.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 FD Jun, low; Jadwin SF 18 Jul.
Rough-legged Hawk: 2 light imm FD 2 Jun (JB); 1 dark imm FD 15 Jun (JB); 1 light imm FD 7 Jul (KF).
Am. Kestrel: up to 50 per day N JEFF late Aug.
Merlin: FD 27 Jun; nest Wanakena early Jul; Jadwin SF 18 Jul; Cranberry Lake 16 Aug; Watertown 17 Aug; PtPen 18 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: PRWMA 19 Jun (MS).
Virginia Rail: max 27 on 13 survey points Fish Creek WMA 15 Jun.
Sora: max 7 ULLWMA 25 Aug.
Com. Moorhen: max 18 PRWMA 28 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: PRWMA 28 Jul; 4 PtPen 18 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: 5 Denmark 5 Jul; 2-4 per day ULLWMA 22-28 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: 2 PRWMA 18 Jul; ULLWMA 19 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 12 PRWMA 18 Jul; 11 PtPen 18 Aug; 15 ULLWMA 28 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2-6 per day 2-30 Aug JEFF and STLA; max 7 ULLWMA 26 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Evans Mills 5 Jun; CV 7 Jun; Rutland 4 Jun; max 4 FD 27 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1-4 per day ULLWMA 19-30 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: max 45 PRWMA 19 Jul; 3-12 per day ULLWMA 18-30 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: ULLWMA 22 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: max 24 ULLWMA 26 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: 1100 nests Murphy I SLR; numerous sick and dead at LGI colony.
Great Black-backed Gull: all 4 pr LGI found dead during botulism mortality surveys.
Caspian Tern: 717 carcasses collected LGI by end Aug; additional sick birds observed.

Com. Tern: 733 nests on NYS side SLR, highest total since 1982, with 761 chicks banded; 6 nests Carl I eastern L Ontario; 2-8 per day ULLWMA Jun and Jul where marsh nesting suspected.

Black Tern: CV 14 Jun; 24 ULLWMA 5 Jul; 35 PRWMA 18 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 2-5 per day FD Jun.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 8 FD Jun, fewer than previous 3 yrs; 4 Little John WMA 16 Jun; 2 Parishville 25 Jun.

SNOWY OWL: 2 PtPen 10 Jul, injured bird picked up PtPen 12 Jul and taken to rehabilitator (EW), second continued through Aug 31 (mob).

Short-eared Owl: ad Philadelphia 26 Jul (JB); juv within 1 mile 3 Aug (MBW).

N. Saw-whet Owl: FD 13 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: nesting: max 12-15 calling and booming FD 23 Jun; migrants: 15 FD 14 Aug; 6 Potsdam 21 Aug; 30+ West Carthage 28 Aug; 17 FD 29 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: 27 on 4-mile survey route FD; 15 on Hermon route.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 pr FD Jun and Jul, y observed Jul; 6 pr CV thru, y not seen until late Aug; 1 KC 18 Jun.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: many reports W JEFF; at Dekalb and Gouverneur feeders.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: migrant FD 8 Jun; 5 reports singing m Clifton, Colton, and Piercefield.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Colton 12 and 16 Jul; other reports from Clifton and Piercefield.

Philadelphia Vireo: territorial m Piercefield 11, 30 Jun; migrant FD 31 Aug.

Gray Jay: 4 Colton 12 Jul.

Purple Martin: 35 Canton 29 Jul.

Boreal Chickadee: 4 incl y Colton 12 Jul.

Tufted Titmouse: most reports from W JEFF; also Philadelphia, Massena.

Carolina Wren: Watertown 30 Jul.

Sedge Wren: 3 Fish Creek WMA 2 Jun (NL); 3 Lakeview WMA 4 Jul (NL); 2 Denmark 5 Jul (NL); 5 Bacon Rd Philadelphia 3 Aug (JB); 2 m FD Jun increased to 9 by mid Jul (JB); Potsdam mid-July through mid-Aug (JC).

Marsh Wren: 18 Jadwin SF Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 m FD 22 Jun; KC 13 Aug.

N. Mockingbird: CV 7 Jun; 2 FD 22 Jun.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 4 m FD 15 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: max 5 m FD 5 Jun and 14 Jun; outnumbered Blue-winged Warblers on FD by approximately 2 to 1.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 3 m FD Jun, including m FY 29 Jun; PRWMA 6 Jul.

Nashville Warbler: numerous migrants FD 27, 28 Aug.

N. Parula: many reports Clifton, Colton, Fine, and Piercefield.

Cape May Warbler: imm f FD 28 Aug.

Pine Warbler: ad FY FD 31 Aug (late).

Prairie Warbler: 5 m in 3 loc FD Jun, low; 3 CB 5 Jun.

Palm Warbler: CV 29 Aug; FD 31 Aug, western form.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Morristown 3 Jun; arr FD 29 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: Brookside Cemetery Watertown 13 Jun; 2 m FD 15 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: Mannsville 4 Jun (CR).

Canada Warbler: 124 m counted FD during Jun; max 18 FD 20 Jun.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 35 territorial m FD Jun and Jul; ad FY Chaumont 14 Jun (ES); Ellisburg 4 Jul (NL).

Vesper Sparrow: 10-20 per day FD Jun through Aug; reports of 1-2 Ellisburg, CB, Parishville, and Rutland.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 20 FD Jun and July; 12 Ellisburg 4 Jul; FY FD 14 Aug.

Henslow's Sparrow: 9 FD Jun and early July (JB); Bacon Road, Philadelphia 3 Aug (JB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Piercefield 11 Jun; Colton 6 Jul.

Bobolink: max 300+ Philadelphia 17 Aug, numerous migrants overhead 15 - 31 Aug.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 Five Ponds Wilderness early Jul.

Orchard Oriole: 2 m Rutland 4 Jun; ad m FD 11 Jun (JB).

Red Crossbill: FD 22 Jun (JB); 3 Low's Ridge-Upper Dam trail Piercefield and Colton 30 Jun (JC and field trip participants).

Evening Grosbeak: 2 FD 6/28; ad with y Wanakena early Jul.

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The stretch of wet weather extended into June, with rain on the 1st and 3rd, then a six-day stretch of rain between 7-12 June, followed at last by a week of fair weather. Temperatures rose to 86° at Plattsburgh on the 16th followed by more sunny, hot weather until five more days of rain dampened spirits from 26-30 June, with a total of 6" washing out roads in the Moose River Plains. July was marked by a mid-month heat wave, with temperatures as high as 90° between 14-16 July. Port Kent received 3/4-inch hail on the 25th and Plattsburgh a half-inch of rain the following day. Then on muggy 29 July, with thermometers reading 87°, a storm swept across the Region with 50-60 mph down bursts and 1" hailstones, flattening trees near Tupper Lake and elsewhere. By contrast, August was relatively uneventful; although Inlet dropped to 34° on the 13th. The season ended on a sunny note and a high of 68° at Plattsburgh.

Naturally, in the summer following six years of intensive field work for Atlas 2000, there were far fewer reports of many species. In spite of this expected decline, there were a number of rarities found, with the Chazy Rivers and Noblewood Park continuing to be especially productive. Chazy Rivers had a **Snowy Egret** linger between 31 July and 25 August, a Snow Goose summered over from 9 July-30 August, a total of 18 shorebird species that included up to four **Stilt Sandpiper** present from 25 July-28 August, plus Caspian, Common, and Black terns. Noblewood was another tern hotspot, with up to 28 Caspians on 29 July, **122 Commons** on 20 August, and 2 Black Tern the same day. A new nesting islet with 6-8 Black Tern was discovered at the mouth of the Raquette River on the Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve on 14 June, the first confirmed breeding in Franklin County in two decades. Elsewhere, a **Red Phalarope** on Sucker Bay of Raquette Lake on rainy, misty 8 June, feeding on a surface insect hatch with swallows, was only the second Hamilton County record and the first since Eaton's day. Just as unexpected was a record-early **American Tree Sparrow** that arrived at Cumberland Head on **12 August**, some 39 days

ahead of the previous NYS fall arrival date of 20 September; previous Regional arrivals in the four counties all fell between 10-15 October. Always a good find, a male **Clay-colored Sparrow** was singing in jack pines at Altona Flat Rocks 10 June.

Most intriguing, though, was a female-appearing **Pine Grosbeak** well-seen in Elk Pass (3400') on 22 August on the trail from Ausable Lakes to Nippletop. About a quarter-century ago, another single observer reported seeing a singing male of this species in Panther Gorge, just 4.5 miles west of Elk Pass and at the same elevation, but chose not to submit the record to NYSARC or have it published. No records of this boreal grosbeak were submitted on either NYS Atlas project, although the Quebec Atlas found it as far south as Notre-Dame-du-Non-Conseil, near Drummondville, and Sainte-Marguerite-de-Lingwick in the Eastern Townships. Although not known to nest in neighboring Vermont, this large finch reaches the extreme southern limits of its breeding range in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where nesting is apparently sporadic.

Despite a recurrent infestation of Forest Tent Caterpillars, and of Fall Webworms later in the summer, cuckoos appeared to decline, with but a single report of each species. Several observers commented, however, on a bumper crop of wild foods in the Central Adirondacks heading into fall and winter. At Inlet there were lots of conifer cones, birch seeds, beechnuts, maple seeds, and berries, while Tupper Lake had a bumper crop of conifer cones and mountain ash berries. In spite of the ripening cone crop, only a few Red Crossbills had put in an appearance by season's end, while other finches appeared to move out or remain absent.

The seasonal total of 188 species was close to the 189 reported in the previous summer of '05. But, with Atlas 2000 at an end, some obvious breeding birds were not reported in Summer '06: Ring-necked Duck, Great Horned Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Eastern Meadowlark, for example. No reports were received from the 2-4 June 4th Great Adirondack Birding Celebration in Franklin County or the 8-11 June 2nd Adirondack Birding Festival in Hamilton County. Assuming that lists were compiled for these birding weekends, a few more species might have been added. The organizers are kindly asked to submit June 2007 lists when available.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFR - Altona Flat Rocks; AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; BT - Brown's Tract; CH - Cumberland Head; CR - Chazy Rivers; FB - Ferd's Bog; FBI - Four Brothers islands; IL - Indian L; LL - Long L; LP - L Placid; NP - Noblewood P; PtF - Pt au Fer; SC - Scotion Creek; TL - Tupper L; WD - Wilcox Dock, Plattsburgh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: ad CR 9 Jul thru (BK,CM), with 4 Canada Geese.

Wood Duck: dead hen Keene 21 Jun (J&PT) being interred by ~100 burying beetles.

White-winged Scoter: arr WD 29 Aug (J&RH).

Com. Goldeneye: hen Chazy 25-26 Jun (DF); hen & 3 y Willsboro Bay 30 Jul; NP 29 Jul-27 Aug, with max 7 there 12 Aug (MDM).

Spruce Grouse: BT early Jun (*vide* DC), no details.

Wild Turkey: hen on 10 eggs T Dickinson 29 Aug (MAM), record late NYS by 51 days.

Pied-billed Grebe: Cedar R Flow 13 Jun (GL); AP 20 Jun (E&HF); ad, 2 y CR 17 Jul-25 Aug (BK); SC 26 Aug (NO, MS), a good showing.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3499 nests FBI 1 Jun (DC), up from 2971 in '05; Beaver L, HAMI 7 Aug (GL), scarce inland.

Least Bittern: PtF 13 Jun (J&RH); Keene 14 Jun (J&PT); SC 26 Aug (NO, MS), an excellent showing for this rarity.

Great Blue Heron: 4 nests Wilmington heronry 11 Jun (C&KP); 20 FBI "D" heronry 23 Jul (MDM).

Great Egret: CR 9 Jul-14 Aug (BK,CM,MDM,DR); 4 FBI "A" & "B" 23 Jul (MDM); LaChute R 18 Aug (B&JA); NP 27 Aug (JH,MDM), increasingly common.

SNOWY EGRET: CR 31 Jul-25 Aug (BK,MDM), rare here.

Cattle Egret: FBI "B" 23 Jul (MDM), only report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: ads & imm FBI 23 Jul (MDM); ad & 6 juv SC 23 Jul (NO,MS); 2 Clintonville 13 Aug (DR); 6 SC 26 Aug (NO,MS), normally scarce away from FBI, where there were 129 nests in May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 5 of 7 TL area nests failed (BF); other reports from CR, Jay, Little Tupper L, Low's Ridge, Marion R, Raquette L, Raquette R.

Golden Eagle: Rt 11, T Burke 3 Jun (DF), a good find.

Am. Kestrel: 24 FRAN nest boxes resulted in: 14 empty, 4 failed (Raccoon scat on one), 2 fledged kestrels, 2 with Com. Grackle, 1 with House Finch, 1 with ant colony (MAM).

Merlin: BB, Chubb R, CR, Jay, Little TL, Paul Smiths, Raquette L, still increasing.

Peregrine Falcon: Keene failed, tried alternate eyrie; ad male Coreys 16 Jul; CR 5-14 Aug; Jay 25 Aug, incomplete report.

Virginia Rail: CR 28 Jun-2 Aug (BK); Lower Ausable L 4 Jul (J&PT); Peru 11 Aug (EF), always nice finds.

Sora: CR to mid-Jul (BK), only site reported.

Com. Moorhen: PtF 13 Jun (J&RH); CR 23 Jun-28 Aug (BK), several broods there.

Am. Coot: CR 29 Jun-31 Jul (BK), only report.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CR 10 Aug (BK); CR 25-30 Aug (BK,CM).
Am. Golden-Plover: arr CR 28 Aug (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: CR 19 Jul-30 Aug (BK), max 6 25 Jul; 3 NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM); NP 30 Aug (J&PT).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr CR 28 Jun (BK,MDM), early CLIN, to 30 Aug; max 10+ there 17 Jul (BK).
Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 23 & 28 Jun thru; max 89 CR 26 Jul (BK); 6 NP 27 Aug (JH,MDM).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr CR 25 Jul (BK); NP 30 Aug (J&PT).
Ruddy Turnstone: NP 26 Aug (MDM), a good find.
Sanderling: arr CR 10 Aug (BK); NP 27 Aug (JH,MDM); 2 CR 30 Aug (BK,CM); max 3 NP 30 Aug (J&PT).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 19 Jul-30 Aug, max 35+ 25 Aug (BK); NP 20-30 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: CR 12 Aug (BK, CM), rare.
Least Sandpiper: CR 11 Jul-30 Aug; max 125 CR 13 Jul (BK); NP 20 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 24 Aug (BK), an outstanding shorebird here.
Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 19 Jul-30 Aug; max 6 CR 27 Jul (BK); NP 20 Aug.
Dunlin: CR 5 Jun (BK), last.
STILT SANDPIPER: arr 4 CR 25-29 Jul (BK,MDM), early CLIN; CR 25 Aug (BK,CM); 4 CR 28 Aug (BK), two waves, apparently males in 1st, then females & y, based on juvs in 2nd wave.
Short-billed Dowitcher: CR 11 Jul-30 Aug (BK,CM,MDM); max 9 CR 27 Jul (BK), voice ID.
dowitcher (sp.): 10 NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM), in flight.
RED PHALAROPE: Sucker Bay, Raquette L 8 Jun (LB,KW), 2nd HAMI record & 1st since Eaton's day, sharing emergent insect hatch with overhead swallows.
Bonaparte's Gull: CR 28 Jun (BK); ad Little TL 23-24 Jul (J&TS), 6th HAMI record; Auger L 29 Jul (GH); NP 29 Jul thru, max 675 there 26 Aug (MDM); 8 Westport 24 Aug (JPRW).

Caspian Tern: 39 nests FBI "C" 1 Jun (DC); 2 Willsboro Bay 9 Jul (MDM); CR 13 Jul-17 Aug (BK,MDM); carrying food FBI "C" 23 Jul; 28 (13 juv) NP 29 Jul, with up to 16 present thru (MDM); Westport 24 Aug (JPRW); 9 (4 juv) CR 30 Aug (BK,CM).
Com. Tern: 2 ad feeding 3 juv CR 19 Jul-8 Aug (BK); NP 12-27 Aug, max 122 there 20 Aug (MDM); 100+ NP 24 Aug (JPRW), with 4-5 juvs wearing right-leg metal bands believed to be from VT colonies.
Black Tern: pr CR 12 & 16 Jun (BK,CM); PtF 13 Jun (J&RH); 6-8 nesting on islet at mouth of Raquette R, AMR 14 Jun (HW), 1st FRAN nesting since c. 1984 at TL; 2 juv NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM), encouraging.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 Low's Ridge 11 Jun (JC,FL), only report.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Elizabethtown 29 Jun (JP), only report.
E. Screech-Owl: CH 19 Jun (BK), only report, but surely more present.
Com. Nighthawk: max 65 Chesterfield-Peru 22 Aug (DR), feeding overhead at night; also AFR, Gadway Barrens, Jay, Peru, SC, & Willsboro Bay.
Downy Woodpecker: 2 variants Auger Pd 28 Jun (GH), red extending toward top of head.
Hairy Woodpecker: 2 variants Auger Pd Jun-1 Jul (GH), red from eye to back of head & red from bill to rear of crown. [See J.J. Audubon Plate 97, Havell CCCCXVII.]
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: pr FB 2-30 Jun (GL); Powley Rd 13 Jun (CF,WR), known sites.
Black-backed Woodpecker: FB, LL, LL, Mt. Marcy, expected locales.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-throated Vireo: singing male AFR 8 Jul (J&PT), only report.
Philadelphia Vireo: N-P Trail, LL 10 Jun (JC,PS); 2 Low's Ridge 11 Jun (JC,FL); Azure Mt 18 Jun (TW); Madawaska 3 Jul (J&PT), all good finds.

Gray Jay: FB 22 Aug & BT Stream 24 Aug (GL), only reports.
Tree Swallow: "seldom seen" TL (CD).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 7 Sagamore 25 Aug (GL), always scarce in HAMI.
Barn Swallow: "almost nonexistent" IL (C&RM).
Black-capped Chickadee: brood fledged LP nestbox 10 Aug (LM), record late Reg 7 & NYS.
Boreal Chickadee: Algonquin Peak, Hurricane Mt, Giant Mt, Mt Marcy, where expected.
Tufted Titmouse: Jones Pd, T Brighton 6 Aug (E&HF), unexpected FRAN location; Elizabethtown, New Russia, NP, Plattsburgh, Rugar Woods, all more expected locales.
Carolina Wren: Ray Brook 20 Aug (TC), rather unexpected; pr Ticonderoga 26-29 Aug (NC), known location.
Marsh Wren: SC 23 Jul & 26 Aug (NO,MS); BT 24 Aug (GL), only reports.
Bicknell's Thrush: Giant Mt; Hurricane Mt; Whiteface Mt, all known peaks.
N. Mockingbird: Keene Valley 29 Jun (J&PT), rather unexpected; PARC thru (EF,J&RH), a known location at former Plattsburgh AFB.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: BT 13 Jun (LB,R&SC); Dix Mt 9 Jul (DD); Giant Mt 14 Aug (RW), good finds, but still no NYS nest found.
N. Parula: Silver L Bog 18 Jun (BK), 1st Confirmed-FY CLIN.
Yellow Warbler: NP 20 Aug (JH,MDM), fairly late.
Cape May Warbler: TL 19 Jun (CD), only report.
Palm Warbler: several Low's Ridge 11 Jun (JC,FL); family Paul Smiths 8 Aug (BM).

Blackpoll Warbler: max 13 singing males Algonquin Peak 19 Aug (JH,MDM); also Dix Mt, Giant Mt, Hurricane Mt, Little TL; Whiteface Mt.
Wilson's Warbler: TL 25 Aug (CD), early transient FRAN.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

AM. TREE SPARROW: arr CH 12 Aug (BK), record early Reg 7 & NYS.
Chipping Sparrow: 2 leucistic LL Jul (PT), species ID by C.L. Wood, *Birding* Photo Quiz editor.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: m AFR 10 Jun (JH,MDM), singing in jack pines.
Savannah Sparrow: Inlet 28 Aug (GL), late HAMI, but probably occurs even later.
Dark-eyed Junco: Hoel Pd Jul (CD), nested in hanging petunia plant.
Rusty Blackbird: Vanderwacker Mt 8 Jul (WL); max 25 Keene 23 Jul (J&PT), only reports.
PINE GROSBEAK: female-appearing Elk Pass (3400') trail to Nippletop from Ausable L 22 Aug (RW), 1st published summer sighting in NYS, *intro*.
Red Crossbill: FB 14 Aug; Limekiln L & Moose R Plains 21-23 Aug (GL), hopeful signs.
Am. Goldfinch: ad Keene 6 Jun (J&PT), chasing Com. Raven that was carrying another goldfinch; ad m LP 6 Aug (LM), caught & killed by large Mink Frog while bathing in brook.
Evening Grosbeak: f recaptured Jenny L, WARR 18 Aug (RY), banded Elizabethtown 23 Oct '97, previously captured Jenny L '03 & '04, age now 9 yrs, 2 mos.



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Summer 2006 was both warmer and wetter than average. June had at least seven days with 0.5 inches of rain or greater. The end of the month brought heavy rainstorms that flooded portions of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers, causing property damage and closing of the NYS Barge Canal and Champlain Canal. Things dried out a bit in July and August and temperatures climbed. July was 3.8° F warmer than average, with six days in the 90s. Saratoga Racetrack closed on 2 August for the first time in its history due to a heat index of 110° F. A moderating trend cooled the Region in the last two weeks of the season.

For a variety of climatic reasons, wild fruit and seed crops grew abundantly. A bumper crop of cones weighted down the tops of spruces throughout the Region, and most wild and suburban maples were heavy with seeds. As we approach winter, the local effects of this bumper crops on bird irruptions is unclear, since reports from Canada indicate that much of the north is similarly well-equipped giving no incentive for northern birds to move south. Time will tell.

Rich Guthrie reported spotting an adult **Forster's Tern** on the Hudson River near Coeymans, Albany County, the single unusual nonpasserine species of the season.

In the past few years it has been customary to receive reports of only a handful of migrant Common Nighthawks, which makes it worth mentioning that a flock of 50 was observed over Schenectady in August. The number of total nighthawk sightings is up this season, with higher than average flock sizes and overall sightings continuing into September.

The work by the Vermont Institute of Natural History on mountaintop species diversity has delivered some locally interesting results in the Northern Catskills. Steve Chorvas who volunteered to conduct five ten-minute point counts at Plateau Mountain in Greene County reported the season's highest single location counts for Bicknell's Thrush - 6, Swainson's Thrush - 9, and Blackpoll Warbler - 7.

Peter Doherty from Sharon Springs reports that the Upland Sandpipers, **Sedge Wrens**, Henslow's Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Bobolinks have returned to the productive private Schoharie County grasslands near Goodrich Road this year. The Dickcissels did not return. Unfortunately, Peter reports that some of this land as well as grasslands in Ames, Montgomery County, have been recently sold and subdivided, most likely for the second-home market.

Responding to preservation demands, NYDEC apparently has plans to initiate a landowner incentive program for grasslands to transfer the high management costs of mowing to private landowners. It is no easy thing to try to conserve land and to recreate the dominant driving force for grasslands (agriculture). Like New England, we can expect two growing land uses in New

York to establish long-term dominance - forests and residential development. As we struggle to stretch limited conservation dollars to provide a mosaic of quality bird habitats, it's difficult to assess how New York can best provide long-term grasslands when natural succession works to convert these habitats to shrubs and then trees.

The best management models seem to include airfields, landfill sites, and historic parks where there exists a human-based method of disturbance beyond agriculture. It has been a long time since horses clopped through our cities, and with each passing year there are fewer dairy herds to feed. One must ask how much longer farmers will plant hay at all. Natural grasslands such as old beaver meadows and coastal sites like the Hempstead Plains were once rare and they will be rare again. What if anything will we do in New York to provide land for species that evolved in prairies that no longer exist?

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

COH – New Street Flats, T Cohoes ALBA; COX – T Cocksackie GREE; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake SARA; LIV – T Livingston COLU; MR - Mohawk River; VF – Visher's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Com. Merganser: Niskayuna SCHE 16 Jun; 3 COX Res 12 Aug; Chatham COLU 12 Aug; max 20 Stillwater SARA 29 Aug.

Com. Loon: JL 15 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: Austerlitz COLU 31 Aug.

Great Blue Heron: max 63 Round L SARA 25 Jun, 23 active nests.

Great Egret: COX grasslands GREE 30 Jul; 2 Moreau SARA 12 Aug; 2 Niskayuna SCHE 23 Aug; COH 29 Aug; 10 COLU 17-31 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: LIV 8 Jun; Niskayuna SCHE 1 Jul; Copake COLU 14 July; Stockport Flats COLU 30 Jul; 2 VF 13 Aug.

Bald Eagle: max 5 ad, 2 imm HR at COX 25 AUG.

N. Harrier: Ft Edward WASH 8-15 Jun; SCHO 12 Jun; Ames MONT 16 Jun; Austerlitz COLU 17 Jul; max 3 MONT 18 Jul.

N. Goshawk: Coeymans ALBA 21 Jun; Saratoga Springs SARA 22 Jul.

Red-shouldered Hawk: LIV 15 Jun.

Merlin: COH 28 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 chicks Dunn Memorial Bridge ALBA 13 Jun; COH 29 Aug.
Com. Moorhen: Neiber Swamp LIV 8 Jun thru, possibly new breeding site.
Sora: 2 IDA area GREE 19 Aug.
Black-bellied Plover: 3 Wrights Loop SARA 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 VF 15 Aug; 2 Stillwater SARA 29 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: VF 27 Aug; 2 COH 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 COH 13-15 Aug; Stillwater SARA 29 Aug; max 4 COH 28 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: COH 29 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Ames MONT 1-16 Jun; Sharon Springs SCHO Jun thru.
Sanderling: Brunswick RENS 28 Aug (AVK).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 Wrights Loop SARA 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 Papscanee I RENS 11 Jun; 4 COH 28 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: Neiber Swamp LIV 12 Aug; 5 VF 15 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: VF 15 Aug; Brunswick RENS 28 Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: New Baltimore GREE 18 Jul.
Com. Tern: VF 15 Aug.
FORSTER'S TERN: ad HR at Coeymans ALBA 15 Aug (RG).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: 4 fl undisclosed location MONT 18 Jun, photographed.
Com. Nighthawk: Neiber Swamp LIV 12 Aug; 14 Albany 19 Aug; 2 Albany 20 Aug; Schenectady 23 Aug; 7 Voorheesville ALBA 24 Aug; max 50 Schenectady 29 Aug, all reports.
Whip-poor-will: Stanton Rd ALBA 2 Jun-10 Jul; Rensselaer RENS 5 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Sugarloaf Mt GREE 11 Jun; Plateau Mt GREE 18 Jun.
Tree Swallow: 295 LIV 14 Jul, first large post-breeding flock.
Cliff Swallow: max 16 Gansevoort SARA 9 Aug.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: VF 27 Aug.
SEDGE WREN: Goodrich Rd Sharon Springs SCHO Jun thru (PD).
Bicknell's Thrush: Sugarloaf Mt GREE 11 Jun; max 6 Plateau Mt GREE 18 Jun (SC).
Swainson's Thrush: Sugarloaf Mt GREE 11 Jun; max 9 Plateau Mt GREE 18 Jun (SC).

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Hillsdale COLU 9 Jul.
N. Parula: FULT 13 Jun; Albany Pine Bush 27 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: Sugarloaf Mt GREE 11 Jun; max 7 Plateau Mt GREE 18 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: Papscanee I RENS 11 Jun, only report.
Mourning Warbler: LIV 15 Jun; Cherry Plains SP RENS 21 Jun; Taghkanic COLU 13 Jul; Austerlitz COLU 3 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: Holt Preserve ALBA 4 Jun; pr New Salem ALBA 5 Jun-17 Jul.
Wilson's Warbler: COX 26 Aug; Albany 29 Aug.
Canada Warbler: LIV 9 Jun, unpaired territorial male?; 2 Petersburg RENS 26 Aug; VF 27 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Sullivan Rd Charleston MONT 16 Jun; South RENS 26 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Sharon Springs SCHO Jun thru; MONT 13 Jun; Westerlo ALBA 16 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: "at least" 4
Goodrich Rd Sharon Springs
SCHO 4 Jun-13 Jul; 2 Ft Edward
grasslands WASH 19-10 Jun.
Orchard Oriole: LIV 9 Jun, aptly
nesting in abandoned orchard.

Pine Siskin: Gansevoort 6 Jun,
only report.
Evening Grosbeak: 70 JL May-
5 Aug, banded, apparently more
numerous than previous recent
summers (RY).

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik
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The summer season was wet and warm. Over 6 inches of rain fell in June in White Plains and in Poughkeepsie. The normal is 3.7 inches. Poughkeepsie came in 1.6° warmer than normal. Heavy rain fell on 24 and 25 June and then again on the 28th – 29th, which put the Bashakill under water. John Haas reported that the masses of pickerel weed which once stood nearly 20 inches above the water level were submerged. July was very warm, with temperatures 1.5° to 3.3° higher than normal. The most notable weather event was an F2 Tornado on 12 July that ripped through central Westchester County starting on the Hudson River and ending in Greenwich, Connecticut. The tornado was born near the shore of Rockland County as a water spout, crossed the Hudson, then touched down in Sleepy Hollow, and crossed through Hawthorne and Mount Pleasant. Fortunately the Great Blue Heron nest on Tarrytown Reservoir was narrowly missed and spared. The herons successfully raised four young. A heat wave in mid July sent the high in Poughkeepsie to 98° on the 17th. This was followed by another warm spell starting on the 26th and ending with a brutal heat wave in the first three days of August. White Plains saw highs of 95°, 97°, and 96° while Poughkeepsie broiled with highs of 98°, 99° and 97°. The low for 2 August was an uncomfortable 80°. Relief came to Poughkeepsie 11 days later with the low on 13 August of only 46°. August was also wet, with 5-6 inches of rain through the area.

Anne and Paddy French found two dozen Northern Bobwhites under their bird feeder, in New City on 28 August. The origin of the birds is unknown.

A Horned Grebe made an unusual appearance in Morningside on 2 June.

I received no reports of Little Blue Heron, but Marshlands Conservancy did have a Tricolored Heron on 1 July. The county park also hosted two Glossy Ibis in mid June.

Small kettles of Broad-winged Hawk were moving by 13 August.

Shorebirds first arrived in very small numbers at the Swinging Bridge Reservoir on 14 July. Numbers fluctuated, with nothing too notable for July. A Sanderling appeared on 4 August for Sullivan County's 3rd record. Two

White-rumped Sandpipers were seen on and off from 12 to 23 August. Then on 14 August John Haas doing his daily census noticed shorebird numbers were up. After an hour of searching he located a juvenile **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE**, a new Sullivan County record. After a few photographs were taken and phone calls were made, Lance Verderame and Renee Davis arrived. When they returned to the spot, there were two Red-necked Phalaropes! One was still there the next day. Other highlights near the end of August included an American Golden-Plover, one to three Baird's Sandpipers, a Stilt Sandpiper, and a Wilson's Phalarope on 23 August. Marshlands Conservancy also hosted a Wilson's Phalarope. There was also a Baird's Sandpiper on the adjacent golf course in August.

Tom Burke had a pair of Forster's Terns tending to two juvenile birds off Marshlands Conservancy in late July. Eight Forster's Terns were at Piermont Pier 3 August.

Dutchess County did well on warblers this summer, with both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers reported as well as a Kentucky Warbler in Pawling.

Valerie Freer had a Pine Siskin at a feeder in Cape Pond in June.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, Linda Atkins, Paula & Scott Baldinger, Billie Bartosik, Gail Benson, Ardith Bondi, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Binnie Chase, Mary Collier, Bill Croissant, Renee Davis, Alice Deutsch, Tom Fiore, Valerie Freer, Anne & Paddy French, Dick Gerson, Arie Gilbert, Sibyll Gilbert, John Haas, Rodney Johnson, Veronika Krause, Evan Mark, Barbara and Allan Michelin, Bob Shriber, Lance Verderame, Bill Wallace, Sally Weiner, Carol Weiss.

ABBREVIATIONS

EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC - Marshlands Conservancy; SBR - Swing Bridge Reservoir, SULL.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Wood Duck: 20 Bashakill 19 Jun; 33 East Fishkill 20 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: MC 29 Aug.

Long-tailed Duck: MC 1 Jul (TB), unusual in mid summer.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Bashakill 9 Jul.

N. Bobwhite: Wappinger 1 Jun; 5 Pawling 17 Jun; 24 New City 28 Aug (A&PF), origins unknown.

Com. Loon: EGR 1 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Bashakill 27 Jun.

Horned Grebe: Morningside 2 Jun (VF,MC).

Least Bittern: Bashakill 13,14 Jul.

Great Blue Heron: successfully bred in Westchester for 1st time (EM), *intro*.

Great Egret: 7 SBR 25 Jul; 8 SBR 18 Aug; 12 MC 29 Aug.

Snowy Egret: 2 Strever's Pond DUTC 28 Jul (DG).

Tricolored Heron: MC 1 Jul (TB).

Glossy Ibis: 2 MC 13 Jun (TB).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 8 MC 1 Jul.
Broad-winged Hawk: small kettles moving by 13 Aug.
Merlin: Brewster 18 Jun (JA).
Clapper Rail: 4 MC Jun 6.
Virginia Rail: 4 Bashakill 19 Jun.
Sora: Union Vale 29-30 Jun (BCh).
Com. Moorhen: 12 Bashakill 27 Jun.
Black-bellied Plover: 9 SBR 3 Jun; 5 MC 12, 14 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: SBR 23, 25-29 Aug
Semipalmated Plover: MC 7 Jun; 2 SBR 21 July, 4 Aug; 9 SBR 8 Aug; 60 MC 12 Aug; 16 SBR 19 Aug.
Killdeer: 30 SBR 21 July; 35 SBR 4, 8 Aug; 25 SBR 19 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 10 Rye 8 Jun.
Greater Yellowlegs: 3 SBR 4 Aug; 7 SBR 23 Aug; 12 MC 29 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 SBR 21 July; 8 SBR 14, 16 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 17 SBR 4 Aug; 23 SBR 8 Aug.
Willet: EGR 21 Jun.
Spotted Sandpiper: 10 SBR 21 July, 15 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: 3 Rye 11 Jun.
Sanderling: SBR 4 Aug, 3rd SULL record.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 SBR 21 July; 85 MC 24 Jul; 30 SBR 23 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: 45 SBR 21 July; 57 SBR 4 Aug; 150 SBR 8 Aug; 180 SBR 12 Aug; 250 SBR 14 Aug; 350 SBR 16 Aug; 250 SBR 19 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Rye 11 Jun; 2 SBR 12-17 Aug; SBR 18, 19, 23 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: Rye Country Club 23-25 Aug (TB); 1-3 SBR 27-29 Aug (LV,JH).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 SBR 21 July; 5 SBR 8 Aug; 7 SBR 12,14 Aug; 10 SBR 16 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: SBR 24 Aug (JH).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 Rye 11 Jun; SBR 6 Jun, 20 July; 4 MC 21 Jun; 2 SBR 21-24 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: 2 SBR 14 Aug,

1 on the 15th, first record for SULL (JH,RD,LV).
Wilson's Phalarope: MC 20 Aug (TB, GB, BS); SBR 23 Aug (JH,RD,VF,MC).
Laughing Gull: 12 EGR 5 Jun.
Com. Tern: 80 Rye 8 Jun; 80 MC 1 Jul.
Forster's Tern: 2 ad tending to 2 juv MC 24 Jul, 1 Aug; 8 Piermont Pier 3 Aug (CW).
Least Tern: 3 MC 1 Jul.
Black Skimmer: Rye 8 Jun.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS

No noteworthy records.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 3 Jun; Doodletown 9 Jun; MC 21, 22 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 22 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: 2 Neversink Res UA 17 Jun, 3 Jul; 2 Pawling Nature Preserve 18 Jun (SG); 2 LaGrange 5 Jul; 2 Amenia 12 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: Ward Pound Ridge 12 Jun; Willowemoc 14 Jun; 5 Fir Brook, Willowemoc 30 Jul.
Horned Lark: 5 Red Hook 8 Jul.
Bank Swallow: 12 MC 5 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: 30 Cross River Res 18 Jun.
Marsh Wren: 8 MC 9 Jun, 3 Aug.
Bicknell's Thrush: Slide Mt 1 Jul (AG).

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler: 2 Union Vale 14 Jun (Waterman bird trip).
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Norrie Point 26 Jul (Waterman bird trip)
Blackburnian Warbler: 3 Fir Brook, Willowemoc 14 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: 10 Wolf Brook MUA 17 Jun, 1 Jul.
N. Waterthrush: 10 Pawling 17 Jun.
Kentucky Warbler: Pawling 18 Jun (SG).
Mourning Warbler: MC 17 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: Wolf Brook Unique Area 17 Jun.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 5 Red Hook 8 Jul.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 10 Red Hook
8 Jul.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:
2 MC 1, 9 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: Pawling
17 Jun; Rhinebeck 24 Jun.
Bobolink: 24 Pawling 17 Jun.
E. Meadowlark: 6 Pawling 17-18 Jun.

Purple Finch: Pound Ridge 10 Jun.
Pine Siskin: Cape Pond 10 Jun (VF).
House Sparrow: albino Ellenville
23 Aug (BBa).

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REGION 10-MARINE

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June's mean temperature was a normal 68.7° F, but the rainfall total of 5.47" was 1.76" above average. July and August continued June's wet trend and featured temperatures above normal: 75.9° degrees, 1.3° above average, and rainfall 5.46", 2.53" above average in July, and 73.9°, 0.8° higher than average, with 5.58" of rain, 1.10" above normal in August.

The area around Moriches Inlet received a lot of attention this season and produced a number of noteworthy records. A male **Wilson's Plover** found by John Fritz at Pike's Beach on 17 June was perhaps the rarest bird. It was seen and photographed by several birders for about an hour, but it was not re-found subsequently. Two records of Gull-billed Tern from around Moriches Inlet were extremely unusual for eastern Long Island, especially without a storm, and followed a spring report from nearby Shinnecock. This pattern of spring to early summer occurrence is very similar to observations around breeding sites (e.g., Jamaica Bay, Jones Inlet, and Fire Island Inlet) and very unlike the sporadic late summer to fall, storm-related records known from sites east and north of breeding areas. A "Western" Willet, seen and photographed on the edge of the Cupsogue flats on 18 June by Doug Futuyama, Dave Klauber, and S. S. Mitra, was seasonally unusual; there are very few records of any kind for this taxon on Long Island for May and June.

The writers' attention to terns on the Cupsogue County Park flats produced an unprecedented series of documented records of **Arctic Terns**. Following a near-adult and a distinctive-looking immature photographed on 29

May, were a first summer bird on 2 July, a different first summer bird on 8 July, and no fewer than five Arctic Terns on 9 July: four first summers, including the bird from 8 July, but almost certainly not including the bird from 2 July; and one second summer type. All of these birds were photographed and reported to NYSARC. Several others were also reported without documentation (see species account; photos can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/tixbirdz>).

Almost equally exciting but more ominous was an unusually high diversity and abundance of shorebirds present during mid June, reminiscent of last year. Counts from 17-18 June included 40 Black-bellied Plovers, 12 Semipalmated Plovers, one Greater Yellowlegs, one Least Sandpiper, 30+ White-rumped Sandpipers, 150 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 90 Red Knots, 50 Sanderlings, six Dunlin, 20 Ruddy Turnstones, and 12 Short-billed Dowitchers. It seems very unlikely that any of these birds reached their breeding grounds in time to nest this year. Most distressing were the obvious infirmities plaguing many of these birds. Missing or crippled legs were noted on a number of birds of several species, but more mysterious, and potentially more ominous, were peculiar tumor-like swellings on the throats and heads of at least three Semipalmated Sandpipers and single Red Knot, Sanderling, and Dunlin. John Fritz and S. S. Mitra first noticed an example of this sort of pathology on a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Jones Beach West End on 7 June. On 17 Jun we thought we had reconnected with this oddly deformed individual 50 miles to the east, until we noticed that another nearby Semi was similarly afflicted. Although we do not know the cause of these growths, we wonder whether it might be a parasitic infection. Speculating further, it seems reasonable to ask whether these birds are here because they are afflicted, or whether they are afflicted because they are here. In other words, whereas it is obvious that a bird suffering a severe injury during winter or spring migration might fail to attain its arctic breeding grounds, it also seems possible that a nutritionally stressed bird, forced to forego the final leg of northbound migration, might be exposed to unfamiliar pathogens while over-summering at an "unnatural" latitude. We offer our observations and these questions with the hope that the readers of this essay might have some insight.

Among breeding landbirds, Cooper's Hawk nest on Staten Island (Tom Brown, Jenn Costello) was locally noteworthy and illustrative of this species' continuing success in our Region. This nest followed one in High Rock Park May-July 1999 (H. Flamm), which was reported to be the first nesting on Staten Island since the 1950's (KB 49: 375). At the other end of the Region, a pair of Northern Parulas were observed and photographed in Easthampton's Grace Estate on 8 July. Although they were not observed feeding young, their behavior was strongly suggestive of the presence of a nearby nest. The proven presence of the female deserves emphasis because, although territorial male Northern Parulas have been recorded regularly at a number of sites in eastern LI in recent years, females have proven extremely difficult to find during the breeding season.

Other rarities not mentioned above include three **Brown Pelicans** found by Shane Blodgett on the ocean off Cupsogue County Park; an **Anhinga** carefully described by Ben Cacace soaring over Central Park which will be reviewed by NYSARC; a **Magnificent Frigatebird** that attracted the attention of four captains off of Montauk Point; a **King Rail** found by Mike Farina at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area (see article elsewhere in this issue); and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** seen near Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge by Andrew Block.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

alt – alternate plumage; bas – basic plumage; BP – Breezy Pt; CCP – Cupsogue County P; CHP – Conference House P, Staten I; CP – Central P; dm – dark morph; DP – Democrat Pt; EH - Easthampton; FT – Fort Tilden; GA – Gabreski Airport; GE – Grace Estate, EH; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MB – Mecox Bay; mi – miles; MI – Moriches Inlet; migr – migrating; MP – Montauk Pt; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area; OP – Orient Pt; PB – Pike's Beach; PP – Prospect Park; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet; SSNC – South Shore Nature Center, East Islip; WFE – William Floyd Estate.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:

1-3 Jam Bay thru 5 Jun, cont from Spring.

Brant: BP 7 Jul and Jam Bay 8 Jul (AL), poss same bird, unusual date.

Mute Swan: 70 MB 8 Jul (PL, SM);

325 Jam Bay 29 Jul (RK), high counts.

Gadwall: CP 6 Jun, incr to 17 29 Jul (BC).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 Jam Bay 10 Jul (IG); 6 Jam Bay 20 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: 2 Jam Bay 20 Aug.

Com. Eider: 12 hatched y & at least one f still on nest S Dumping I, ca. Fishers I 2 Jun (GW); 20 OP 2 Jun (SM); 25 off Hither Hills 17 Jun (JP); 5 imm Plum I 19 Jun (MLL); 5 MP 8 Jul (PL, SM).

Black Scoter: Oyster Pd, Montauk 15 Jun (VB); 3 JBWE 26 Jul thru (mob).

Surf Scoter: Sag Harbor 18 Jun (JT).

Bufflehead: Cutchogue 9 Jun (MW)

Long-tailed Duck: f BP 16 Jun (SB).

Common Loon: 5 Egypt Beach, Easthampton 10 Jun (AWi).

Pied-billed Grebe: Jam Bay 15 Jul and 3 29 Jul (SM, PL).

Cory's Shearwater: RMSP 21 Jun (KF); CCP 18 Jul (SSi, DG, RJ).

Greater Shearwater: Shinn 15 Jul (DG); 200 off MP 13 Jul (AK); 5 20-25 mi s MP 27 Jul (SSi, SB, DG).

Sooty Shearwater: 4 DP 2 Jun (J&GF); big flight 4 Jun inc 20 MB (PL), 15+ PB (TWB, GB), 20+ Shinn (TWB, GB), & 12 RMSP (SSi); 100 0.5 mi e MP 12 Jun (CSa); small numbers from shore thru Jun; 20-25 mi s MP 27 Jul (SSi, SB, DG).

Manx Shearwater: PB 4 Jun (TWB, GB); RMSP 25 Jun (TWB et al.); 15 mi s MI 15 Jul (CW); Shinn 15 Jul (DG); 2 MB 16 Jul (SSi); CCP 18 Jul (SSi et al.); 20-25 mi s of MP 27 Jul (SSi et al.).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 5 FT 9 Jun (PS); Shinn 11 & 23 Jun; 0.5 mi s MI 17 Jul (MW); 5 RMSP 21 Jul (SSi, et al);

"hundreds" 20-25 mi s MP 27 Jul (SSi, et al); 2 RMSP 1 Aug (PL); 4 BP 15 Aug (TF); n Great Gull I 27 Aug (SM).

N. Gannet: small numbers from ocean vantages thru, eg, 11 DP 14 Jul (PL, SM);

BROWN PELICAN: 3 CCP 8 Jul (SB ph, et al.).

Double-crested Cormorant: first migrants 12 Aug (SM).

ANHINGA: CP 30 Jun (BC).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: off MP 9 Jun (fide JP), seen by four different boat captains.

Least Bittern: 2 Jam Bay 29 Jul (TWB, mob); Jam Bay 12 Aug (M&FB).

Cattle Egret: Jam Bay thru Jul.

Green Heron: nested at CP and Bronx Zoo.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: nest Stony Brook Village 23 Jun.

Turkey Vulture: 5 Manorville 2 Jun (DH); 6 Ridge treatment plant 4 Jun (JO); 7 T Roosevelt CP, Montauk 11 Jun (VB, JGi); 8 Eastport 16 Jun (J&GF); Plum I 19 Jun (MLL); 2 Shelter I 8 Jul (OB); 4 Calverton 18 Aug (EL).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 imm Plum I 19 Jun (MLL); imm OP-Greenport 3-21 Jul; imm Napeague 30 Jul (EM); CP 8 Aug; CP 11 Aug; max 6 CP 31 Aug.

Cooper's Hawk: Plum I 19 Jun (MLL); nest Buck's Hollow, Staten I (TBr, JCo), *intro*.

Broad-winged Hawk: 5 Plum I 19 Jun (MLL); Jam Bay 12 Aug (SB, et al); small numbers from CP in Aug, mig.

Am. Kestrel: Grumman 23 Jun; fledging success reported from 4 locations in NYC (JPO).

Merlin: Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 13 Aug (JG); CCP 13 Aug (DG, RJ), first reports.

Peregrine Falcon: fledging success reported from 4 locations around NYC.

Clapper Rail: ad & 2 yng Landing Lane, Accabonac 14 Jul (K&BRu), a site where species is not known to nest regularly.

KING RAIL: OMNSA 8, 9 Jun, associating with a Clapper Rail (MF).

Sora: Jam Bay 20 Aug (SSi).

Com. Moorhen: Bridgehampton 4 Jun (JA); Carman's R, Brookhaven 18 Jun (JeC); Jam Bay 7 Jul (TC); ad Jam Bay 14 Jul (mob).

Black-bellied Plover: 40 CCP & 7 PB 17 Jun; 58 CCP 8 Jul, non-breeders, *intro*.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr JBWE 11 Aug (J&GF); 4 Riverhead sod farms 27 Aug.

WILSON'S PLOVER: m PB 17 Jun (JF, mob! ph).

Semipalmated Plover: 12 CCP & 3 PB 17 Jun; 150 MB 6 Aug (PL).

Piping Plover: max 23 PB 15 Jul (AB, SM).

Am. Avocet: CCP 30 Jul (JG); Jam Bay 15-30 Aug (JF, mob).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr CCP 23 Jun (DF, SM); max 200 (5 juvs) Jam Bay 29 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: Pussy Pd, Springs 28 Jul (K&BRu).

Willet: *inornatus* CCP 18 Jun (DF, DK, SM! ph), early, *intro*; *innornatus* & 25 *semipalmatus* CCP 4 Jul (SM et al); max 67 CCP 22 Jul, all *semipalmatus* (SM); 8 (3 *innornatus*) PB & 2 *innornatus* MB 13 Aug (SM).

Spotted Sandpiper: migr noted at many sites 8 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: Riverhead sod farms 27-30 Aug (SM; MH).

Whimbrel: Shinn 5 Jun (S&JiB); MI 14 Jun (MW); max 5 EH 12 Aug (K&BRu).

Hudsonian Godwit: no reports.

Marbled Godwit: 2 MB 4-15 Aug (W&GBk, mob), one thru 14 Aug; Jam Bay 6 (TWB, GB, AG, mob), thru 22 Aug, joined by second bird 18-25 Aug; Ponquoque Bridge 13 Aug (TD).

Ruddy Turnstone: 20 PB 18 Jun.

Red Knot: 90 CCP 17 Jun, *intro*.

Sanderling: 15 CCP & 30 PB 17 Jun; 50 PB 18 Jun, *intro*.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 150 PB 18 Jun, *intro*; max 2000 Jam Bay 29 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: arr PB 16 Jul (SA).

Least Sandpiper: CCP 17 Jun; 12 CCP 2 Jul (SM et al); 50 CCP 4 Jul (SM, *et al*).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 30 PB 17 Jun, *intro*; 30 MB 20 Aug (HM, CG).

Baird's Sandpiper: juv JBWE 9 Aug (DG, SB); 3 JBWE 11 Aug, 26 Aug (KF); 2-3 Jam Bay 19-30 Aug (SW, mob); MB 20 Aug (AB); 4 JBWE 22-23 Aug (SS, mob), 2 lingering.

Dunlin: 3 CCP & 3 PB 17 Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 15 Jul (SA, KO'L); PB 16 Jul (AB, SM); max 50 (3 juvs) Jam Bay 29 Jul.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3 Jam Bay 18 Aug (EM); max 7 JBWE 23 Aug (SS, JG, mob), 4 lingering thru.

Ruff: Jam Bay 10-20 Jul (SB!, mob).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 10 CCP 17 Jun; 70 CCP 23 Jun (DF, SM et al); 400 CCP 4 Jul (SM et al); 6 *hendersoni* Jam Bay 15 Jul (SM, mob); 100 (1 *hendersoni*) Jam Bay 20 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Jam Bay 29 Jul; MB 20 Aug (AB); 4 Jam Bay 20 Aug (mob).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Jam Bay 15 Jul (SA, IG), 1-3 reported from here thru 30 Aug; Centerport 4 Aug (BB).

Parasitic Jaeger: dm PB 4 Jun (TWB, GB); Ditch Plains, Montauk 15 Jun (VB).

Laughing Gull: first juv Jam Bay 29 Jul (SM); sev reports CP 30 Jun-29 Jul.

Black-headed Gull: ad alt MB 8 Jul (SM, PL); ad MB 23 Aug (SA).

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 MB 8, 30 Jul.

Ring-billed Gull: 195 (2 juvs) CCP 13 Aug (SM, PL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: sub ad RMSF 27 Aug (PL).

Gull-billed Tern: alt PB 18 Jun (SA et al.); CCP 23 Jun (J&GF), rare e LI, *intro*.

Caspian Tern: PB Jul 13 (J&GF); Eastport 8 Aug (BA).

Royal Tern: alt PB 17 Jun; bas Riis Park 17 Jun (SB); 3 alt PB 23 Jun; 9 (5 juvs)

PB 5 Aug (PL); numbers building to max 74 PB 23 Aug (SA), 26 noted as banded on 22 Aug (BA).

Roseate Tern: small numbers reported from DP, CCP, PB, MB, MP, Cedar Pt, EH, OP.

Com. Tern: fledged juvs CCP 15 Jul (AB); 400 (250 juvs) CCP 13 Aug (SM); 350 RMSP 26 Aug (KF).

ARCTIC TERN: 1S CCP 2 Jul (SM *et al.*) ph; two reports circa MI 8 July; distinctive-looking 1S CCP (SB, ph, SM); another 1S PB (DF, JF); max 5 CCP 9 Jul (J&GF, PL, SM!), ph; 1S CCP 29 Jul (AB); CCP 5 Aug (SSi); *intro.*

Forster's Tern: 1S PB 18 Jun; 2S PB 23 Jun; fledged juvs Jam Bay 15 Jul; max 200+ MB 20 Aug (HM, CG).

Least Tern: 225 (many juvs) MB and 50 Sagg 6 Aug.

Black Tern: arr Smithtown 8 Jun (MW); 2 Shinn 11 Jun (AWi); BP 16 Jun (SB); 1-4 daily CCP 23 Jun thru; first juv CCP 13 Aug (SM); OP 24 Aug; 10 Jam Bay 30 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: CP several reports 19 Jun-9 Aug (DA *et al.*).

Whip-poor-will: 25 Central SUFF 13 Jun (MW).

Red-headed Woodpecker: ad Brookhaven 5 Jun (JC); ad Swan L, Manorville 21 Jul-5 Aug (BM, mob).

N. Flicker: GE 4 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Owl's Head P, Brooklyn 4 Jun (AxW); CP 9 Aug (TF); CP 22, 23 Aug, poss 2 birds.

E. Wood-Pewee: 5 m GE 4 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CP 4 Jun (JS, *et al.*).

Acadian Flycatcher: Sag Harbor 1 Jun (HM); Owl's Head Park, Brooklyn 4 Jun (AxW); CP 4 & 5 Jun; Southard's Pd 6 Jun (PL); Hunters Garden 10 Jun (BM, DK); SSNC 12 Jun (SM).

Alder Flycatcher: SSNC 12 Jun (SM).

Great Crested Flycatcher: 4 GE 4 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo: m GE 4 Jun & 8 Jul.

Red-eyed Vireo: 4 m GE 4 Jun; nested CP again this year.

Horned Lark: 2 m PB 18 Jun; also noted Cedar Point, EH, Sore Thumb, and JBWE.

Purple Martin: migr MB 30 Jul.

Tree Swallow: 50 migr MB 30 Jul.

Bank Swallow: 150 migr MB 30 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: 5 migr MB 30 Jul.

Barn Swallow: 300 migr MB 30 Jul.

Brown Creeper: Northwest Woods, EH 8 Jul (PL, SM).

Wood Thrush: 4 GE 4 Jun.

Am. Pipit: alt RMSP 25 Jun (TWB, GB, *et al.*, ph), very unusual date.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: m and f CP 11 Aug (KW, *et al.*); m CP 19 Aug; f PP 31 Aug (PP).

"Brewster's" Warbler: CP 19 Aug.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: m CP 13-16 Aug (MFr, mob).

N. Parula: 3 m GE 4 Jun (PL); m & f (pr) GE 8 Jul (PL, SM, ph), prob nest site; CP last report 22 Jun .

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Jam Bay 11 Aug (KF), early.

Blackpoll Warbler: Bronx R 27 Jun (RD *et al.*); m CP 20-30 July (RD), unusual dates.

Am. Redstart: 4 m GE 4 Jun; 2 m Fresh Pd, Montauk 8 Jul (PI, SM); breeders also noted near Stony Brook and at WFE.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr CP 30 & 31 Jul.

Ovenbird: 4 m GE 4 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: arr e LI Napeague 6 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CP 29 & 30 Jul (JCh *et al.*), fall migrants seldom noted.

Connecticut Warbler: CHP 23 Aug (RV; CP 27 Aug; early dates.

Mourning Warbler: arr CP 1 Jun (DA); m Owl's Head Park, Brooklyn 4 Jun (AxW); m Laurel Hollow 8 Jun (MW), banded; m CP 9 Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Central SUFF 13 Jun, singing after moonrise, sugg breeding (*fide* MW).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: m GE 4 Jun.

Lark Sparrow: Drier Offerman P 17
Aug (ME, mob); near Jam Bay 30 Aug
(ABI).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Napeague 11 &
27 Jun (K&BRu, VB); Grumman & Rt 51
Bikepath 23 Jun; known breeding areas.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:
OMNSA 9 Jun (SS, MF).

White-throated Sparrow: CP Jun 4-16
(RD); Sag Harbor thru 18 Jun (JHe); late.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: GE 8 Jul (PL,
SM).

Blue Grosbeak: pr Rt 51 Bikepath ca.
prob nest site 23 Jun (DF, SM et al.);
River Rd, Calverton 8 Jul (BM).

Indigo Bunting: m GE 4 Jun; 2 (m, f)
CP 1, 3 Jul (DA, RD), unusual loc
for date.

Dickcissel: CHP 24 Aug (RV); JBWE 29
Aug (KF).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD
(R10):** imm m near Jam Bay 14-19 Aug
(ABI).

Boat-tailed Grackle: Sammy's Beach,
East Hampton 10 Jun (AWi), unus loc.

Orchard Oriole: CP 14 Jul, prob fall
migr.

Baltimore Oriole: 10 GE 4 Jun.

EXOTICS

Whooper Swan: Jam Bay thru.



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

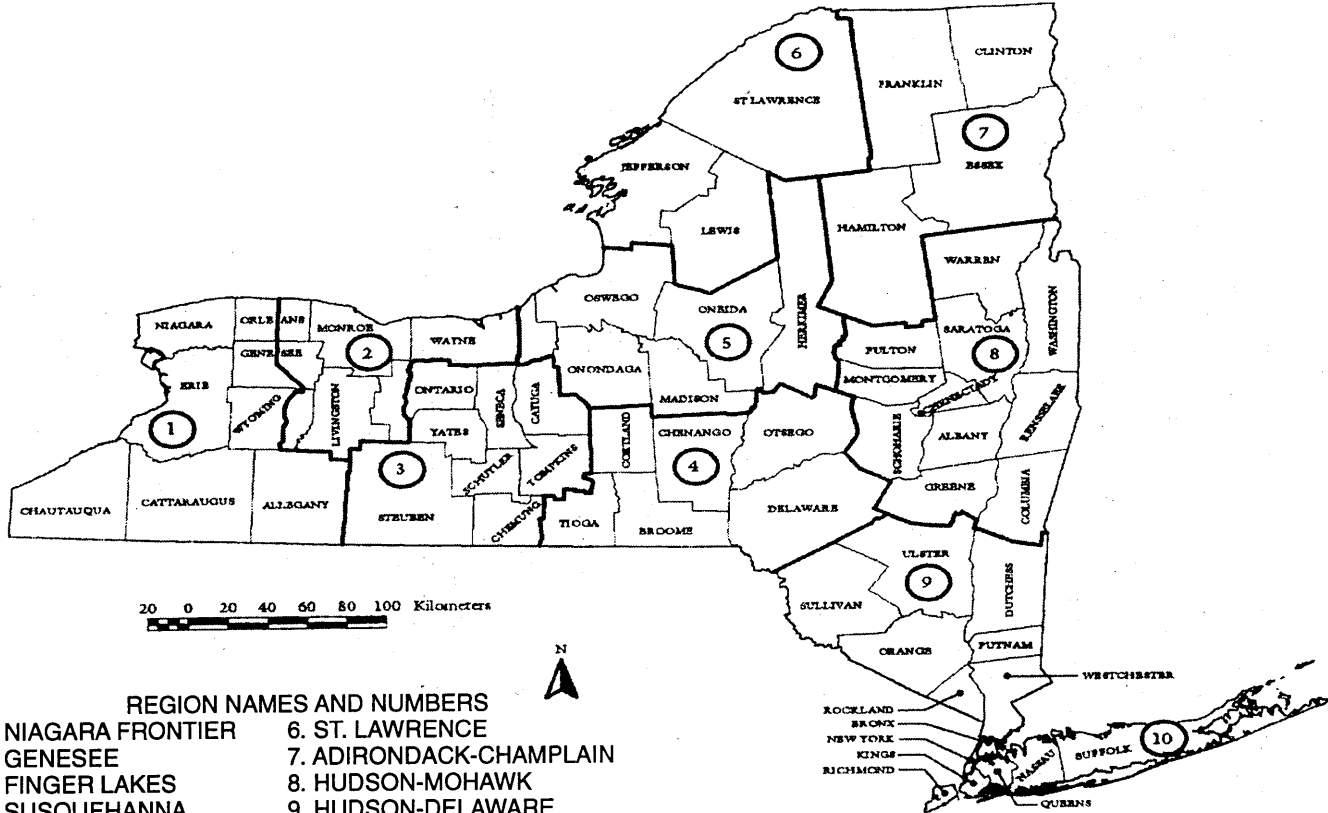
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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