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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2007

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) reviewed 154 reports from 2007, involving 79 separate sightings, and an additional two reports from previous years. Reports were received from all over the state, with 31 of the 62 counties represented. The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high. *The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to eBird, listserves, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and Kingbird Regional Editors are not necessarily forwarded to NYSARC, and doing so remains the responsibility of the observer.* The growing use of the internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate birds found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 83 contributors who submitted materials (written reports, photographs and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort involving a large number of people. In addition to the contributors mentioned above, several *Kingbird* Regional Editors have made valued efforts in cajoling reluctant observers into preparing and submitting documentation. Ian Richards and Andy Kratter provided helpful information on vagrancy of Cassin’s Kingbird. On behalf of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), we thank this army of willing volunteers for their help in documenting the rare birds of New York State (NYS).

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site:

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

Here, a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA President and website administrator) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An online reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email or regular mail to:

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420 Chili-Scottsville Road, Churchville, NY 14428
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COMMITTEE NEWS

Voting on the 2007 reports was finalized at the Committee's Annual Meeting held on Saturday, 19 Sep 2009 at the Greene County Building in Coxsackie, NY. Other topics of discussion included consideration of how the growth of the internet as the primary medium for disseminating bird-related news is likely to influence the submission of documentation (written descriptions, photographs, etc.) to ornithological journals and bird record committees. Whilst timely release of information is highly desirable, there are concerns that much of this information is not vetted and is transient in nature, meaning that it will not necessarily be available for future scrutiny. The selection of voting members was also discussed at length. The Committee is in favor of maintaining good representation from across the state and in promoting member diversity. At the same time, it recognizes the value of continuity and experience as a means to ensure an efficient and fair review process. Lastly, the impact of the new accelerated review process for potential first state records was assessed. This has been successful in terms of reducing the delay in announcing additions to the New York State Checklist but at the same time raises two important issues. First, there is often a lag between a sighting and the submission of reports by key observers that may potentially compromise the review, and second, the selection of reports to go forward in this way raises the delicate issue of pre-review, which goes against the current practice of independent first round voting (i.e. without discussion between Committee members). As has been pointed out before, some reports are very well documented and involve species that are strong candidates for natural vagrancy. Others may be more likely escapes (e.g. exotic waterfowl, commonly kept cage birds) or simply erroneous identifications by inexperienced observers. Criteria were developed to minimize the number of reports that would require accelerated review. Hopefully this will be less of an issue as the lag between when a sighting occurs and the publication of the relevant Annual Report (ideally one-two years) becomes shorter. Observers can play an essential role in making the process work by submitting materials within two months of a sighting.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the 2007 Annual Report include four new additions to the New York State Checklist; a **Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and a **Cassin's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus vociferans*) from Montauk, Suffolk Co., a **Western Reef Heron** (*Egretta gularis*) from Coney Island Creek in Brooklyn, Kings Co., and a **Scott's Oriole** (*Icterus parisorum*) that wintered in Union Square, Manhattan, New York Co. With these four additions, the list now stands at 474 species. Without a doubt 2007 was an exceptional year, as the report also

includes second state records of **Anna's Hummingbird** (*Calypte anna*) from Liberty, Sullivan Co., and **Smith's Longspur** (*Calcarius pictus*), a well studied individual found at Jones Beach, Nassau Co. Lastly, the late fall was notable for the influx of **Ash-throated Flycatchers** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), with multiple birds present.

2007 Reports Accepted

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2007-53-A/E One, Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 18, 19, 22, 24 Nov and 27 Dec (Ed Coyle, Brendan Fogarty, Shaibal S. Mitra, Dominic Sherony, Shawn Billerman; ph E. Coyle, B. Fogarty, S. Mitra, Gary Chapin, S. Billerman)

This handsome European goose was discovered on 18 Nov by Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay on the short-grass pasture of the historic Deep Hollow Dude Ranch and was reported almost daily until 20 Feb 2008. Mitra and Lindsay found the Pink-footed while looking for the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*, NYSARC 2007-52-A/D) that had been present on the same pastures for more than two weeks. As a continent-wide rarity, the Pink-footed Goose attracted hordes of birders from all over the U.S. and Canada. The discovery of two Ash-throated Flycatchers (*Myiarchus cinerascens*, NYSARC 2007-62-A and 2007-78-A), a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*, NYSARC 2007-61-A), several Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*), and other scarce landbirds in the same general area further amplified the excitement for local and visiting birders alike. For a full account of this extraordinary season in and around Montauk see the collection of essays compiled by Patricia Lindsay in the March 2008 issue of *The Kingbird* (KB 58(1): 2-12). Photos by Shai Mitra and Lloyd Spitalnik were published in *North Am. Birds* 62(1): 46 and *The Kingbird* 58(1): 47 & 50.

After some discussion at its Annual Meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to accept this as the first state record. The identification is firmly established and discussion centered on the question of origin. It was agreed that sufficient evidence has accumulated to conclude that genuine vagrants are reaching North America and are doing so with increasing frequency. This correlates with a steady growth in the population that breeds in Iceland and to a lesser extent in eastern Greenland, due to sustained conservation efforts on the wintering grounds in Britain and Ireland and increasing use of lowland nesting areas (Mitchell and Hearn 2004). Although the Greenland population is small compared to those nesting in Iceland and Svalbard, it is supplemented in late summer by Icelandic birds that migrate across the Denmark Strait to molt (Taylor 1953).

As already mentioned, there has been a steady increase in the number of reports from other U.S. states and Canadian provinces. There are records from Newfoundland (one in 1980, max. four in 1995), Nova Scotia (three in 2005), Prince Edward Island (three in 2004/05), Quebec (singles in 1988, 1996, 2004, 2005 and 2007), Vermont (one in 1999), Connecticut (one in 1998, two in 2006), Rhode Island (two in Jan 2007), Massachusetts (one in 1924, one in

1999, two in 2008/09), Delaware (one in 1953) and Pennsylvania (one in 1999). Two birds in Washington State (Nov 2003-Jan 2004) are the only documented examples west of Pennsylvania, consistent with the Western Palearctic range of the species. The fact that the North American reports are concentrated in the northeast of the continent and sometimes involve multiple individuals argues in favor of natural vagrancy.

The location of Deep Hollow was also a factor in the decision. First, there is a clear historical precedent, based on band recovery and sightings of marked birds, for the occurrence of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) from Greenland wintering on eastern Long Island. Second, it was noted that Deep Hollow is situated at the very eastern tip of the South Fork and offers one of the first suitable grazing areas for a migrant goose traveling down the coastline. A local flock of resident Canada Geese also may help to draw in passing birds in the same way that wildfowlers use live or artificial decoys to attract their quarry. In addition to the Barnacle and Pink-footed, the Deep Hollow flock was joined a few days later by a first-basic Atlantic Brant (*Branta bernicla*), followed by an adult Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*).

As noted by Lindsay and Mitra (2008), there have actually been two prior occurrences of Pink-footed Goose in Suffolk Co.; the first was a bird that spent the winter of 1971-72 on the Timber Point Golf Course in Great River (see Davis and Morgan 1972), followed by another at the Spring Lake Golf Course and nearby ponds in Middle Island from 16 Jan 1991 to the end of the month (NYSARC 1991-13-A, see Schiff and Wollin 1991). The 1971 bird pre-dated the formation of NYSARC and was not submitted retrospectively. The 1991 bird was submitted and the identification accepted, but the Committee felt that there was insufficient precedent to conclude that this was a definite wild vagrant and thus ruled the origin as 'uncertain.' The 2007 Pink-footed showed no signs of captivity such as bands or clipped toes, and exhaustive inquiries by Dominic Sherony have confirmed that the species is only very rarely kept in waterfowl collections, thereby greatly reducing the specter of an escape (Sherony 2008).

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2007-19-A/C One, Walker Lake Ontario Road, Sweden, **Monroe**, 22 Apr (Sharon Skelly, Jeanne Skelly, Dominic Sherony; ph D. Sherony)

2007-52-A/D One, Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 4 Nov-9 Mar 2008 (Angus Wilson, Brent Bomkamp, Shaibal S. Mitra, Brendan Fogarty; ph A. Wilson, S. Mitra, B. Fogarty)

The Monroe County Barnacle Goose was found by Gary Chapin with a flock of Canada Geese (*B. canadensis*) on the edge of a partially flooded farm field on Walker Lake Ontario Road, just south of the Lake Ontario shore. This very wary bird remained quite a distance from the roadway, allowing for some digiscoped photographs. It was seen by many but present on only one day, as these geese were moving north during spring migration.

The Deep Hollow Barnacle Goose was discovered by Vicki Bustamante on 30 Oct and remained until 9 Mar 2008. We received four reports of this bird, all well written, with three accompanied by excellent photographs. Photos by Shai Mitra were published in *The Kingbird* 58(1): 47 & 50. Since the wintering *The Kingbird* 2009 December; 59 (4)

grounds for Barnacle Geese are near coastal areas, it is not surprising that we have had them wintering on Long Island repeatedly in the past few years.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

2007-4-A One, Iroquois NWM, **Genesee**, 18 Jan (William W. Watson)

Seen only in flight overhead with a large flock of Canada Geese (*B. canadensis*), the acceptance of this record may have encountered more reticence on the part of the Committee had it occurred a few years earlier. The identification was based upon the very small size, short neck, and Canada Goose-like plumage. Although the possibility of Lesser Canada Goose (*B. c. parvipes*) or a Canada-Cackling Goose hybrid may not be safely ruled out in such a view, these possibilities are considered much less likely nowadays. Indeed, Cackling Goose reports have increased to the point where numerous records every spring and fall are now the norm, especially in Western New York, where this sighting occurred. As a result of all these records, Cackling Goose has been taken off the Review List since this sighting.

'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*)

2007-65-A One, Norman Levy Preserve, Merrick, **Nassau**, 29 Dec (Seth Ausubel)

The major concern for the Committee with 'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal is the high frequency of hybrids between the U.S. and Eurasian subspecies. Seth Ausubel was able to study this adult male at relatively close range and under good lighting conditions. To his credit, he noted the clear lack of a vertical stripe on the side and the presence of a horizontal white stripe formed by the greater secondary coverts when the wings are folded. These features were consistent on both sides of the bird and are the most defining characteristics of this race.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

2007-16-A/B One, Ausable Point SP, Town of Peru, **Clinton**, 23-25 Mar (William E. Krueger, Charles W. Mitchell)

This well described drake Tufted Duck was found on Lake Champlain in a flock of Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) along with other ducks and seen over several days. For unknown reasons, Tufted Ducks have become increasingly scarce statewide, with the regularity of sightings falling off notably in recent years.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2007-48-A/B One, Grevelly Point, Cumberland Head, **Clinton**, 6 Nov (William E. Krueger, Charles W. Mitchell)

2007-67-A One, Sheldrake Point, Cayuga Lake, **Seneca**, 8 Nov (David M. Nutter)

The basic-plumaged Pacific Loon on Cayuga Lake was first found by David Nutter and was followed by several reports of Pacific Loons from elsewhere on the same lake, as far down as Myers Point in Tompkins County. Although the chinstrap was not seen unequivocally, there was nothing in the description to suggest Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*). Interestingly, a well-documented Pacific Loon was observed in the same general area in the previous winter (NYSARC 2006-4-A/D) and is suggestive of a returning individual. The Lake Champlain bird was studied by telescope for 20 minutes.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2007-74-A One, Rigney Bluff, Dewey Avenue, Rochester, **Monroe**, 23 Dec (Jeanne Skelly; ph J. Skelly)

A Western Grebe was found on Lake Ontario by Greg Lawrence and seen by several observers. The description of the head and eye pattern eliminated the possibility of Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*), and Jeanne Skelly's photograph confirmed the identification. Although this species has been found in the state in all seasons, the majority of records come from winter. Prior to the late nineties it was rarely reported, but since 2002 it has been recorded annually in the state.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

2007-1-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 2 Jan (Ed Coyle; ph E. Coyle)

This Brown Pelican was photographed by Ed Coyle as it flew over the boat basin at the western end of Jones Beach. During the summer Brown Pelicans are regular along the Atlantic coast as far north as Island Beach, New Jersey, and occasionally lone individuals or groups wander up to Long Island, although the numbers vary from year to year. Brown Pelican is no longer considered a review species for downstate NY, but this mid-winter date is quite unusual, although not without precedent.

Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis*)

2007-34-A/K One, Coney Island Creek, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 9 Jul-14 Aug (Brendan Fogarty, Jeanne Skelly, Richard Guthrie, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Richard Fleming, John J. Collins, Ed Coyle, Dominic Sherony, John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Angus Wilson; ph B. Fogarty, J. Collins, E. Coyle, D. Sherony, J. Gluth, D. Gochfeld, A. Wilson)

This dark-morph adult Western Reef-Heron was discovered by Alex Wilson on 8 July during a routine visit to Dreier-Offerman Park, a modest area of former landfill on the north bank of Coney Island Creek (see Wilson 2007 for a full account). This represents the first record for NYS. The heron favored a shallow bay that drained at low tide but was also spotted roosting or fishing from the decaying remains of former piers and abandoned barges in the main channel of the creek itself. The identification was established by a number of features including the dark blue plumage, white throat, black legs with yellow feet, two long head plumes, and hefty dagger-like bill. There were ample opportunities to compare the reef-heron to its smaller cousin the Snowy Egret (*E. thula*). During the subsequent month, the reef-heron was seen by many people from the region and well beyond. Constant updates were posted on the internet, which helped those who had to try multiple times to finally see this exciting bird for themselves. Its appearance in Brooklyn was presaged by a single observer report of a Western Reef-Heron on the shoreline at South Amboy, Middlesex, New Jersey, on 10 Jun 2007, and subsequent reports from the south shore of Staten Island bolster the idea that these sightings involve a single bird using suitable foraging habitat on both sides of the Outer New York Harbor. A color photograph by Joel Horman was published in *The Kingbird* 57(4): 321.

Western Reef-Herons are native to Africa, the Middle East and India. Of the two or three recognized subspecies, the Brooklyn bird clearly belonged to the *The Kingbird* 2009 December; 59 (4)

nominate form *E. g. gularis*, which is found in West Africa. The pattern of records from the Western Hemisphere is consistent with natural vagrancy, with a cluster of records from the eastern Caribbean and Atlantic coast of the United States and Canada (Cardillo *et al.* 1983, Murphy and Nanan 1987, Smith and Hutt 1984, Norton 1985a, 1985b, Mlodinow *et al.* 2004, Paice 2006). In chronological order these prior records are as follows: Massachusetts (Nantucket Island, 26 Apr-13 Sep 1983), St. Lucia (Vieux Fort, 18 Feb 1984 and 31 Jan 1985), Barbados (two together, Feb-Mar 1984, Graeme Hall Swamp, 29 Jun-18 Jul 1985), Trinidad & Tobago (Nariva Swamp, 22 Jan 1986), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Mustique Island, 1 Feb 2004), Newfoundland (Stephenville Crossing, summer until early Sep 2005), Nova Scotia (Glace Bay, Cape Breton, 26 Jun-2 Aug 2006), New Hampshire/Maine border (Rye Harbor, NH, early Aug 2006, Kittery, ME, 18 Aug 2006 and New Castle, NH, 19-30 Aug 2006). One scenario is that occasionally one or more Western Reef-Herons successfully cross the Atlantic from West Africa to the islands of the Caribbean region. Some birds may subsequently move northwards along the Atlantic coast of North America in the spring or early summer, perhaps returning to the Caribbean in the late fall. In support of this idea, a remarkable list of Afro-Palaearctic species has now been recorded in the eastern Caribbean, and it is presumed that the persistent easterly trade winds facilitate their crossing (Kenefick and Hayes 2006). Interestingly, several of these species, including Western Reef-Heron, are not considered traditional long-distance migrants.

It is unclear whether the NY/NJ bird is the same individual seen elsewhere on the east coast in previous summers. Certainly there are insufficient differences in the plumages to rule this possibility out. Several photos submitted to the Committee, as well as others posted on the web, clearly show that the right hallux (hind toe) of the Brooklyn bird was missing. Scrutiny of photographs of the 2006 bird from Maine and New Hampshire indicated that both toes were present. It is conceivable that the reef-heron lost the toe in the interim or, perhaps, the sightings involve different individuals. Regardless, this distinctive and permanent injury may reveal the reef-heron's whereabouts in future years. At the time of writing, there have been no additional records from the U.S. or Canada.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

2007-26-A One, Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR, **Genesee**, 28 May (William W. Watson)

2007-27-A One, Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, Town of Clifton Park, **Saratoga**, 2-3 Jun (John Hershey; ph J. Hershey)

We received two reports of Tricolored Heron, both seen about the same time from opposite sides of the state. The first bird was found late in the day near Cayuga Pool but seen at close range by a number of observers and was well described and compared to the ever present Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*). The second bird in Clifton Park, which is on Rt. 187 north of Albany, was also well described and digiscopeed by John Hershey. This species is known to breed on Long Island, so finding one in Clifton Park, Saratoga County, is unusual but not surprising.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2007-29-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau** Co., 29 Apr (Thomas W. Burke; ph Gail Benson)

This alternate-plumaged adult White-faced Ibis was discovered feeding alongside seven Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) in a grassy vernal pool on the side of a relatively busy park road. A number of other birders were able to view it during a period of an hour or so before all the ibis were flushed by a helicopter landing in a nearby parking field. The White-faced Ibis was never relocated. In addition to the pink facial skin, white feathers bordering the face, red eye and reddish legs, the written description noted the slightly larger size and subtly different coloration of the plumage compared to the Glossies. Interestingly, this same pool hosted a White-faced Ibis on 27 May 2000 (NYSARC 2000-77-A).

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

2007-79-A One, Hogan Point Road, Hilton, **Monroe**, 4 Aug (Dan Niven; sketch D. Niven)

Whilst waiting to capture and band migrant hawks from the Hogan Point blind, Niven spotted the kite drifting from west to east. It was buzzed by an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), but the kite easily kept clear and soared onwards. Niven telephoned several birders further along the lake, hoping that they might catch up with it, but no additional sightings were forthcoming. Salient details were sketched on the back of an envelope, providing a wonderful memento of this stunning raptor.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2007-2-A One, Deposit, **Delaware**, 14 Jan (Thomas Salo; ph T. Salo)

This adult, gray-phase Gyr Falcon was watched and photographed as it preened in a tree and on a pole for about 30 minutes before flying after a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) feeding in a freshly manured field. This is an area of open farm fields bordering the Delaware River, and the farm activity had attracted numerous ducks, geese and Rock Pigeons (*Columba livia*).

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)

2007-24-A One, Tonawanda WMA, **Niagara**, 5 May (William W. Watson)

A group of Buffalo birders found this Marbled Godwit feeding in shallow water and on exposed mud flats with 165 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) in one of the impoundments at Tonawanda WMA. The detailed description of the size, overall color, and bill shape and color left no doubts about the identification. This species is reported annually away from the coastal areas, but most records are from the fall. It is most likely that a spring record in upstate NYS represents a bird from the James Bay population.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

2007-33-A/B One, Cupogue County Park, near Moriches Inlet, **Suffolk**, 30 Jun-1 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra, John Gluth; ph S. Mitra, J. Gluth)

2007-36-A/D One, East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 21-27 Jul (Angus Wilson, Ed Coyle, Shaibal S. Mitra, Doug Gochfeld; ph A. Wilson, E. Coyle, S. Mitra,

D. Gochfeld)

After well over a decade's absence of accommodating Curlew Sandpipers in the coastal NY region, the string was broken when Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay found a breeding-plumaged adult that remained on the flats at Cupsogue CP for two days. Remarkably, Lindsay also found a second alternate-plumaged adult three weeks later, this time on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on western Long Island. This bird remained for a week, allowing excellent views by many. The length and curvature of the bill suggested a different bird from that seen at Cupsogue. Color photos by Seth Ausubel and Angus Wilson showing both birds were published in *The Kingbird* 57(4): 323.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

2007-70-A One, Sky High Sod Farm, Town of Sullivan, **Madison**, 25 Aug 2007 (Bill Purcell)

This Old-World sandpiper has become less frequent in the past decade or so, for unknown reasons. Following about 40 records in *The Kingbird* between 1975 and 1980 (Levine 1998), there has only been a handful in recent years. Bill Purcell discovered this bird on a sod farm and identified it as a female (Reeve) based on the body plumage, leg length, and size. His analysis of the field marks included comparisons to more expected similar shorebirds, and size was judged using nearby Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*).

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*)

2007-3-A/B One, Irondequoit Bay Outlet, Rochester, **Monroe**, 1 Jan (Richard S. Ashworth, Ferne Merrill; sketch R. Ashworth)

2007-12-A/C One, Piermont Pier; Piermont, **Rockland**, 25-26 Feb (Alan W. Wells, Kenneth M. McDermott, Robert Overbeck; ph A. Wells, R. Overbeck)

The occurrences of these two Ivory Gulls could hardly have been more different. The subadult at the outlet of Irondequoit Bay on Lake Ontario was seen under difficult circumstances by some, but not all, members of a field trip before taking flight and vanishing. By comparison, the Piermont bird was an immaculate adult and gave stunning views for those birders able to get to the site in time before it too vanished. Observers of the Irondequoit bird noted the rounded head, plump breast and short stature that initially suggested a pigeon, but other features, especially its appearance in flight, revealed it to be a small gull. The two descriptions and a sketch also indicated the dark legs and a blackish patch at the base of the bill. The one important feature that was not noted, however, was the presence of any black spotting on the wing coverts or tail, but, after reviewing reference photos, the Committee concluded that these can be quite reduced in some birds and might not be apparent when viewed at a distance.

The Piermont Pier projects into the lower reach of the Hudson River and gained fame during the winter for hosting a Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) that roosted on some pilings just yards from the walkway, offering wonderful photographic opportunities. After nightfall, the owl would venture out over the river in search of prey, notably Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), which it would bring back and consume. It was the discarded heads and feet of these

ducks that seemed to have attracted the Ivory Gull, first identified on 25 Feb by Drew Ciganek, although non-birders indicated that it might have been present two days earlier. A report was submitted on Drew's behalf by Alan Wells, who also observed and photographed the bird. Wells indicated that 20-30 birders were present that first afternoon. Just before dusk the gull flew north towards the center of the ice filled river. Word spread overnight and many birders were on site early the next morning. Fortunately the Ivory Gull reappeared near the Snowy Owl and then worked its way along the north side of the pier. Ken McDermott suggested that more than 70 birders were present on and off during the day, not bad for a snowy Monday. Again the gull headed out into the river in the afternoon but sadly did not return the next day, presumably because the ice flow jammed along the north side of the pier had also disappeared due to improving weather conditions. Color photos by Sean Sime and Lloyd Spitalnik were published in *The Kingbird* 57(2): 145.

'Common' Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*)

2007-77-A/B One, Marine Park and Mill Basin, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 8-9 Apr (Doug Gochfeld, Angus Wilson; ph D. Gochfeld, A. Wilson)

This late second-cycle Mew Gull of the nominate European subspecies was found by Angus Wilson as it perched on wooden pilings at the head of Gerristen Creek, a tidal extension of Jamaica Bay. After allowing careful study, the gull disappeared but was later relocated a short distance away, bathing in a rainwater pool on a vacant lot behind a department store. It then flew to the West Mill Basin, another tidal channel, where it roosted on a floating pier and was viewed by a number of Metro area birders able to escape their Easter Sunday duties. Together with a number of Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) and a lone Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*), the Mew Gull was enticed across the channel with bread, giving superb flight views. The following morning it was re-sighted by several people on Gerristen Creek and the adjacent playing fields. The identification was based on a full suite of characters including the slightly smaller size compared to Ring-billed Gull, narrower bill with a blue-green base, bluish legs, more sharply defined white tertial tips ('crescents') visible when at rest, unmarked tail, and large mirror on P10. Color photos by Angus Wilson and Sean Sime were published in *The Kingbird* 57(3): 239.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

2007-66-A, One Lake Edwards, Perinton, **Monroe**, 19 Dec (Dominic Sherony; ph D. Sherony)

2007-76-A, One, Lock No. 6, Oswego River, **Oswego**, 27-28 Dec (Matthew A. Young; ph Kevin McGann)

Because of its proximity to the High Acres landfill, Lake Edwards is often a productive spot for gull watching and hosts 10-20,000 gulls daily. This first cycle gull was photographed as it roosted on the snow covered ice with Herring (*L. argentatus*) and Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) Gulls. Another first cycle bird was photographed on the Oswego River. It was discovered by Matt Young, Bernie Carr and Kevin McGann during the Christmas Bird Count. Numerous 'Kumlien's' Iceland Gulls (*L. glaucooides kumlieni*), including eight first cycle

birds, were present for direct comparison.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

2007-14-A/D One, Sullivan County Landfill, Monticello, **Sullivan**, 24 Jan sporadically to 21 Mar and off Route 299, New Paltz, **Ulster**, 4 Mar (Renee Davis, William W. Watson, James Pawlicki, John H. Haas; ph R. Davis, J. Pawlicki, J. Haas)

This adult Slaty-backed Gull was discovered by landfill-maven John Haas on 24 Jan, and he was able to call a few local birders in time to see it before it took to the sky and disappeared. The gull was not seen again until 10 Feb, after which it made regular appearances until 24 Feb, allowing a number of observers to view it, most often when it came off the dump to loaf and bathe in melt water that had collected on the roofs and plowed parking lot of the Apollo Plaza shopping mall. The Committee considered whether the New Paltz bird (report A) involved a different individual from the Monticello bird. The former was found by Renee Davis and Marge Gorton feeding in a corn field off Route 229 with an assemblage of other gulls. Davis's photos clearly show an adult Slaty-backed Gull that closely resembles the Monticello bird, which Davis had also seen. Although the two sites are about 18 miles apart, it is clear that gulls using the landfill range widely and may even spend the night on the Hudson River. Furthermore, a number of observers were unrewardingly staked out at Monticello during the time the New Paltz bird was seen.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2007-28-A One, Cupsogue County Park, near Moriches Inlet, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 10 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2007-30-A One, Cupsogue County Park, near Moriches Inlet, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 16 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2007-31-A One, Cupsogue County Park, near Moriches Inlet, Westhampton Dunes, **Suffolk**, 16 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

Once again, careful study of terns roosting on sand flats at the Moriches Inlet revealed a handful of Arctic Terns mixed in with the more regularly encountered species. Careful appraisal of plumage details in the field and from photographs established that different individuals were being observed on successive visits, including two distinctly separate first summer birds on 16 Jun. Although this break in the barrier beach has emerged as the top spot for the species in the state, this might in part reflect greater ease of access compared to other tern roosting sites and more intense scrutiny by Mitra and others. For a full account of this fascinating phenomena, see Mitra 2009. Even though the regular occurrence of non-breeding Arctic Terns during the summer is now firmly established, field identification remains a challenge and photo-documentation is especially important. A color photo of the 10 Jun first-summer bird taken by Shai Mitra was published in *The Kingbird* 57(4): 324.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

2007-35-A One, Breezy Point, **Queens**, 15 Jul (Alexander Hellquist; ph A. Hellquist)

This Sandwich Tern was photographed as it flew along the beach, and the observer noted that the outer primaries were in molt, suggesting a non-breeding

bird. There is a large Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) colony in the dunes at Breezy Point, and this may attract wandering non-breeders of other less common species. In late Aug 2005, two Sandwich Terns were noted on this same stretch of beach (NYSARC 2005-46-A).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2007-43-A One, Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, **Oswego**, 12 Sep (Bill Purcell; ph Doug Linstruth)

This Long-tailed Jaeger was studied as it flew out of the SE corner of Mexico Bay towards the observers and parallel to the shoreline. It was viewed from Derby Hill, overlooking the lake, and the bird passed below the observers as close as 80 yards. A series of photos by Doug Linstruth shows all the key field marks of this species. One of these photos was published in *North Am. Birds* 62(1): 46. This is apparently the first Long-tailed Jaeger ever photographed over Lake Ontario in New York and the second record accepted by NYSARC from that area. Most sightings are usually not reported.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2007-38-A/C One, Towpath Street, Port Crane, **Broome**, 18 Aug, 9 Sep, 2 Oct (Robert Grosek, Jon Weeks, Doug Gochfeld; ph R. Grosek, D. Gochfeld)

This dove was studied by several observers during the late summer and early fall, and was typically seen in the company of Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*). Detailed descriptions were supplemented by color photographs. Eurasian Collared-Dove was introduced to the Bahamas and has spread rapidly across the southern and western portions of the United States. Since addition of this species to the NYS Checklist in 2002 (NYSARC 2002-26-A/B), there has been no more than a scattering of NYS reports, suggesting that a widespread colonization of the state, as seen in many other parts of the continent, is not on the immediate horizon. This represents the first accepted record for Broome County and Region 4, and it is only the fifth for New York State. With this scarcity in mind, observers are reminded to document any sightings fully, paying careful attention to the possibility of escapes and other exotic doves, including Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*). A color photo by Doug Gochfeld was published in *The Kingbird* 57(4): 322.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

2007-56-A One, private residence, Windslow Street, Liberty, **Sullivan**, 29 Oct–21 Nov (John H. Haas; ph J. Haas)

Homeowners David and Linda Boyce first noticed this unfamiliar hummingbird on 5 Oct and contacted Renee Davis, who, despite visiting several times, did not see the bird until 28 Oct, coincident with the first really cold temperatures of the fall. Suspecting this was an Anna's rather than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Davis then contacted John Haas, who saw it the next day and on several subsequent occasions. The hummingbird fed from sugar feeders and late-flowering plants in the yard, sometimes occupying a prominent perch in a tree from which it would call and launch attacks on any small bird that

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ventured near the sugar feeders. The bird survived several very cold nights but was found dead on 22 Nov. This is the second record for NYS, the first being an adult male that visited a yard in Binghamton in mid-Nov 1998 (NYSARC 1998-8-A/E). The specimen, the first for NYS and most likely the only one from the northeast, was donated to the American Museum of Natural History.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2007-44-A/D One, South River Road, Houghton, **Allegany**, 16, 17, 22 Oct (Jeanne Skelly, Erin Karnatz, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Kimberly Sucey; ph K. Sucey)

2007-45-A/C One, West Walworth Road, West Walworth, Macedon, **Wayne**, 24-26 Oct (Jeanne Skelly, Mike Tetlow, Gerald S. Lazarczyk; ph Dominic Sherony, G. Lazarczyk)

The hatching-year female Rufous Hummingbird from Houghton was first sighted by homeowner Larry Wilson as it visited their sugar feeders. Over the course of a week, it was viewed by many, and several observers claimed there were two distinct Rufous Hummingbirds present, but evidence of the second bird was never provided. On 17 Oct the immature was banded by Erin Karnatz, who made the identification based on measurements of the wing chord and bill and details of the plumage.

The adult male Rufous Hummingbird in West Walworth was originally reported by the homeowners Bill and Loretta Groell. The bird spent much of the fall in their floral adorned yard, initially accompanying the numerous Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) but remaining long after they departed. Mrs. Growell first saw this bird about 10 Oct, and it was last seen on 1 Dec. The Growells welcomed the numerous birders who came to see the hummingbird, many of whom also obtained photographs.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2007-41-A/B One, Westchester Community College, Valhalla, **Westchester**, 16 Sep (Gertrude R. Battaly, Drew Panko; ph G. Battaly)

Unfortunately, this handsome Say's Phoebe was a one-day wonder but does constitute the first record for Westchester County. Say's Phoebe is typically a late fall and winter vagrant (Oct-Feb), and of the 15 or so previous records, only 4 have been in September.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

2007-58-A One, Dreier-Offerman Park, **Kings**, 1 Dec (Shaibal S. Mitra)

2007-60-A/B One, Mt. Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 25 Nov (Joe Trezza, Howie Fischer; ph H. Fischer)

2007-62-A One, Rita's Stables, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 24 Nov (Seth Ausubel)

2007-78-A One, Deep Hollow Horse Ranch, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 18 Nov (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

The fall of 2007 marks an extraordinary season for this rare western *Myiarchus* flycatcher, with reports of six different birds from sites scattered along the Atlantic coastline, although reports on only four were received by NYSARC. In the same time period, four or more Ash-throated Flycatchers were reported from New Jersey (*North Am. Birds* 62(1): 48), again above the seasonal average, and Delaware received its first record (*North Am. Birds* 62(2): 225). The Dreier-

Offerman Park bird was found by Tom Preston as it perched in a small tree along the edge of an athletic field. Cliff Hagen found the Staten Island bird, which was enjoyed by numerous observers. The two Montauk birds were 1.5 miles apart, the first discovered by Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay shortly after they had found the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), with the second spotted subsequently by Seth Ausubel.

The past ten years have seen a steady rise in the number of accepted records, and it is easy to forget that the very first accepted record was of a bird found in Larchmont, Westchester Co., in Nov 1970. Currently, Ash-throated is the expected *Myiarchus* in late fall (Nov and Dec); however, the final identification must always be made with considerable care. As if to emphasize the point, a well-studied Great Crested Flycatcher (*M. crinitus*) was found at Sandy Hook in New Jersey, just south of the NY/NJ state line, on 25 Nov, remaining until 11 Dec, and another was in Chatham, Massachusetts on 23-24 Dec (*North Am. Birds* 62(2): 221 & 225).

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

2007-57-A/B One, intersection of Gloucester Ave. & West Lake Drive, Montauk, Suffolk, 13 Oct (Shaibal S. Mitra, Angus Wilson; ph S. Mitra, A. Wilson)

This handsome kingbird was discovered by Andy Baldelli as it hawked insects along the roadside. Realizing that it was not the more likely Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*), Baldelli phoned Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay, who were out on Fire Island, and they quickly relayed the exciting news to others. Angus Wilson was able to rush to the spot, where he was joined by Karen Rubinstein, Barbara Rubinstein and Vicki Bustamante. After a few minutes of waiting, the kingbird reappeared and the tentative identification as a Cassin's Kingbird was confirmed. Major field marks included the brilliant white malar and chin, deep gray breast and head, deep bill with a distinctly curved culmen, and absence of white edging on the outer tail feathers of the square tail. More phone calls followed, and a caravan of birders from all over Long Island and the New York City area braved the fearsome Hamptons summer traffic, reaching the spot in time for stunning views of the bird as it perched on the roadside fencing or sallied forth to collect insect larvae from the ground or flying insects on the wing. In the late afternoon, the kingbird was flushed by a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and vanished into private property, where presumably it went to roost. Extensive searches the following morning and on subsequent days failed to relocate it. Passing motorists were puzzled by the assembly of cameras and suspicious looking characters spread in a phalanx along the street, and those who stopped to ask 'who the celebrity was?' were quickly shown the funny little yellow and green visitor. A short feature by local reporter Russell Drumm with a photograph by Angus Wilson appeared on the front page of the *East Hampton Star*. Color photos by Shai Mitra appeared in *North Am. Birds* 62(1): 190 and *The Kingbird* 58(1): 47 and cover.

Cassin's Kingbird inhabits arid to semi-arid open habitat in southwestern North America and breeds as far north as Montana. The northernmost breeders

are strongly migratory (Tweit and Tweit 2000), and records from eastern North America have increased in recent decades. Florida had its first record in Dec 1988 (Sykes *et al.* 1989) and accrued twelve accepted records through 2008 (Kratzer 2009). Elsewhere east of the Mississippi River, the species has been recorded three times in Massachusetts (Eastham Town Hall, 21 Oct 1962; Monomoy, 9 Oct 1965; and Whatley, 2 Nov 2002); twice in Ontario (specimen Grand Lake, Achray, 4 Jun 1953; Britannia 19 Sep-9 Oct 1970; see Crins 2003); and once in Virginia (Eike 1978).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

2007-61-A One, Startop Estate, East Lake Drive, Montauk, **Suffolk**, (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

This hatching-year bird was found by Doug Futuyma on 3 Dec and last seen on 14 Dec, the day before the Montauk CBC, which marked the beginning of the frigid winter weather. The flycatcher favored the low bushes and fruiting trees that fringed the slope of a small hill, and several birders were able to enjoy this characteristic migrant to the southern plains states within yards of one or both of the two Eurasian geese wintering in the Deep Hollow area. There are more than 40 prior records for NYS, invariably from the warmer months (May-Oct), and the extremely late date is notable.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

2007-75-A One, Payne Beach Road, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 9 Sep (Jeanne Skelly)

This Loggerhead Shrike was found by Dave Tetlow as it hunted from telephone wires. He alerted Jeanne Skelly, who was able reach the spot in time to see the bird. After a few minutes the shrike flew east and out of sight, and subsequent searches failed to find it. Video footage was taken by Tetlow but not submitted. Loggerhead Shrikes have unfortunately become increasingly rare across the entire northeast, including NYS. Once a breeding species and regular migrant, especially in spring, Loggerhead Shrikes are now less than annual in NYS, and all reports need to be fully documented.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2007-55-A One, Fire Island Hawk Watch, Fire Island SP, **Suffolk**, 8 Nov (Shaibal S. Mitra)

2007-73-A Five, Mecox Bay, Watermill, **Suffolk**, 23 Nov (Doug Gochfeld)

2007-80-A One, Hither Hills State Park, **Suffolk**, 23 Nov (Angus Wilson)

Cave Swallow has undergone an extraordinary transformation from a barely dreamed of rarity to a scarce but regular late fall migrant. The season began in early Nov with a single bird that flew west along the dune line past Shai Mitra and Doug Futuyma on 8 Nov as they manned the Fire Island Hawk Watch. Then on 23 Nov, another was studied briefly as it too flitted west along the dune line past Angus Wilson at Hither Hills SP near Montauk. This sighting occurred in mid-morning, and it is conceivable this was one of five seen later by Doug Gochfeld and Shane Blodgett approaching Mecox Inlet. Again the swallows were flying west along the dunes and, as they neared the bay, were blown out over the ocean by the strong northwest winds. Another individual worked in

front of the observers before turning east and glancing off a plate glass window, apparently unhurt but suggesting the bird was searching for a roost spot. This date coincided with the seasonal maximum of 98 at Cape May (*North Am. Birds* 62(1): 48). During this period a number of birds also occurred on the Lake Ontario shore, but no reports were received.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2007-59-A/G One, Oak Beach Road, Oak Beach, **Suffolk**, 20-25, 31 Dec 2007-1 Jan 2008 (Ken Thompson, Steven Schellenger, Ed Coyle, Shaibal S. Mitra, Arie Gilbert, Angus Wilson, Brendan Fogarty; ph K. Thompson, S. Schellenger, E. Coyle, S. Mitra, A. Gilbert, A. Wilson)

This very well-documented Townsend's Solitaire was found by Ken Thompson on 20 Dec and remained to at least 17 Feb 2008, during which time it was seen by many visiting birders. Seven independent reports were received and, remarkably, six of them included a photograph! See Figure D, p. 352 for a color photo by Ken Thompson. There appears to have been a small influx of Townsend's Solitaires into the Northeast around the same time, with additional birds at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, Rockport, Massachusetts, and Parkwood Hills, Ottawa, Ontario.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2007-7-A/C One, Thrall Road, Cambria, **Niagara**, 5 Feb (William Watson, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Gerry Rising; ph G. Lazarczyk)

2007-10-A/D One, private residence, Bull Mill Rd., Chester, **Orange**, 19-20 Feb (Kenneth M. McDermott, Dennis M. Murphy, Kenneth Kijewski, Gerhard Patsch; ph K. Kijewski)

2007-54-A One, private residence, Poplar Lane, Saranac Lake, **Essex**, 20-24 Nov (Gordon Bryson; ph G. Bryson)

This scattering of late fall and mid-winter Varied Thrush reports is fairly typical. The Niagara County bird, visiting the home of gracious hosts Joan and Bob Barry, was last seen on 20 Feb. The Orange County bird was discovered by four members of the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club out collecting data for the Great Backyard Bird Count, and its charcoal-gray rather than black breast band suggests an immature male.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

2007-39-A/B One, Myers Park, Lansing, **Tompkins**, 9 Sept (Ryan Douglas, Michael J. Andersen; ph R. Douglas, M. Andersen)

2007-51-A/B One, Second Street, Blasdell, **Erie**, 19 May (Danielle J. Pecoraro, Tina Schulz; sketch D. Pecoraro, T. Schulz)

Finders of the Myer's Point bird were Mike Andersen and Kenneth Rosenberg, who first noticed it as it was flushed by other park goers. The initial in-flight view of this female/immature was insufficient to identify the bird, but fortunately it flew toward the observers and landed close by. A color photo by Rosenberg appeared in *North Am. Birds* 62(1): 190; see Figure D, p. 352 for a color photo by Christopher Wood. The Blasdell bird was an adult male that was spotted by Tina Schulz as it foraged on the ground below a feeder. After looking at a field guide, she contacted Danielle Pecoraro, who was able to confirm what *The Kingbird* 2009 December; 59 (4)

became the third record for Region 1. Although a photograph was not obtained, both observers sketched the bird. NYSARC has previously accepted five records for this species, four of them from the Long Island area. From 1964, they were annual in the state until 1978. Since then, there have been very few records (Levine 1998).

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

2007-72-A One, Fort Tilden, **Queens**, 14 Oct (Steve Walter; ph S. Walter)

This rare sparrow was discovered by Shane Blodgett, Mary Eyster, and Peter Dorosh on 13 Oct and photographed by Steve Walter the following day. After some initial uncertainty about the identity of the bird, photos were sent out via the internet for comment, which strongly favored an immature LeConte's Sparrow. The photos that Walter submitted to NYSARC were convincing to the Committee members as well. This species breeds in southern Quebec, but it remains a very rarely detected spring and fall migrant through NYS, with only a dozen or so records.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

2007-64-A One, Training Area 13A, Fort Drum, **Jefferson**, 1 Jun (Jeff Bolsinger)

Jeff Bolsinger listened to this Nelson's Sparrow singing for 2 to 3 minutes, hearing 8 to 10 songs, and he provided a detailed description of the song. The Committee accepted this record based on a number of factors. Notably, very few species have a song that is similar to that of Nelson's Sparrow, and the habitat, tall grasses in a shallow wet depression where the bird was heard at Ft. Drum, is appropriate for this species. Nelson's typically likes to sing from locations buried in the grasses and is often not visible. Important, too, is the fact that the date this bird was heard falls into the proper period for a spring migrant (late May to early June in NYS); this species is a regular spring and fall migrant in NYS, though generally difficult to find due to its habitat preferences.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*)

2007-18-A One, Hempstead Lake State Park, **Nassau**, 6 Apr (Brendan Fogarty; ph B. Fogarty)

The description supports the identity of this Lincoln's Sparrow. The most likely confusing species is an immature Song Sparrow, and the observer ruled out that possibility. Since Lincoln's Sparrow breeds and migrates in the state, this submission is due to the unusual date of occurrence; this bird was present for a while and may thus have wintered locally. Although Lincoln's is rare in NYS before May, there are April records and *Bull's Birds of NYS* (Levine 1998) cites a record of 1 Apr in the Adirondacks, with coastal extreme dates in mid March.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

2007-23-A One, private residence in Bennett Heights, Town of Batavia, **Genesee**, 21-25 Apr (Douglas Beattie; ph Gerald S. Lazarczyk)

This Harris's Sparrow was first seen visiting a feeder at the home of Donald Thurau in Batavia. It was found again four days later three-quarters of a mile east of its original location and digiscopeed by Jerry Lazarczyk.

‘Gambel’s’ White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*)

2007-25-A One, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Manitou Beach Road, **Monroe**, 15 May (Dominic Sherony; ph D. Sherony)

This adult was banded and photographed along with a more familiar eastern White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. l. leucophrys*). ‘Gambel’s’ White-crowned Sparrows (termed the ‘West Taiga’ form by Sibley) are reported rarely but regularly in coastal NYS during the fall and winter, but there are very few reports from elsewhere in the state.

Smith’s Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

2007-9-A/E One, T. R. Roosevelt Nature Center, Jones Beach West End, **Nassau**, 2 Feb to 10 Mar (Ed Coyle, Lloyd Spitalnik, Thomas W. Burke, Doug Gochfeld, Shaibal S. Mitra ; ph E. Coyle, L. Spitalnik, D. Gochfeld, S. Mitra)

Ed Coyle first noticed this longspur on 2 Feb in an area of dredging spoils and scattered vegetation on the edge of a large coastal dune system at the western end of Jones Beach Island. This is a traditional wintering site for Lapland Longspurs (*C. lapponicus*), and a dozen or so were present for direct comparison, along with a scattering of Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) and Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). Suspecting that this was a Smith’s Longspur from the outset but appreciating the profound rarity of the species in the east and the intricacies of longspur identification, Coyle sent his initial set of somewhat distant photos to local members of this Committee seeking an independent viewpoint. Initial opinions were equivocal but shifted once Coyle obtained and circulated better images. His tenacity and willingness to spend hours in the cold patiently stalking the flighty longspur flock is most commendable. Word of his exciting find spread quickly, and by the following weekend a large number of birders were able to view the longspur. It remained until 18 Mar and was seen by many people from NYS and beyond, including the participants of a pelagic that ran on the first Saturday from nearby Freeport. The excellent written descriptions and several sets of color photographs clearly support the identification as a Smith’s Longspur, firmly ruling out Lapland, McCown’s (*C. mccownii*) and Chestnut-collared (*C. ornatus*) Longspurs. Noted features included the relatively uniformly buffy underparts, conspicuous white eye-ring, less prominently marked face pattern compared to Lapland, less sharply defined flank streaks and submalar stripe, a somewhat thinner pinkish bill, and a lack of any chestnut tones on the wing coverts. Typical of a longspur, the primaries extended well beyond the tips of the tertials, but the spacing between primary tips (wing formula) differed from the Laplands in having a large gap between two of the primary tips rather than more uniform steps. Compared to its flock mates, the Smith’s fed in a rather slow and methodical fashion, often crouching close to the bases of the plants and tending to hunker down when alarmed rather than flushing. This constitutes only the second record for NYS, the first being an immature female inadvertently collected on 22 Sep 1974 at the western end of Fire Island, Suffolk, some 17 miles further east along the barrier beach. Photographs by Lloyd Spitalnik and Ed Coyle were published in *North Am. Birds* 61(2): 365 and *The Kingbird* 57(2): 146.

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Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

2007-32-A One, Piermont Pier, **Rockland**, 20-25 Jun (Alan W. Wells; ph A. Wells)

This female Snow Bunting was discovered by Tom Dow on the bizarre date of 20 Jun and was seen several times over the next five days. Although Snow Buntings occur widely during the winter months, almost all depart by the end of April, and the prior latest date is 23 May. See Figure D, p. 352 for a color photo by Alan Wells.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

2007-8-A/D One Windsor Road, Baldwin, **Nassau**, 4, 17, 23 Feb, 11 Mar (Angus Wilson, Jeanne Skelly, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, William Watson; ph A. Wilson, G. Lazarczyk)

First noted on 31 Dec 2006 and thought to be a female Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)—a spectacular winter find in its own right—this male Western Tanager was correctly re-identified by the homeowners John and Muriel Stahl when they consulted a field guide, and they promptly got in touch with the local Audubon chapter. A glorious splash of yellow in the dreary gray of winter, this tanager frequented their feeders until 30 Mar and was enjoyed by many visiting birders. A color photo by John Stahl was published in *The Kingbird* 57(2): 147.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2007-13-A One, private residence near Westtown, Town of Minisink, **Orange**, 17-22 May (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph Ray Cramer)

Homeowners Mr. & Mrs. Ray Cramer identified this male when it visited their feeder. During the successive days it was viewed by a number of local birders and represents the first documented record for Orange County.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

2007-21-A One, Ripley, **Chautauqua**, 29 Apr (James Pawlicki, William W. Watson; ph and video J. Pawlicki)

This Western Meadowlark was observed and videotaped as it sang from various vantage points in and around the grassy field and vineyard adjacent to the Ripley Hawk Watch. Detailed descriptions of the song (heard well on the video) and plumage firmly established the identification by ruling out Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*).

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2007-37-A/B One, Jones Beach West End, **Nassau**, 5 Jul-18 Aug (Dominic Sherony, Corey Finger; ph D. Sherony, C. Finger)

This female Yellow-headed Blackbird frequented the cut grass of the median strip and park buildings, often in the company of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). It was found by Corey Finger and remained for more than a month. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are fairly rare on Long Island, and most don't stay in one place for as long as this fairly cooperative bird.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

2007-11-A/C One, Tremper Avenue, Phoenicia, **Ulster**, 22 Feb, 11 Mar (Kenneth M. McDermott, James Pawlicki, William W. Watson; ph Kenneth Kijewski)

This brightly colored adult male spent almost the entire winter visiting feeders in the town of Phoenicia, where oranges and other fruit were put out for it by a number of homeowners. It was first brought to general attention by Rich Guthrie on 6 Feb and remained until at least 18 Mar. However, the homeowners said that it had been around since the late fall. A color photo by Lloyd Spitalnik was featured in *The Kingbird* 57(2): 147.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)

2007-69-A/I One, Union Square Park, Manhattan, **New York**, 4 Dec – 5 Feb 2008 (Alice Deutsch, Joe Trezza, Thomas W. Burke, William W. Watson, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Yolanda Garcia, Doug Gochfeld, Lenore Swenson, Brendan Fogarty; ph Ardith Bondi, David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik, D. Gochfeld; sketch Y. Garcia)

A bustling square in the middle of Manhattan might seem an unlikely choice of wintering spot for a denizen of the deserts of the southwestern United States and Mexico, but Union Square Park was clearly sufficient for this young male Scott's Oriole first observed by Alice Deutsch on 4 Dec 2007. Initially the bird was identified as an Orchard Oriole (*I. spurius*) based on the combination of black and green plumage, and it was not until photos by Ardith Bondi were posted on 23 Jan 2008 that this was corrected to Scott's Oriole. Seth Ausubel was one of the first to publicly suggest Scott's rather than Orchard. This constitutes the first record for NYS.

Nicknamed 'Scotty', the oriole favored a patch of shrubs and small trees near the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, where it associated with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) and consumed sap oozing from holes made by the woodpecker. Several of the reports noted that the oriole was quite aggressive towards other passerines, including the sapsucker. The oriole also fed on fruit left around the statue and Big Apple delicacies such as a discarded Kaiser roll and a hot dog bun. At times it would fly up into the tall trees at the center of the park, where it would preen undisturbed, or would fly onto the roofs of surrounding buildings, presumably to visit private gardens or other green spaces. After an absence in mid-winter, the oriole was re-sighted in Tompkins Square, another small city park three quarters of a mile away. Scott's Oriole is essentially a Mexican species whose summer range extends into the southwestern United States (Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, southern California and western Texas). Most individuals return south of the border in late Aug and early Sep, where they remain for the winter (Howell and Webb 1995; Jaramillo and Burke 1999). Thus the species is considered a short to medium distance migrant. However, a pattern of vagrancy to the north and northeast has become apparent, with records in Ontario (Nov 1975, Silver Islet Landing), Minnesota (23 May to mid-Jun 1974, Duluth) and Wisconsin (Jan–Feb 1996, Adams County), providing support for the notion that the Union Square bird was a natural vagrant (Denis 1976, Jaramillo and Burke 1999, Sundquist 1975). Bringing this point home, February 2007 also yielded first state records of Scott's Oriole in Pennsylvania and Kentucky: a male coming to

a feeder in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania from 19 Feb into March, and an immature female at a feeder in Frankfort, Franklin County, Kentucky from early February 2007 and through the winter (*North Am. Birds* 61(2): 364 & 368). One of the pivotal color photos of ‘Scotty’ taken by Ardith Bondi on 23 Jan 2008 was published in *North Am. Birds* 62(2): 333.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

2007-68-A, One, private residence, Montgomery, **Orange**, 21 Dec to 27 Jan 2008 (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph K. McDermott)

This adult male Hoary Redpoll joined a flock of Common Redpolls (*C. flammea*) visiting thistle feeders put out by Curt McDermott in a residential condo complex. Timely updates on the presence of the bird meant that many birders were able to stop by and see this striking individual. Whilst Hoary Redpoll is no longer considered a review species for most of New York, the species remains extremely rare south of the Catskill Mountains. During this same period, Hoary Redpolls were found widely across northern and central NYS, with several individuals visiting feeders in nearby Sullivan County.

2007 Reports Accepted but Origins Considered Unknown or Unnatural

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

2007-5-A Two, Irondequoit Bay, **Monroe**, 3 Jan (William W. Watson; ph Jim Pawlicki)

These two untagged swans were seen and photographed at very close range, leaving no doubt about the identification. Although New York does not yet consider Trumpeter Swan established for a long enough period to warrant inclusion on the State list, the species is now on the Ontario list because the Ontario Bird Records Committee has determined that they are established there. It is also on the list of two nearby states, Ohio and Michigan. Since Trumpeters have been released recently in central New York, north of the Montezuma wetlands complex, and perhaps still are being released, the origin of individual unmarked birds, such as the two at Irondequoit Bay, is extremely difficult to determine. Even some marked birds of this long-lived species could have been released as part of recent introduction efforts. Anyone who observes a tagged or banded bird should collect as much information as possible so that the provenance of that individual might be determined.

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)

2007-47-A One, Hudson River, Saugerties Lighthouse, **Ulster** (Suzanne Stone; ph S. Stone)

This Black Swan was in the company of four Mute Swans (*C. olor*). This species, native to Australia, is popular with collectors of ornamental waterfowl and escapes occur periodically. Individuals may also be relatively long-lived, raising the possibility of a feral population becoming established, as has happened in other countries.

1991 Report Accepted

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

1991-42-A One, Riverhead, Suffolk, 12 Dec (Paul H. Gillen, Jr.; ph P. Gillen, Jr.)

This first-basic Franklin's Gull was discovered by Paul Gillen, Jr. on 12 Dec behind the McDonald's restaurant on Route 24 in Riverhead. Conveniently, this gull showed a fondness for the french fries on offer at this fast food chain and remained until 10 Jan 1992. Franklin's Gull breeds in the northern prairies and then migrates south through Mexico to winter along the west coast of South America. Although rare throughout the state, sightings are most frequent in western NY, notably along the shorelines of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. There are only a handful of documented sightings from Long Island, and during its month-long stay the Riverhead bird was enjoyed by many regional birders.

1980 Report Accepted

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

1980-49-A One, private feeder, Moody Pond, Village of Saranac Lake, Essex, 29 Oct (John M. C. Peterson; ph J. Peterson)

This hatching-year Harris's Sparrow visited a feeding station belonging to Dirck and Mary K. Benson from 27 Oct to 5 Nov 1980. On 29 Oct, it was trapped, photographed and banded (band number 891-52720) by Mike Peterson.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Reports are not accepted for various reasons. The most frequent is that the material submitted to the Committee was considered insufficient or too vague to properly document the occurrence and/or eliminate similar species. Reports that simply state the species and location of the bird(s) but provide no description to support the identification are rarely accepted. Likewise, simply stating that it looked just like the illustration in the field guide is not sufficient. Records are never rejected because the observer is unfamiliar to the Committee or has had records rejected in the past. Every effort is made to be as fair and objective as possible, but if the Committee is unsure about a submission, it will take a conservative stance, preferring not to accept a good record over validating a bad one. All submissions, whether accepted or not, remain in the archive and can be re-evaluated if additional substantive material is presented. The Secretary or Chair can advise on whether the new information is sufficient to warrant re-evaluation by the Committee. Descriptions prepared from memory months or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. The Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes while the bird is under study or, if this is not possible, immediately afterwards. It is very helpful to include a photocopy of your field notes with the report. This helps the Committee to know what was seen at the time of the actual observation, before field guides or other sources of information were consulted. Field sketches, no matter how crude, can

be extremely useful in illustrating what you saw. Lastly, when writing a report, it is very important to explain how you settled on the identification. ***What feature did you see or hear that clinched the identification for you?*** This is a vital aspect of any rare bird report and is all too frequently omitted. Providing a detailed answer to this basic question will greatly enhance the report and further improve your birding skills.

2007 Reports Not Accepted

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

2007-17-A One, Hudson River at 94th Street and Riverside Drive, Manhattan, **New York**, 2 Apr

Whilst walking a dog along the Hudson River waterfront, the observer noticed this egret-sized bird flying with its neck extended with a slight kink and its long legs carried straight behind. Because the observer did not notice any pink tones in the plumage nor the distinctive hooked 'flamingo bill', the Committee felt this was more likely to be an egret. It is not uncommon for herons and egrets to fly with their neck extended, especially if alarmed.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

2007-42-A Sixteen, Summitville Hawk Watch, Summitville, **Sullivan**, 29 Sep

Sixteen large birds flying in 'V' formation were studied as they passed high over the Summitville Hawk Watch. The observer was unable to discern the bills and, judging from an internet report from that same day, was evidently unsure of the identification. Indeed, the birds were reported as an entirely unrelated species. Unfortunately, an accompanying photograph showed insufficient detail to further clarify the identification. In light of these issues, the Committee felt the identification of these birds is perhaps best left uncertain. It is worth noting that although American White Pelican is now sufficiently regular across most of NYS that it does not require NYSARC review, the species remains quite rare in Region 10 and full reports are requested.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

2007-22-A Two, RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary, Village of Catskill, **Greene**, 2 May

A group of five observers studied these two birds for 7-10 minutes as they soared at great height before gliding southeast towards the Hudson River. Unfortunately, the viewing conditions only allowed the observers to see the undersides of the birds. Details noted included the extended necks, long tails and what was considered to be a distinctive wing shape. Although some members felt the description was fairly consistent with adult male and adult female Anhingas, there was agreement that the details did not entirely rule out Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). Anhinga remains an extremely rare species in NYS.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*)

2007-71-A One, Lido Beach Passive Nature Area, Lido Beach, **Nassau**, 17 Aug

This small sized whitish egret was studied by two observers for a minute or less

as it stood in marsh grass before taking flight. Both observers noted an unfamiliar bill pattern and, in the instant the bird took flight, the observer providing the report perceived the legs and feet to be blue rather than black or yellowish. Although these scant details are provocative, the Committee felt that these views were too brief to firmly identify such as rare species, noting that mud could obscure the real color of the legs, especially of a juvenile bird.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2007-20-A One, Coulter Rd. Town of Johnsbury, **Warren**, 28 Apr

This buteo was studied as it perched in a leafless tree, and, as such, the back and wings were not visible. The most conspicuous feature was the rufous bib that covered the neck and upper chest. However, other aspects of the description seemed incompatible with a Swainson's Hawk and suggested either a Red-shouldered (*B. lineatus*) or Broad-winged (*B. platypterus*) Hawk. The presence of a white forehead and throat were not noted.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2007-15-A One, mouth of the Saranac River, City of Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 8 Mar

Described as a gray-morph adult, this large falcon was first noticed as it stood over the carcass of a Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) on the frozen river. The outflow from the sewage treatment plant maintains a small patch of open water at the mouth of the Saranac River, attracting large numbers of waterfowl and gulls. Although there are two prior accepted reports of Gyr Falcon from this spot, the Committee felt that in the absence of photographs, the description did not entirely rule out a lightly-marked immature *tundrius* Peregrine (*F. peregrinus*) nor a falconer's hybrid. Some aspects were indeed suggestive of Gyr Falcon, notably the indistinct moustache, perception of its large size and the March date. However, the combination of a gray, and apparently unbarred, back with a clear white throat and breast was hard to reconcile with a gray-morph adult. Likewise, use of a "dark spot behind its eye" as a field mark for Gyr Falcon is questionable.

'Common' Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*)

2007-63-A/B One, Irondequoit Bay, LaSalle Landing Park, Penfield, **Monroe**, 9 Oct

This first-basic gull was studied by three observers for 40-45 minutes at a distance of 200+ yards as it stood or walked about in shallow water on a mudflat at the south end of Irondequoit Bay. Numerous Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) and Bonaparte's (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) Gulls were present for comparison. Unfortunately the bird was not seen in flight, and thus critical details of the spread wings, the upper-tail coverts and the tail were not seen. A search the next day failed to relocate it. Given the circumstances, the reports were as detailed and analytical as possible. The gull was described as intermediate in size between the aforementioned species, with a noticeably short-legged and long-winged appearance. Streaking was noted on the back of the head, and the bicolored bill had a straw-colored rather than pink base. Although these details are provocative, they do not eliminate a very small Ring-billed Gull. Of the features studied, it was noted that the expected difference in mantle color was not present, and the base of the bill is usually greenish or

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grayish, not straw, in 'Common' Gull. Specific differences in bill shape rather than simply length/depth were not mentioned.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2007-50-A One, north of ferry landing, Cumberland Head, Town of Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 16 Nov

This jaeger was studied as it flew rapidly south with a strong tail wind. The observer had the impression that it was a relatively small bird with narrow wings and lacked white at the base of the primaries. The Committee was concerned by the mid-Nov date, which would be exceptionally late for a Long-tailed Jaeger, the fact that it was not viewed alongside more familiar species to aid in the evaluation of size and structure, and, lastly, because the plumage description presented a confusing mix of adult (dark cap and light collar, absence of white flash on underside of wing) and juvenile (dark belly) features.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)

2007-6-A One, Marietta, **Onondaga**, 6 Mar

This round-headed owl was viewed twice during the night as it fed on a dead Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*). The behavior sounded odd for a small owl such as a Boreal, and the description did not entirely rule out a larger species such as a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), which is known to prey on birds as large as domestic chickens, grouse and pheasants. The absence of ear tufts argues against Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*).

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)

2007-40-A One, private residence, New Russia, **Essex** 20-22 Sep

This tiny, short-billed hummingbird was watched as it visited flowers in the homeowners' window boxes and perched on their clothes line. It was not seen to use sugar feeders that were being maintained nearby. Although there was enough to suggest that this was a female or immature male and was likely not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), the details were insufficient to narrow the identification further.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

2007-49-A Flock, private residence, Grangerville, **Saratoga**, 10 Sep

The report involved 15-20 ground feeding birds that were described as having white breasts spotted with brown, a line of red under the wing and white lines above and below the eye. Naturally the large number of birds raised questions, and the Committee felt other possibilities such as a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) or some young American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) were more likely candidates.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Committee gratefully acknowledges the following contributors who provided written descriptions and/or photographs: Michael J. Andersen, Richard S. Ashworth, Seth Ausubel, Gertrude R. Battaly, Douglas Beattie, Gail Benson, 330

Shawn Billerman, Jeff Bolsinger, Brent Bomkamp, Ardith Bondi, Gordon Bryson, Thomas W. Burke, Gary Chapin, John J. Collins, Ed Coyle, Ray Cramer, Willie D'Anna, Renee Davis, Alice Deutsch, Ryan Douglas, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, Howie Fischer, Richard Fleming, Brendan Fogarty, Yolanda Garcia, Arie Gilbert, Paul H. Gillen, Jr., John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Robert Grosek, Richard Guthrie, John H. Haas, Judith Harper, Alexander Hellquist, John Hershey, Erin Karnatz, Kenneth Kijewski, William E. Krueger, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Doug Linstruth, Cheryl MacFadden, Kenneth M. McDermott, Kevin McGann, Ferne Merrill, Charles W. Mitchell, Shaibal S. Mitra, Dennis M. Murphy, Dan Niven, David M. Nutter, Robert Overbeck, Drew Panko, Gerhard Patsch, James Pawlicki, Danielle J. Pecoraro, John M. C. Peterson, Meghan Phillips, Bill Purcell, Gerry Rising, Thomas Salo, Steven Schellenger, Seymour Schiff, Tina Schulz, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, Robert Spahn, David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik, Suzanne Stone, Kimberly Sucey, Lenore Swenson, Mike Tetlow, Ken Thompson, Cynthia Todd, Joe Trezza, Steve Walter, William W. Watson, Jon Weeks, Alan W. Wells, Jeanne Williams, Angus Wilson, Matthew A. Young.

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

Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Andrew Guthrie, Shaibal S. Mitra and Dominic Sherony.

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**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.
62ND ANNUAL MEETING
SAVANNAH, NEW YORK, 26 SEPTEMBER 2009**

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was hosted by the NYSOA Board of Directors at the Montezuma Audubon Center, Savannah, NY on 26 September 2009. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed 33 delegates from 21 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present.

President's Report by Bill Ostrander:

Bill introduced the NYSOA Board of Directors. With limited time for our afternoon meeting, Bill proceeded directly into the reports and elections.

Reports and Elections:

Bill Reeves gave the Treasurer's Report. He provided the Balance Sheet dated December 31, 2008, the Annual Report of the Treasurer for the Year Ended December 31, 2008, and the Auditing Committee Report. Bill pointed out that most of NYSOA's income came from the various categories of individual dues, and he encouraged people to upgrade their memberships.

Bill Ostrander thanked Phyllis Jones for her many years of service as Archivist. NYSOA will need a new Archivist to replace Phyllis.

Berna Lincoln gave the Membership Report. Berna is the Membership Manager, and Barbara Butler is the Circulation Manager. Berna reported 525 Individual Members, 51 Life Members, and 45 Clubs.

Bob Mauceli gave the Membership Committee report. Bob pointed out that most of the revenue comes from individual members. The Committee would like to recruit new individual members from NYSOA's member clubs. There are many advantages to membership in NYSOA, including two publications and an organization that provides a statewide voice for conservation.

Bill Ostrander began the Publications Report by announcing that *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, edited by Kevin J. McGowan and Kimberley Corwin, is out and successful. Shai Mitra reported that *The Kingbird* issues are almost caught up. The NYSARC report for 2007 will appear in the December 2009 issue, and the goal is to annually publish a NYSARC report in each December issue. Tim Baird asked that people please send him pieces for *New York Birders*. He reminded everyone that the newsletter is about the observations and experiences of New York State birders.

Shai Mitra gave the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) Report. They recently held their annual meeting. Jeanne Skelly will be stepping down as secretary of NYSARC after many years of service. Three committee members are currently serving terms that end on 12/31/09.

Andy Mason described the *Kingbird* Scanning Project: Approximately sixty years of issues will soon be available on the NYSOA website with the ability to browse and do online keyword searches. Andy reports that half the issues have already been scanned and the rest should be finished by the middle of November.

Carena Pooth gave the Website Report. The primary focus this year has been on implementing search capability for the online archive of *The Kingbird*. Carena encouraged everyone to try it out by using the following link: www.nybirds.org/KBsearch.htm. When the *Kingbird* Scanning Project is completed, NYSOA plans to publicize this unique new resource for all who study New York birdlife.

Andy Mason presented the Conservation Committee Report. Andy provided a detailed written report of the Committee's activities during the past year. NYSOA adopted a Policy on Conservation Issues written by the Committee that offers guidelines on when NYSOA should become involved in particular conservation issues around the state. The Committee also provides conservation articles for the *New York Birders* quarterly newsletter.

Andy Mason awarded the following **Certificates of Appreciation** on behalf of NYSOA:

- To wildlife rehabilitators Bobby and Cathy Horvath for their dedication and untiring efforts on behalf of injured wildlife, particularly birds, in the New York metropolitan area.
- To D. Bruce Yolton for his dedicated service in promoting appreciation of raptors and other birds and birding in the New York metropolitan area.
- To Gerry Smith for his long and deep commitment to the birds and birders of New York State in many capacities, including primary counter at the Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Steward for The Nature Conservancy, and currently President of the Onondaga Audubon Society.
- To the staff at Fort Drum in New York's North Country, including Ray Rainbolt and Jeff Bolsinger, for their able assistance and cooperation to visiting birders, particularly in providing access to this secure site.
- To Marilyn Manning and neighbors on Tremper Ave., for hosting a Bullock's Oriole in Phoenicia, NY, and for their cooperation, hospitality, and able assistance to visiting birders.
- To Rene Van Schaack of the Greene Co. Industrial Development agency for facilitating use of the Greene Accelerator building in Coxsackie, NY for Annual Meetings of the NY State Avian Records Committee.

Carena Pooth gave the New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) Report. The young birders went on many field trips around the state hosted by partner clubs over the past year and Carena reports they have two more trips left during the calendar year: Braddock Bay in October and Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch

in November. The minimum membership age for NYSYBC was reduced from age 12 to age 10. The age range for membership is 10 to 19 years old. There are three types of membership: Youth, Supporting Adult, and Club partners. More members are needed in all three categories.

Jim Eckler, of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), provided the DEC Bureau of Wildlife Report compiled by John Ozard. Jim spent time describing how the land at Montezuma was being enhanced through the conversion of cornfields into wetlands. He also mentioned that the Montezuma Muckrace raises money for the Audubon Center.

Kathryn Schneider gave the Nominating Committee Report. Kathryn announced the following 2009-2010 slate of Officers/Directors for election:

Carena Pooth – President
Gail Kirch – Vice President
Andy Mason – Treasurer
Jeanine Smith – Corresponding Secretary
Joan Collins – Recording Secretary

Bob Adamo – Director (2011)
Jeremy Kirchman – Director (2011)
Bard Prentiss – Director (2011)
Bob Spahn – Director (2010)

Brenda Best made a motion to have the Secretary cast a ballot to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Bob Grajewski seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Bill Ostrander announced the following names for election to the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee: Tim Baird, Jerry Lazarczyk, and Berna Lincoln. Stan Lincoln made a motion to elect the Nominating Committee. Brenda Best seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Bill Ostrander announced the following names for election to the 2009-2010 Auditing Committee: John Cairns, Irving Cantor, and Peter Capainolo. Berna Lincoln made a motion to elect the Auditing Committee. Barbara Butler seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Gerry Smith announced that Onondaga Audubon will host next year's Annual Meeting in mid-October.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

New club member: Andy Mason made a motion to accept Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch, Bedford NY, as a new member club of NYSOA. Gerry Smith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Kathryn Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carena Pooth seconded the motion. Bob Adamo thanked the following out-going board

members for their years of service to NYSOA: Tim Baird, Bob Mauceli, Bill Ostrander, and Bill Reeves. The motion was then unanimously approved at 3:30 p.m.

The following awards were given out during lunch.

John J. Elliott Award:

For the best *Kingbird* article of the year: The New York State Avian Records Committee, Angus Wilson, Chair, for “Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2004” and ”Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2005”, *The Kingbird*, Vol. 58, No. 1, March 2008 and Vol. 58 No. 4, Dec. 2008.

Lillian C. Stoner Award:

Jenny E. Murtaugh, SUNY Cobleskill, for outstanding effort in avian research and academic achievement and leadership.

Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award:

William B. Reeves for his dedication to this organization in a number of capacities, and most notably his long and exemplary service as Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary



NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A LARGE LATE SUMMER AGGREGATION OF LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS ON LONG ISLAND, NY

On Monday, 24 August 2009, I visited Jones Beach State Park, Nassau County, Long Island, a site I generally visit several times per week. As I walked my usual route along the beach at West End, south of parking field 2, I found a great concentration of gulls. All of the four typical summering species were there in unusually large numbers. The cause seemed to be, at least in part, an enormous wash-up of whole clams along a small stretch of the beach. Although I did not see it first-hand, Hurricane *Bill* had passed well offshore during the two previous days and I felt strongly that its strong tides were responsible for the carnage. Also washed along the shoreline were less-frequently seen large shells from clams, scallops, snails and whelks, but not en masse. As I walked into the crowd of gulls I began spotting Lesser Black-backed Gulls. My previous high count for this species here was only two in late August 2005. As my tally passed this number and kept climbing, my emotions changed from elation to worry. There were many more gulls to look through, and they could easily move around. I thought it might be worth documenting every individual I came across to be sure of the total. After a mile of walking, I reached the end of the beach at the Jones Inlet jetty, and I had tallied and photographed 13 individuals! Most of the birds were immature, with the age distribution as follows: eight first-summer/second-winter; three second-summer/third-winter; and two third-summer/fourth-winter (Fig. F, p. 354). After publicizing this unusual total, I learned of another impressive count of Lesser Black-backed Gulls—six at Mecox Bay on 21 August, just prior to *Bill's* passage (H. McGuinness, pers. comm.).

Historical records from *The Kingbird* suggest that migrating Lesser Black-backed Gulls arrive on Long Island during early fall, and that peak counts of migrants are often associated with storms. Examples of such counts from recent fall seasons include: six birds in Suffolk blown in by Hurricane Ophelia on 16 September 2005 (KB 56: 111); eight birds from Shinnecock to Jones inlets on 28 Oct 2006 after storms (KB 57: 91); and numbers a day after Tropical Storm Hanna's passing on the 6th of September, 2008 (KB 59: 100). The aggregation I observed on 24 August conforms to this pattern to some extent but appears to have been both unusually large and unusually early.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SPRING 2009

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Once again, we come to the messy season, a combination of the tail end of spring migration, the heart of the breeding season, and the beginning of the fall migration. Each of these will be addressed in turn, then some special happenings noted in the various Regions.

THE WEATHER

As usual, the weather played a significant role in reporting and in thoughts about the season. The first two months of the season continued the weather of late May, cool and wet across the whole state. Each month rated comments as among the coolest and wettest on record for one or more Regions. In the few cases where averages departed from the pattern of the other Regions, there were notes that the weather reporting site did not represent the whole Region; other parts were colder or wetter. This cool, wet period and the associated wind directions appeared to cut way down on the typical tail end of spring migration, or at least on birding and reporting. There were also several comments on the likelihood that such weather at that time in the breeding season must have had some negative impacts. But there was also the positive of the wetness delaying hay cutting and probably helping nesting success of some grassland birds.

August brought some taste of summer over most of the state, with temperatures averaging a degree or so above normal all across the state and rainfall generally only an inch or so above average and even closer to average in the SE three Regions. Still, highs only touched the eighties for a few days all season in most places and almost no nineties were recorded. The two late August hurricanes approaching the coastal areas were way overblown by the news media and had essentially no noticeable impact on birds or people.

In the Adirondacks, it was dubbed the Summer That Never Was.

TAIL END OF SPRING MIGRATION

The end of spring migration usually extends a couple of weeks into June. Often the spring hawk watches still tally some good numbers of immature birds of several species, there are often some high counts for the later shorebird species, and the last of quite a few passerine species move through. There are also the usual reports of lingering individuals which were expected to be gone well before June.

At the hawk watches, there are usually days with hundreds of immature Broad-wings, Red-tailed Hawks, and some Bald Eagles, with interesting other late observations well into June. This year the weather was such that none of the watches were even monitored in that period. Next, we look for good shorebird

counts. This year among the reports were species such as Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Dunlin present into June in several Regions each, but good numbers only for Semipalmated Sandpiper in Regions 1, 2, and 3 in the 2-4 June window. There were rare-for-spring reports of Sanderling in Regions 2 and 7 and Baird's Sandpiper in Region 2. After last spring's increased count of Common Nighthawk into June, totals this year dropped back to the dismal numbers of many recent springs. Other typical late migrants into the first ten days or so of June include: Olive-sided Flycatcher noted only in Regions 9 and 10 to 6 June; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Regions 1, 2, and 8 to 9 June; Philadelphia Vireo in Regions 3 and 8 to 15 June; Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes to only 1-2 June in Regions 1, 2, and 10; and Northern Parula, Magnolia, Blackpoll, and Wilson's Warblers all well into June in multiple Regions.

Winter birds lingering into June, departing late or possibly not moving on, included: Snow Goose in six Regions, less surprising now with the population so high; Brant in Regions 6, 7, 9, and 10; Horned Grebe in Region 6; Eurasian Wigeon and Ring-necked Duck in Region 3; Greater Scaup in Regions 3 and 9; Lesser Scaup in Regions 1, 2, and 5; White-winged Scoter in Regions 2, 8, 9, and 10; Long-tailed Duck in Region 5; Red-breasted Merganser in Region 5; Snowy Owls in Regions 5, 6, and 8; White-crowned Sparrow in Regions 1 and 7; and White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin each in many Regions. Among the late gulls, we find several Little Gulls and a Black-headed Gull in Region 1, Iceland Gull in Region 2, Lesser Black-backed Gull in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 10 and a Black-legged Kittiwake in Region 10. The individual birds in specific places are unusual, but the numbers and mix of lingerers is typical.

BREEDING SEASON

With all of the studies going on during the breeding season, such as Breeding Bird Surveys, MAPS, Marsh Monitoring, Colonial Waterbird Censuses, Grassland Bird Monitoring, and studies of species of special concern, one would think that the breeding season would be well covered. However, it appears that for many of the studies the data is not available in time for the current season's Regional reports, and much of the breeding bird information is spotty at best. In spite of notes of expected weather impacts on breeding, only the Region 10 report actually makes note of poor breeding success reported by observers for many different kinds of birds, though with limited details concerning the species involved.

Looking through the reports, there are some interesting compilations from some studies. There are interesting colonial waterbird counts noted from Regions 1 and 6, but no Four Brothers Islands report from Region 7 or coastal colonial waterbird information. To the west, the heron rookery on the Niagara River is doing well and 1838 Common Tern nests were also noted. While attempts are being made to control Double-crested Cormorant populations, there were 975 nests there plus still 2751 nests on Little Galloo Island toward the east

end of Lake Ontario. Caspian Tern nests were down 23% to 1499 on Little Galloo I. Reduced numbers of carcasses of gulls and terns killed by Type E botulism were found this year near those colonies.

The Region 6 report also provides detailed summaries of studies of grassland birds, the “winged-warbler complex”, and several other studies. With seven locations, Region 6 reported the bulk of the breeding Upland Sandpiper sites in the State. Three locations there were the only Short-eared Owl nesting sites reported. Thirty-nine singing male Sedge Wrens on Fort Drum and reports from at least ten other locations is in marked contrast to only 1-2 sites for reports of the species in four other Regions. Ninety-two singing male Golden-winged Warblers were counted on the fort; there were only about ten other reports from four other Regions. Most of the Clay-colored Sparrow and Henslow’s Sparrow reports for the State also come from studies on Fort Drum and other parts of Region 6. Region 8 does note that grassland species were missed there in spite of much search effort.

Most of the breeding season information lies in reports of species of general interest tracked by many Regions, or just species of special local interest. One example is Trumpeter Swan, where breeding is noted in Regions 2, 3, 5, and 6, and efforts to track down breeding near the Montezuma NWR complex turned up at least six pairs with 18 cygnets in Wayne County and additional pairs on the refuge. The breeding record of the season from Region 10 is Black Vulture, confirmed nesting on Staten Island, with videotape of adult and nestling. Bald Eagle was noted as okay in six Regions, with some new nest sites, and continued Merlin nesting or likely nesting noted in five Regions, with birds also noted in four other Regions. Similarly, comments of Peregrine Falcon nesting appeared in six Regions. Among the rails, there were summer records of King Rail in Regions 2 and 5 and a male Black Rail calling in Region 10. Sandhill Crane was reported in six Regions, including Region 10, with breeding known or suspected in four of these. Shorebird breeding does not include many species for most of the state, so often it is not well reported, but this season we have note of near total breeding failure of saltmarsh-nesting species in Region 10.

Continuing on, we read through family after family, with notes here and there relative to breeding of a species but too few reports or too little information to pull together trends. As some examples, Red-headed Woodpecker is noted in seven Regions, some with numbers of sites, but none with historical context. For flycatchers, there is note of Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied nesting in the expected locations, the first summer record for Acadian Flycatcher in Clinton County and Region 7, and then only seven other notes on any of the other species from all Regions until hitting the very rare Scissor-tailed Flycatcher found in Region 10. There is note of a drop in Cliff Swallow colonies in Region 7, but no assessment of breeding elsewhere. Noted were at least four locations for nesting Bicknell’s Thrush in Region 7, but no indication of how the population is doing elsewhere. Among the warblers of special interest, six Regions note records for Golden-winged Warbler; all but Region 6 had very few. But Cerulean Warbler, a heavily studied species of concern is only noted at

all in two Regions in the breeding season. A first Regional record for Kentucky Warbler in Region 6 on 27 June is interesting. Rusty Blackbird, another bird of special concern, was reported only very sparsely from breeding areas in Regions 6 and 7 this summer. Finally, while White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin were reported well into the season, there were no confirmed breeding records for the crossbill and only a few actually confirmed for the siskin.

In addition to breeding records, there are always a few surprise mid-summer records, this season including: mid-July to very early August Brant and Black Scoter in Regions 2 and 10; Horned Grebe and Bufflehead in the same time frame in Region 3; a first July record for Swainson's Hawk in Region 2; Gull-billed Tern in numbers in late July at Jamaica Bay in Region 10; Nelson's Sparrow in late July in Region 7; White-throated Sparrow in mid-July near Lake Ontario in Region 2; and White-crowned Sparrow on 11 August in Region 7.

START OF FALL MIGRATION

For many, the focus of fall migration is the shorebird passage. This year movement was well underway in late June, with the return of Greater Yellowlegs in Regions 2 and 10, Pectoral Sandpiper in Region 2, and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, and Least Sandpiper soon after in Regions 2, 3, and 5. The parade then continued generally as expected, with most Regions providing arrival dates. In Region 10, the migration was noted as weak overall, with "juveniles of arctic-breeding species both late and very sparse." Many of the interior Regions noted much reduced numbers and variety due to high water from the summer rains. Region 3 noted a special problem due to the Main Pool of the Montezuma NWR drawn down for work and the levels of that and other pools providing very little viewable habitat for early fall migration. Of special note for date or numbers, we have: a good count for Black-bellied Plover in Region 10, but no juveniles thru the season; American Avocets in Regions 2, 3, and 10 involving at least 12 birds on nine dates; a good Lesser Yellowlegs count in Region 1; "Western" Willets in Regions 1, 2, 9, and 10, with a Regional high in Region 2 and good numbers of both "Western" and "Eastern" Willets in Region 10; Whimbrels in all but two Regions; Hudsonian Godwit in only Region 10, but Marbled Godwit, the rarer, in Regions 2 and 10; good counts of Ruddy Turnstone in Regions 9 and 10; Red Knot numbers LOW; a maximum of 4150 Semipalmated Sandpipers in Region 10 in August; Western Sandpiper in five Regions; a tie of the record early date for Dunlin in late July in Region 2; low dowitcher counts except in Region 10; Red-necked Phalarope in five Regions in late August; and Red Phalarope only in Region 10 and early. American Golden-Plover was missed in five Regions, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper was only reported in Regions 9 and 10.

August also brought the start of the fall movement of waterfowl, off to a relatively slow start for numbers, and the usual summer dispersal of hawks now tracked at both Braddock Bay and Derby Hill—mostly juvenile Red-tailed Hawks. The passerine migration began with mostly normal arrival dates, but with observers commenting on low numbers, especially for warblers. Early

water birds included high counts for Redhead and Ring-necked Duck in Region 6 in August, Greater Scaup in Region 2 in early August, Red-breasted Merganser in Region 10 in early August, and Red-necked Grebe in Region 2 in late July. The peak Red-tailed Hawk counts were on 18 August in Regions 2 and 5, though radar detected good numbers the day before near Derby Hill, just too far to see from the watch.

SPECIAL NOTES

In Region 1, flooding on Cattaraugus Creek destroyed the pens at an exotic waterfowl facility releasing many birds. While over 350 were recaptured in the following week, others remain loose and may be the origin of some interesting reports this fall. Many of Region 2's records came from an active lakewatch on Lake Ontario and a Big August effort by one local birder. For Region 3, the main event was the draw downs and fillings of various ponds in the Montezuma NWR leading to boom then bust for shorebirds, amazing numbers of summering Sandhill Cranes, and under-reported effects on breeding waterfowl and other marsh dwellers. In Region 10, there were amazing and persistent numbers of seabirds visible from the outer beaches, tallied at sea watches, and found on pelagic trips. These are all very well covered by Shai Mitra in the Region 10 report and include some unprecedented numbers for the State. There you will also find that prior discussions of plumages of Arctic Tern have resulted in increased interest in seeking out and studying the birds in this season, leading to more reports. There are also interesting notes on the status of Northern Bobwhite and on Yellow-billed Cuckoo and molt-migrant Worm-eating Warbler on the barrier beaches in the vicinity of Ft. Tilden. As usual, the Region 10, and to a much lesser extent, the Region 9 reports contain seabird, wader, shorebird, and even some passerine records which are regular there but would be rarities anywhere else in the State.

RARITIES

Some of the rarities of the season have been woven into the various sections above. The best of the rest will be treated here. Eared Grebe returned once again to the Batavia WWTP in Region 1. Rarities among the Region 10 seabirds included Audubon's Shearwater (~70), two-three White-faced Storm-Petrels (photos), and Leach's Storm-Petrels (~ 49). Brown Pelicans appeared in Region 1, where one was observed from 5-8 July then found dead on 14 July; a single bird traversing Regions 5 and 6 from 11-27 August, then taken to rehab where it died on 29 August; and at least 18 in Region 10, where it is no longer flagged as rare. Rare waders included Little Blue Heron in Region 2 (also regular in Region 10) and White-faced Ibis in Region 10. Black Vulture was flagged in Regions 4 and 5, and an August Rough-legged Hawk was a rarity in Region 4. A flamingo sp. was observed and photographed in Region 9, possibly related to an earlier Rhode Island bird. Many of the gull rarities were covered earlier, but additions are Laughing Gull in Region 1; Black-headed Gull, two Sabine's Gulls, and

Long-tailed Jaeger in Region 2 in August; and a possible Yellow-legged Gull in Region 10 still in review. The rarer shorebirds were all noted above, but it is worth emphasizing the number of American Avocets this summer scattered over the State and the season. With increased awareness of plumages, about nine Arctic Terns were reported in Region 10. There were also at least three Sandwich Terns and two South Polar Skuas found on pelagic trips off Region 10. Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported at three sites in Region 2, with interactions between a pair at one site suggesting imminent breeding. Moving to the passerines, added rarities included: “Brewster’s” Warbler in Region 7; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 1 and 4; Nelson’s Sparrow in Region 7; Summer Tanager in Region 8; Western Tanager in Region 9; and Yellow-headed Blackbird in Regions 1, 2, and 7, the former two sharing the same bird crossing the Regional boundary.

Now to the B.O.T.S Award. To me, clearly the event of the season was the seabird spectacle from land and on pelagic trips off Region 10. But the B.O.T.S Award goes to the long-staying Mississippi Kites seen and enjoyed by many as life or state birds and providing hope for future breeding in the State in Region 8.

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SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2009

The tables of Spring Arrival Dates for 2009 were omitted from the September issue of *The Kingbird*. They are presented below.

Region	Species Reported ¹	Seasonality ² vs. 87-08	Advance ³ (Days)	Record Early Spp.	2009-2008
1	90	-3.87	-4.01	15	-3.02
2	92	-2.02	-3.12	4	-0.78
3	91	-2.85	-3.56	3	0.63
4	75	-3.78	1.12	4	-2.01
5	93	-0.55	0.53	3	1.67
6	85	-5.63	2.97	16	-1.26
7	90	-2.61	6.64	9	-1.94
8	85	-2.53	1.17	5	-1.34
9	79	0.11	0.19	6	2.57
10	79	0.59	-1.92	5	2.41

¹Maximum number of species = 93.

²Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region’s 22-year average.

³Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions.

Given difficulties in estimating arrivals of some species in some Regions, estimates of Seasonality and Advance should be interpreted with caution.

Spring Arrival Dates 2009 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	23-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	29 Mar	2 Apr	5 Apr		5 Apr	2 Apr	19 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr		7 Apr	15 Apr
Green Heron	13 Apr	27 Apr	12 Apr	29 Apr	19 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	7 Mar	6 Mar	6 Mar	7 Mar	16 Mar	26 Feb	20 Mar	8 Mar			8 Mar	13 Mar
Green-winged Teal	26 Feb	6 Mar	6 Mar	8 Mar	23 Mar	16 Mar	26 Mar	9 Mar			11 Mar	17 Mar
Northern Pintail	28 Feb	26 Feb		4 Mar	14 Feb	15 Mar	26 Mar	8 Mar			5 Mar	7 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	12 Mar	4 Mar	25 Mar	6 Apr	4 Apr	5 Apr	2 Apr	2 Apr	9 Apr	27 Mar	28 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	28 Mar	14 Mar	11 Mar	11 Apr	22 Mar	2 Apr	2 Apr	22 Apr	15 Mar	10 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar
Virginia Rail	29 Mar	5 Apr	5 Apr	19 Apr	12 Apr	18 Apr	26 Apr	27 Mar			9 Apr	18 Apr
Sora	9 Apr	2 May	19 Apr	15 May	20 Apr	28 Apr		1 May	9 Apr		24 Apr	29 Apr
Common Moorhen	5 Apr	18 Apr	15 Apr		9 May	24 Apr	30 Apr	16 May	26 Apr		25 Apr	26 Apr
Black-bellied Plover		5 May	1 May		15 May		21 May		11 May		10 May	13 May
Semipalmated Plover	1 May	28 Apr	1 May	16 May	12 May		28 May	16 May	30 May	25 Apr	10 May	10 May
Killdeer	6 Mar	5 Mar	6 Mar	1 Mar	6 Mar	15 Mar	9 Mar	5 Mar	3 Mar		6 Mar	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	27 Mar	5 Apr	28 Mar	19 Apr	7 Apr	18 Apr	2 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	14 Mar	4 Apr	7 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	10 Mar	5 Apr	3 Apr	7 May	4 Apr		8 May	19 Apr	7 Mar	12 Apr	8 Apr	18 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	24 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	18 Apr	12 May	2 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	19 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr
Sanderling		29 May	31 May		16 May						25 May	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	13 May	12 May	1 May		16 May		2 May	16 May	23 May	25 Apr	9 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	30 Apr	5 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	27 Apr	23 May	16 May	11 May	30 Apr	18 May	4 May	4 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	28 Mar	17 Mar	2 Apr		18 Apr					5 Apr	1 Apr	21 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	18 Mar	2 Mar	22 Mar	2 Apr	24 Mar	2 Apr	29 Mar	21 Mar	21 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar	24 Mar
American Woodcock	12 Mar	7 Mar	8 Mar	18 Mar	15 Mar	17 Mar	19 Mar	6 Mar	1 Mar		11 Mar	11 Mar
Caspian Tern	7 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr		8 Apr	13 Apr	29 Apr			23 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr
Common Tern	6 Apr	17 Apr	20 Apr		25 Apr	26 Apr	11 May	20 May	8 May	2 May	28 Apr	28 Apr
Black Tern	2 May		25 Apr		7 May	6 May	8 May	15 May		10 May	6 May	8 May
Marsh Wren	3 May	18 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	4 May	3 May	12 May	1 May	8 May	26 Apr	1 May	30 Apr

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.

Spring Arrival Dates 2009 Landbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	23-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	15 May	4 May	2 May	3 May	1 May	15 May	21 May	9 May	7 May	29 Apr	7 May	11 May
Common Nighthawk	16 May	14 May	19 May	24 May	15 May	6 May	7 May	16 May	9 May	8 May	13 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	9 Apr	25 Apr	18 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	3 May	8 May	1 May	17 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	29 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	1 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	3 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21 Mar	9 Apr	28 Mar	17 Mar	2 Apr	2 Apr	8 Apr			14 Mar	28 Mar	3 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May	24 May	22 May		13 May		28 May	22 May	16 May	12 May	19 May	18 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	13 May	30 Apr	9 May	10 May	12 May	22 May	19 May	17 Apr	7 May	7 May	8 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	17 May	19 May	9 May	22 May	16 May	13 May	16 May				16 May	17 May
Willow Flycatcher	16 May	16 May	15 May	16 May	12 May	18 May	16 May	16 May	21 May	9 May	15 May	15 May
Least Flycatcher	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	24 Mar	17 Mar	15 Mar	20 Mar	28 Mar	31 Mar	26 Mar	1 Mar	15 Mar	14 Mar	19 Mar	22 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	26 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	1 May
Eastern Kingbird	28 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr
Purple Martin	14 Apr	2 Apr	6 Apr		14 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr	15 May	6 Apr	12 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr
Tree Swallow	15 Mar	7 Mar	7 Mar	19 Mar	27 Mar	31 Mar	26 Mar	27 Feb	1 Mar	1 Mar	13 Mar	21 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	9 Apr	3 Apr	5 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr	25 Apr	26 May	6 Apr	5 Apr	25 Mar	13 Apr	15 Apr
Bank Swallow	10 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	16 May	3 May	9 May	22 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr
Cliff Swallow	19 Apr	27 Apr	20 Apr	2 May	2 May	2 May	12 May	2 May	7 May		30 Apr	28 Apr
Barn Swallow	2 Apr	27 Mar	5 Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr	6 Apr	9 Apr	5 Apr	7 Apr	11 Apr
House Wren	19 Apr	25 Apr	18 Apr	10 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5 Apr	17 Apr	8 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr	5 Apr		8 May	14 Apr	6 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	25 Apr	22 Apr	13 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	16 May	26 Apr		30 Mar	22 Apr	21 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		5 Mar			10 Mar	16 Mar	20 Mar			14 Mar	13 Mar	9 Mar
Veery	2 May	30 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	4 May	25 Apr	10 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	2 May
Swainson's Thrush	27 Apr	5 May	27 Apr		8 May	14 May	25 Apr	3 May	2 May	25 Apr	1 May	8 May
Hermit Thrush	31 Mar	8 Apr	8 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr	21 Apr	17 Apr		23 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	8 Apr
Wood Thrush	25 Apr	26 Apr	16 Apr	1 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	5 May	25 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	26 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	16 Apr	21 Apr	31 Mar	1 May	27 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	27 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr
Brown Thrasher	19 Apr	9 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr	27 Apr	14 Mar	19 Mar	10 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr
Blue-headed Vireo	19 Apr	24 Apr	17 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	10 Apr	1 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	28 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	12 May	1 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	3 May
Warbling Vireo	25 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	1 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	5 May	7 May	10 May	11 May	15 May	1 May	8 May	5 May	4 May

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2009					Landbirds (cont'd)							Average	23-Yr. Ave
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10				
Tennessee Warbler	8 May	3 May	28 Apr	15 May	8 May	13 May	11 May	16 May	10 May	8 May	9 May	9 May		
Nashville Warbler	25 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr		
Northern Parula	26 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	1 May	2 May	29 Apr	9 May	27 Apr	10 Apr	28 Apr	3 May		
Yellow Warbler	24 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	26 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	1 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	2 May		
Magnolia Warbler	27 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	8 May	8 May	29 Apr	1 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	4 May		
Cape May Warbler	1 May	26 Apr	29 Apr		8 May	8 May	29 Apr	2 May	9 May	25 Apr	1 May	7 May		
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	30 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr		
Black-thr Green Warbler	24 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr		
Blackburnian Warbler	27 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	26 Apr	10 May	8 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	3 May		
Pine Warbler	19 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	8 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	6 Apr	19 Mar	9 Apr	11 Apr		
Palm Warbler	19 Apr	24 Apr	18 Apr	2 May	25 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	9 Apr	12 Apr	5 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr		
Bay-breasted Warbler	6 May	7 May	10 May	15 May	8 May	14 May	9 May	10 May	10 May	8 May	9 May	10 May		
Blackpoll Warbler	2 May	12 May	11 May	14 May	13 May	20 May	13 May	10 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	8 May	12 May		
Black-and-White Warbler	25 Apr	25 Apr	11 Apr	2 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr		
American Redstart	2 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	2 May	5 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	2 May		
Ovenbird	26 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr		
Northern Waterthrush	25 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr		22 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr		
Mourning Warbler	13 May	15 May	7 May	30 Apr	7 May	18 May	9 May	16 May	11 May	15 May	11 May	14 May		
Common Yellowthroat	28 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr		
Wilson's Warbler	13 May	9 May	11 May		6 May	18 May	9 May	12 May	2 May	1 May	9 May	11 May		
Canada Warbler	2 May	8 May	4 May	29 Apr	6 May	8 May	17 May	9 May	2 May	26 Apr	5 May	10 May		
Scarlet Tanager	27 Apr	1 May	27 Apr	4 May	30 Apr	3 May	9 May	25 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	4 May		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	25 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	26 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr		
Indigo Bunting	27 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	16 May	5 May	1 May	4 May	22 Apr	30 Apr	4 May		
Eastern Towhee	26 Mar	14 Apr	2 Apr	14 Apr	6 Apr	17 Apr	27 Apr	6 Apr		10 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr		
Chipping Sparrow	1 Apr	29 Mar	28 Mar	16 Apr	10 Apr	18 Apr	29 Mar	8 Apr	11 Apr	22 Apr	7 Apr	5 Apr		
Vesper Sparrow	5 Apr	3 Apr	2 Apr		8 Apr	13 Apr	23 May	7 Apr	9 Apr		12 Apr	11 Apr		
Savannah Sparrow	6 Apr	9 Apr	1 Apr	9 Apr	13 Apr	8 Apr	27 Mar	16 Apr	3 Mar	18 Apr	4 Apr	8 Apr		
Lincoln's Sparrow	25 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr		8 May		9 May	5 May	2 May	26 Apr	1 May	4 May		
White-crowned Sparrow	9 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	29 Mar	27 Apr	22 Apr	7 Apr	27 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr		
Babolink	25 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	2 May	28 Apr	2 May	8 May	25 Apr	4 May	2 May	29 Apr	2 May		
Baltimore Oriole	26 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	4 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr		
Overall Average	17 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr		

Dates in **bold** type are record early arrivals for the Region.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June was mostly pleasant but with some unsettled weather at the end of the month. The average temperature was 64.5° F, 1.3° below average. A total of 2.92" of rain fell at the Buffalo airport, 0.90" below normal; however, many parts of the Region received 4-6" inches of rain, well above normal. July was disappointing as unsettled and wet weather ruled the month. The average temperature was 66.9° F, 3.9° below normal. Rainfall was 4.37", 1.23" above average. Summer finally arrived for a few stretches in August. The average temperature was 70.2° F, 1.1° above normal. There was 5.32" of rain, 1.45" above average. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

Disastrous flooding occurred in the Cattaraugus Creek watershed on 9 August after two strong thunderstorm complexes passed. As much as 5" of rain per hour occurred near Perrysburg and Silver Creek. While no notable impacts to avian wildlife were documented, the flood destroyed the holding pen of a large, private exotic waterfowl collection at Gooseneck Farm. Hundreds of ducks and geese were washed away or escaped. Up to 350 birds were recaptured in the following week, but it is possible that some exotic waterfowl (especially Red-breasted Geese, Bar-headed Geese, Lesser White-fronted Geese, Smew, and Pacific Eider) are still in the wild and may turn up locally in the months ahead.

The NYSDEC continued their monitoring of colonial waterbird nesting along the Niagara River. The heronry at Motor Island held breeding Great Blue Herons (99 nests, plus one at nearby Strawberry Island), Great Egrets (28 nests), and Black-crowned Night-Herons (62 nests). Double-crested Cormorants had 975 nests from six locations, up from 814 last year. Common Tern nests increased to a total of 1,838 from nine locations; a rise of over 400 nests in two years. The increase is mostly attributed to created nesting habitat from the temporary placement of a barge adjacent to a large breakwall colony. Data was provided by Connie Adams of the NYDEC.

It was a notable summer for breeding **Peregrine Falcons** as five nests were active. In addition to the long standing nests in downtown Buffalo and in the gorge below Niagara Falls, with those birds nesting on the U.S. side for the first time in several years, and the recent nesting on the north Grand Island Bridge, two new nests were found. A nest on the south campus of the State University of New York at Buffalo was expected after regular use of the area last year; however, a new nest on the south Grand Island Bridge was a relative surprise.

There were no confirmed **Merlin** nests this summer; however, it is likely that a pair bred in Jamestown, a new breeding location. Tom Simmons observed and photographed a female Merlin on several days in late June and early July,

including watching the bird make numerous stoops at a falconer's Harris's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk that were tethered on a nearby lawn. Simmons also saw the Merlin stoop at a cat. He heard a second Merlin vocalizing as he watched the female, and he received information about a male and immature bird being sighted in the immediate area.

A new Osprey nest in Tonawanda makes the second nest along the Niagara River; a pair returned to Grand Island for the third straight year. Traditional nesting areas around Allegheny Reservoir and Iroquois NWR are also doing well and increasing.

Individual **Sandhill Cranes** were identified at Watts Flats WMA, Tonawanda WMA, and Lockport (possibly same bird as at Tonawanda WMA) this summer, continuing the trend of summer reports in these areas.

For the state-threatened grassland-nesting species there was little change from the previous summer. **Upland Sandpiper** breeding records were limited to two previously documented breeding areas: Tillman Road WMA and the town of Colden. **Sedge Wren** was found in two locations, the town of Porter and Cheney Road Marsh in Chautauqua County. This marks two consecutive years that Henslow's Sparrow went unreported in the Region.

The status quo continued for most of the other uncommon and/or declining breeding species. **Common Nighthawks** were again reported in small numbers in North Buffalo in June and July and as only a few sightings of migrants in August. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were in similar numbers to last summer. For the fourth consecutive summer, no Golden-winged Warblers were found, although there was no concerted effort to look for them. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were present in the Red House Section of the Allegany State Park for the sixth year in a row. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at their regular location at Tonawanda WMA again. No Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from breeding areas, but one was found and photographed with a small flock of Chipping Sparrows at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo in late August.

With the wet summer, birders found several wet fields that regularly held migrating shorebirds, including a field in the town of Wilson and the Elba Mucklands. The highlight of the shorebird season was an adult **Western Sandpiper** seen by several observers in mid-August in Wilson. Good regional summer counts of 160 Lesser Yellowlegs and 20 Solitary Sandpipers, as well as better shorebird diversity than usual, were the highlights from the Elba Mucklands location.

There were some interesting gulls found this summer. The **Black-headed Gull** and several Little Gulls found among Bonaparte's Gulls at Fort Niagara SP in late May continued well into June. An amazing total of nine Little Gulls were identified and photographed by Jim Pawlicki on 21 June. All of these gulls were in first-alternative plumage. A **Laughing Gull** was found at Dunkirk Harbor among many Ring-billed Gulls in August. Three immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls were identified, with two separate birds at Dunkirk Harbor and another in Wilson.

Following the large incursion of **Pine Siskins** during the fall of 2008, many of which remained in winter and spring, it was not a surprise to have the

most summer reports of this species possibly ever. They were reported from at least 12 locations in June and July and evidence of breeding was found in two locations, Varysburg and Fort Niagara SP.

The most notable sighting for the season was the Region's third **Brown Pelican**. Apparently, some local fishermen saw the bird on 6 July at Dunkirk Harbor. Mike Rosing confirmed it the next morning and word quickly spread. Many birders saw the pelican through 8 July. Gerry Rising received a secondhand report of a Brown Pelican at Strawberry Island in the Niagara River on 7 July, which overlapped with the short period in which there was a pelican in Dunkirk. While it was not verified and is not included in the ornithological record, it is included here because of the probability of correctly identifying a pelican. Less than a week after the pelican was last seen in Dunkirk, Peter Schultz found a dead Brown Pelican on Wide Beach. The carcass was collected for the Roger Tory Peterson Institute and Jim Berry conducted a necropsy which found the bird to be in fair condition but with an empty stomach. It is assumed that the Wide Beach pelican was the same as the Dunkirk bird and may well have been the same bird that spent time along Lake Erie in Ohio in June. While Berry indicated that the bird was a juvenile female, some observers felt that the bird at Dunkirk was an adult.

Notable sightings from this summer that were not previously mentioned included: **Eared Grebes** at their regular late summer location of Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, a **White-crowned Sparrow** in early June for the second summer report ever, and the third summer report for **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, a juvenile male in a blackbird flock at the Elba Mucklands.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP CATT; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTWP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; MI – Motor I, NR ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot CHAU; TBNP – Times Beach NP, Buffalo; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Mute Swan: 2 ad, 3 yg Wilson NIAG 21 Jun; 2 PB 22 Aug; only reports.

Gadwall: 5, 3 BWWTP 22 Jun, 12 Jul; TWMA 13 Jun; 2 NF 13 Jul; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: 5, 2, 2 BWWTP 5 Jun, 12 Jul, 8 Aug; 2 Buffalo ERIE 14 Jun; only reports.

Am. Black Duck: 3 BWWTP 7 Aug; only report.

Blue-winged Teal: 2 Conewango Swamp WMA CATT 3 Jun; 2 Shelby ORLE 1 Aug; max 27 Elba GENE 8 Aug.

N. Shoveler: 3 BWWTP 7 Aug; Amherst ERIE 14 Aug; Shelby ORLE 22 Aug; only reports.

N. Pintail: Elba GENE 1 Aug, only report.

Green-winged Teal: 5 TWMA 6 Jul; 2 BWWTP 12 Jul; Sheridan CHAU 24 Jul; 2 Shelby ORLE, 4 Elba GENE 1 Aug; only reports.

Redhead: Wilson NIAG 24 Aug (WD), unusual location for summer; BWWTP 29 Aug.
Greater Scaup: 1, 3 NF 13, 14 Jul (JP, WW), unusual in summer; arr Wilson NIAG 30 Aug (WD), early.

L. Scaup: TWMA 13 Jun (WW, MS); Wilson NIAG 24 Aug; only reports.

Scaup sp.: Wilson NIAG 20 Jun.

White-winged Scoter: 3 Wilson NIAG 23 Aug (WD), only report.

Bufflehead: BWWTP 22 Jun, 17 Aug (WW, JP), lingerer.

Com. Merganser: 3, 2 NF 9 Jun, 14 Jul; OOWMA 22 Jun; 43, 50 Sheridan CHAU 16 Jul, 9 Aug (DN), regular post-breeding staging area on L Erie.

Ruddy Duck: 7, 11, 16 BWWTP 5 Jun, 12 Jul, 7 Aug, low numbers for summer at this location.

Com. Loon: Buffalo ERIE 1 Jun; 2 Grand I NR 2 Jun; AISP 9 Jul; arr 7 Wilson NIAG 30 Aug (WD).

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 + 6 yg Tiftt NP 2 Jun; Alexander GENE 13 Jun (ED); NF 13 Jul (JP); Cheney Rd Marsh CHAU Jul-Aug; Elba GENE 1 Aug; 10 BuSP 3 Aug; 2 Attica WYOM 16 Aug (DB); only reports away from INWR and vicinity.

Horned Grebe: Riverwalk ALLE 31 Aug, only report.

EARED GREBE: 2 BWWTP 29 Aug (CW, JB), near annual from this location.

BROWN PELICAN: DH 7-8 Jul (MR, JG, JeL, mob, NYSARC); dead Wide Beach ERIE 14 Jul (PS), likely same bird; third record for Region; also an unconfirmed report at

Strawberry I NR on same day (7 Jul) as DH sighting.

Double-crested Cormorant: 975 nests from six NR, L Erie locations (CA), up from 814 last year; 45 BWWTP 12 Jul; max 935 BuSP 24 Jul; 4 Almond Dam ALLE 13 Aug.

Am. Bittern: 4 TWMA 2 Jun; Cheney Rd Marsh CHAU 23, 30 Aug (TL, ML); only reports.

Least Bittern: no reports.

Great Blue Heron: 100 nests (99 MI, 1 Strawberry I NR).

Great Egret: 12 TWMA 2 Jun; 76, 96 MI 10 Jun, 20 Jul (WW), 28 nests at colony; 87, 137, 175 TWMA 25 Jul, 2 Aug, 20 Aug, roost location.

Black-cr. Night-Heron: 2, 2 BWWTP 5 Jun, 12 Jul; 7, 8 TWMA 25 Jul, 2 Aug; only reports away from NR; 62 nests MI.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 2 nests NR, including new nest in Tonawanda ERIE; N. Harmony CHAU 7 Jun; max 11 ad + 10 yg AISP 14 Jun.

Bald Eagle: max 6 juv Sheridan CHAU 20 Aug (DN); well reported from nesting areas.

N. Goshawk: 2 ad AISP 7 Jun (TB), only report.

Broad-winged Hawk: Kuckville ORLE 22 Aug, migrant or wanderer.

Merlin: 2 Jamestown CHAU 28, 30 Jun (TSi!), territorial behavior; Salamanca CATT 10 Aug (TB); Amherst ERIE 14 Aug; Wilson NIAG 18 Aug; no confirmed nest this summer.

Peregrine Falcon: new nests at S Grand I Bridge NR and SUNY Buffalo campus bring regional total to five nests; arr DH 21 Aug.

Virginia Rail: max 10 TWMA 2 Jun; Tiftt NP 2 Jun; WFWMA 5 Jun; 2 Dayton CATT 16 Jun; Cheney Rd Swamp CHAU 26 Jul; only reports; some different locations.

Sora: 4 TWMA 2 Jun; Cheney Rd Swamp CHAU 26 Jul; only reports.

SANDHILL CRANE: WFWMA 5 Jun (WD); TWMA 20 Jul (CM); irregular summer sightings at/near these locations in recent years; Lockport NIAG 21 Jul (*vide* CA), relative proximity to TWMA, could be same individual.

Black-bellied Plover: 2 Wilson NIAG 23 Aug, only report.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1, 2 Wilson NIAG 18, 22 Aug; 8 Dayton CATT 30 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last 6, 1 TWMA 2, 13 Jun; arr TBNP 10 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 BWWTP 12 Jul.

Willet: arr PB 2 Aug (ST); 5 DH 8 Aug (DN); only reports.

PHOTO GALLERY

Summer 2009



Figure A. Mississippi Kite, Root, Montgomery Co., © Courtney Moore.



Figure B. Trumpeter Swans, Hogback Rd., Wayne Co., 12 Aug 09, © Dominic Sherony.



Figure C. Little Gull, Fort Niagara, Niagara Co., 13 Jun 09, © Gary Chapin.



Figure D. Photos from the New York State Avian Records Committee's Annual Report for 2007. Townsend's Solitaire, Oak Beach, Suffolk Co., 20 Dec 07, © Ken Thompson; Snow Bunting, Piermont Pier, Rockland Co., 25 Jun 07, © Alan Wells; Lark Bunting, Myer's Pt., Tompkins Co., 9 Sep 07, © Christopher Wood. See pp. 306-332.



Figure E. Clockwise from top: White-faced Storm-Petrel, 95 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 16 Aug 09; Leach's Storm-Petrel, 92 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 16 Aug 09; Pomarine Jaeger, 92 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 3 Jul 09; South Polar Skua, 48 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 27 Jun 09; Audubon's Shearwater, 82 mi sse Shinnecock Inlet, 16 Aug 09; all © John Shemilt.



Figure F. Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 3 of 13 present at Jones Beach SP, Nassau Co., 24 Aug 09, © Brendan Fogarty. See Notes and Observations, p. 338.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 BWWTP 12 Jul; max 160 Elba GENE 1 Aug (WD).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Yates ORLE, Alexander GENE 25 Jul; max 18, 20 Elba GENE 8, 10 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 5 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 22 Jun, regular location; 4 Colden ERIE 18 Jun (JiL); Wilson NIAG 25 Jul; 1, 3 Buffalo ERIE 29, 31 Jul (PY), heard migrating at night; 4-1 Wilson NIAG 22-29 Aug.

Whimbrel: 2 Wilson NIAG 26 Jul (BB), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1, 2 Hanover CHAU 30 Jul, 8 Aug; 1, 2 DH 8, 16 Aug; Buffalo Harbor ERIE 16 Aug; PB 22 Aug.

Sanderling: arr 2 WoBSP 17 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 60, 5 TWMA 2, 5 Jun; BWWTP 5 Jun; arr 4 Wilson NIAG 25 Jul; max 70 Elba GENE 5 Aug.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: ad Wilson NIAG 15-16 Aug (DW, JP, WD, PH), rare, carefully documented.

Least Sandpiper: last 3 Darien GENE, 5 TWMA 2 Jun; arr 2 Dayton CATT 15 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last 8, 1 TWMA 2, 13 Jun (PY, WW); arr 2 Wilson NIAG 24-26 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Wilson NIAG 3-5 Aug; Elba GENE 8 Aug; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 4 Wilson NIAG 25 Jul; max 13 Elba GENE 1 Aug.

Dunlin: last 2 TWMA, BWWTP 5 Jun; arr Wilson NIAG 25 Aug (JM).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1, 2 Wilson NIAG 25, 26 Jul; 1-5 Elba GENE 26 Jul – 22 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 8 Wilson NIAG 25 Jul; DH 16 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: 1, 5 Wilson NIAG 30 Jul, 29 Aug; 2-4 Elba GENE 8-10 Aug; 2 Sheldon WYOM 31 Aug; only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: 150, 180 FNSP 9, 21 Jun (WW, JP), high numbers for Jun, first summers; 14 BWWTP 7 Aug, good count for inland location.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: FNSP 9 Jun (WW!), continued from late May, remarkable for early summer.

LITTLE GULL: 3, 9, 1 FNSP 13 Jun, 21 Jun, 14 Jul (DS! JP! WW!), remarkable numbers for early summer; first-alternate plumage.

LAUGHING GULL: DH 21-22 Aug (JP, DW), rare.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: DH 7 Jul, 24 Aug (JP!, WW!); im Wilson NIAG 23 Aug (WD!).

Caspian Tern: 50 Wilson NIAG 20 Jun; 35 Olcott NIAG 21 Jun; good counts for early summer; many reports in Jul and Aug.

Black Tern: max 15, 18 INWR 6, 27 Jun; no reports away from INWR & vicinity.

Com. Tern: 1838 nests from nine NR locations (CA), increase over previous two years.

Forster's Tern: DH 22 Aug (TL), only report.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 8 TWMA 2 Jun; 2 Grand I ERIE 5 Jun; Tonawanda ERIE 7 Jun; 2 DH 8 Jun; likely late migrants; 2-3 Buffalo ERIE thru Jul (PY); arr 9 Williamsville ERIE 10 Aug; 2, 2 Amherst ERIE 14, 24 Aug; 5 Buffalo ERIE 28 Aug; Wilson NIAG 29 Aug; 9 Salamanca CATT 31 Aug; only reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Silver Creek CHAU 2 Jun; Orchard Park ERIE 12 Jun, 20 Jul; 2 Olcott NIAG 21 Jun; 1-2 Eggertsville ERIE 1-23 Jul (NW); 2 OOWMA 19 Jul; PG 25 Jul; only reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: im S Valley CATT 8 Aug (TB), still uncommon in southern tier.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr INWR 20 Aug (WW); AmSP 28 Aug (RS).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 Portland CHAU 5 Jun; last Deer Lick NP CATT 8 Jun (DN); arr 2 Tift NP 24 Aug; Williamsville ERIE 30 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: reported from 11 locations; Tift NP 24 Aug (JP, WW), call notes heard, rarely recorded in fall migration.

Least Flycatcher: arr Tift NP 24 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Williamsville ERIE 28 Aug.

Com. Raven: 3 Busti CHAU 6 Jun; Carroll CHAU 4 Jul; only reports away from ALLE, CATT.

Purple Martin: 150 Axeville CATT 3 Jun (JeL, RR), high count at inland locations where now scarce; 8 Bethany GENE 4 Jun, 4 Jul.

Bank Swallow: 200 Axeville CATT 3 Jun; max 210 Tonawanda I NR 3 Aug.

Winter Wren: reported from 9 locations.

SEDGE WREN: Porter NIAG 14 Jun (BP, WD); Cheney Rd Marsh CHAU 25 Jul, 23 Aug (TL, ML); only reports.

Veery: last Wilson NIAG, Tonawanda ERIE 1 Jun; arr Tonawanda ERIE 5 Aug (PH), night migrant; Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Tonawanda ERIE 2 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last Alfred ALLE 2 Jun; 1, 1, 1 AISP 7, 21 Jun, 3 Jul (TB, PY, PH).
N. Mockingbird: Alden ERIE 23 Jun; Tonawanda ERIE 5 Aug; only locations away from lake plains.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 Sheridan CHAU 27 Aug.
Golden-winged Warbler: 4th consecutive yr w. No summer records.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 2 AISP 11 Jun (CN), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: 2 WFWMA 6 Jun (WD); 2 Deer Lick NP CATT 8 Jun (DN); Arkwright CHAU 12 Jun (DN); Alfred ALLE 11 Jul (EB); arr Wilson, Olcott NIAG 29 Aug.
N. Parula: 2, 9 AISP 6, 21 Jun (TB, PY); S. Valley CATT 14 Jun (MS); breeding restricted to CATT.
Yellow Warbler: 2 Tonawanda ERIE 28 Jul.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 13 Jun; arr 2 Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun; arr 2 Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 28 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: AISP 6, 14 Jun (TB! WW!), same breeding area as recent summers.
Pine Warbler: reported from seven breeding locations.
Prairie Warbler: 2 Pike WYOM 18 Jun, only report outside ALLE, CATT; max 5 Yorkshire CATT 28 Jun (PY).

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Tiftt NP 2 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: Newstead ERIE 13 Jun (WW, MS); only report away from INWR or southern CATT.
Black-and-white Warbler: 5, 2 Allegheny Indian Res CATT 6 Jun, 12 Jul (PY); only reports.
Am. Redstart: 3 Tiftt NP 24 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: 1, 1 TWMA 13, 27 Jun (WW, PH), only regular recent breeding location.
Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from six locations; last Almond ALLE 4 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Bethany GENE 22 Aug.
Canada Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; arr reported from three breeding locations; arr AmSP 22 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Wilson NIAG 14, 20 Jun (BP, WD); Buffalo ERIE 28 Aug (JP! DG), with group of Chippings; only reports.
Vesper Sparrow: max 7 Ashford CATT 28 Jun (PY); 2 Arcade WYOM 1 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Clarence ERIE 13 Jun; 1, 2 Wilson NIAG 14, 20 Jun; max 6 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 19 Jun (RS); Porter NIAG 21 Jun; 2 Bethany GENE 24 Jun.
Henslow's Sparrow: no reports, *see intro*.
White-throated Sparrow: max 10 Alfred ALLE 20 Jun (EB).
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Tonawanda ERIE 3 Jun (WW), late, only 2nd Reg. summer report.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: im m Elba GENE 9-10 Aug (JP!, DB), only 3rd summer report.
Orchard Oriole: 3 Conewango Swamp WMA CATT 3 Jun (JeL, RR); WFWMA 5 Jun (WD); Hinsdale CATT 14 Jun (JR); only reports away from L Erie or L Ontario plains.
Pine Siskin: reported from 12 locations in Jun-Jul, a large number for summer; breeding observed in Varysburg WYOM 27 Jun – 8 Jul (TSO) and FNSP 5 Jul (CA).

REGION 2—GENESEE

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June told us two different tales this year. The beginning of the month was quite pleasant, but things changed and the second half of the month saw stormy and unsettled conditions. It resulted in the 19th coolest and 8th wettest June in the last 139 years of weather record keeping. The average temperature of 63.5° was 2.3° below normal. The only really warm and humid period occurred from 22-27 Jun. Only two days reached 80°, matching the 1889 record for least in the month. The rainfall total of 6.25" was almost twice as much as the average of 3.36". The 54% sunshine was 11% below normal for June. July was truly unusual. It was unusually cool and unusually wet. The average temperature of 66.2° was a whopping 4.5° below normal, making it the coolest July in 125 years. The coolest was way back in 1884 with an average of 65.4°. There were only four days in the eighties while we usually have 19. A late month warm-up kept our average out of the record books. Humid, warm air brought some severe weather to our Region on the 25th that included the first recorded tornado in Monroe County since 1981. Precipitation was 1.39" above normal at 4.32". Rainfall was frequently heavy and variable across locations. There was only 51% of the possible sunshine, compared to the usual 67%. August finally brought us what might be classified as real summer weather. The middle two weeks of the month were characterized by heat and humidity. That was sandwiched in between two weeks of cooler weather, which was the pattern for June and July. The average temperature of 69.3° was a mere 0.4° above normal, but still a welcome change from the previous months. Rainfall was a scant 1.63" recorded at the airport, but some areas in the Region actually received close to 5", so this total was somewhat misleading. The 1.63" was 1.91" below the normal amount. We received 60% of possible sunshine, four points below normal. There were 12 days of mostly sunshine, but there were a few days of overcast skies at the end of the month.

Continued lakewatch coverage at Hamlin Beach made a significant contribution to the Regional summer data. In the past, summer coverage was somewhat limited. In recent years observers have continued to watch the lake from what was a traditional fall site, and as a result we are accumulating interesting summer season data. One observer engaged in a quest for a big August species total, reaching 208 species and pushing the Regional total to well beyond the highest previous for the month. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory operated at various times during the season and contributed data.

Locally nesting waterfowl continue to be on the decline, with Blue-winged Teal in serious decline. Canada Goose and Mute Swan continue to buck the trend as their numbers continue to rise. This increase also holds true for nesting Trumpeter Swans as a minimum of six pairs and 18 cygnets were tracked down

from various sources by Dominic Sherony. There were also the usual scattered reports of puddle ducks and summering, but not breeding, divers among which were reported sightings of Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser. A July Redhead report was unusual.

Both Red-throated and Common Loons were reported during the season. Of more interest were the multiple sightings of Red-necked Grebe, with a max of five on 7 August. The only highlight for waders was a **Little Blue Heron** found by Dave Tetlow in Greece on 23 August. The high counts of Least Bittern came from a Marsh Monitoring Program route surveyed by Robert Spahn at Quaker Pond in Mendon Ponds Park.

The hawk highlight of the season was a **Swainson's Hawk** seen at Ontario Beach by Jessie Barry, Tom Johnson, and Chris Wood on 30 August. This was the first summer report for this rarity in the Region. Bald Eagles were successful nesters along Irondequoit Bay. Others were present, but no additional nesting data was received. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were present all season and are most certainly breeding. A June Golden Eagle sighting continued a recent trend. Am. Kestrels were found in decent numbers along the lakeshore in July once the young fledged. Merlins once again nested in the city of Rochester with at least two successful pairs. The nest box for the Rochester Peregrine Falcons was moved this year. Last year's female returned and was injured by a new pair. She was rehabbed and released. She again returned to the original nest site. The new pair apparently built a nest on another building. There were rumors of eggs and feeding of young, but no evidence that they fledged. The rail highlight was a King Rail found in August at the traditional Brush Creek location in Hamlin. Common Moorhens continued to be scarce along the west lakeshore but were present in other locations in the Region. The Sandhill Cranes in Savannah produced a single colt, but it was not observed during the summer season.

The shorebird picture was mixed. The rains of June produced good looking habitat in fields on our west lakeshore, but this was visited by few birds, while just to our west similar habitat attracted good variety and numbers. The best observations here were right along the lakeshore. Some good totals were recorded from Hamlin Beach Park, e.g., 506 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 2 June. Unusual June finds included Sanderling and Baird's Sandpiper at Sodus Point and two "Western" Willets found by Dave Tetlow. The return shorebird migration began in earnest in late June into July. A Dunlin at Hamlin Beach on 29 July tied the Regional record early date. Other return migration highlights included two American Avocet sightings in July and one in August and a "Western" Willet and a Marbled Godwit in August. A Regional record high total of 12 "Western" Willets was observed by Dave Tetlow at Hamlin Beach on 17 August. Not quite as spectacular, but still of interest were the good number of Whimbrel reports and the 11 Baird's Sandpipers found in a Kendall field on 27 August. Four Red-necked Phalaropes spotted by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood in Greece were good August birds.

The usual Parasitic Jaeger sightings came from Hamlin Beach in August, and Broadway Road in the Town of Huron continues to be a good spot to view

the lake migration; a Parasitic report also came from that location. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen by Dave Tetlow at Hamlin Beach on 31 August, continuing that recent trend. Gull highlights consisted of Black-headed Gull and Sabine's Gull at Hamlin Beach in August. Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to be seen at almost any season, with two July reports and a single August sighting. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low. Common and Caspian Tern numbers were about average, with the latter possibly low average. The first of the year Black Terns in the Region were at Braddock Bay and Cranberry Pond in mid-July.

Eurasian Collared-Dove seems to be taking hold in the Region. A single bird was seen repeatedly in Parma continuing from September 2008. A presumed pair was discovered by Dave Tetlow about two miles away in Hamlin and exhibited possible courtship behavior. Add to that an additional bird seen by Dave and Kathy Tetlow south of those locations in Ogden. Only singles had been previously reported in the Region. Migrant Common Nighthawk numbers in early June were low, and there were only single reports in both July and August. An August search in Bergen Swamp turned up Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl. This is a known nesting location but is not often checked in the summer.

Olive-sided Flycatcher can be a difficult bird to find in the Region, so three August reports was a good number. A decent flight of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers occurred in August, with a maximum of 12 banded at the BBBO on the 23rd. A White-eyed Vireo discovered at Lehigh Swamp on the University of Rochester Campus by William Rowley on 19 June was not seen subsequently; potential breeding records for the Region are few. Common Raven continues to be expanding in the Region. A bird seen by William Symonds at Hamlin Beach in August was noteworthy for location. Winter Wrens found in Ellison Park and banded at Manitou were north of traditional Regional breeding locations. Sedge Wren continues to be a bird of concern in the Region. Birds found in Burger Park and an adjacent area in June were not reported again until August. Andy Guthrie found another group in suitable breeding habitat in Carlton in July. These were subsequently seen by many observers. Breeding thrushes and mimic thrushes were present in normal numbers.

The usual late spring warblers persisted into June, with some fairly late departure dates. Among the local breeders, Golden-winged Warbler continues its decline. Nashville Warbler and Northern Parula were reported well into the season. While Nashville breeds regularly at local sites and N. Parula has bred in Letchworth SP, both species are unusual in summer near the lakeshore. Prairie Warblers are not a common species in the Region. The birds reported in the Canadice area were at a known nesting location, but the Town of Sweden bird was in a new spot.

Scarlet Tanager numbers seemed a bit low. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from two traditional breeding sites but were tougher to locate this year. A third site, in Geneseo was occupied this year, but eliminated by hedgerow destruction, mowing, and plowing of the field during the season. Andy Guthrie found Henslow's Sparrow across the road from the Sedge Wren location in Carlton. Many observers were also able to see this much sought after species.

There were several White-throated Sparrow reports from near the Lake Ontario shore in June and July. The species is an occasional breeder in the southern portions of the Region and in Bergen Swamp, but is not regular along the lakeshore in those months. Recent years have produced summer White-crowned Sparrow reports, but this year the species was unreported.

An immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird, first discovered in Region 1 by Jim Pawlicki, was subsequently seen just across the road in Region 2 in August. It was a very good year Baltimore Orioles, as many observers commented on their abundance. This was also true for Orchard Oriole.

Pine Siskins were reported breeding in selected locations. This is often the case when spring numbers are as high as they were this season. The big invasion of White-winged Crossbills in winter and spring brought reports as late as 29 June, but no confirmed breeding.

The June species total of 187 species was slightly more than 10 species over the 10-year average. The July total at 180 species was significantly higher than the 10-year average of 160.6 species. The 211 species for August was well above the 10-year average 174.9. The species total of 273 for the year through August was only slightly below the 10-year average of 273.8.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BE – Bergen Swamp GENE; BR – Lake Ontario off of Broadway Road, T Huron WAYN; C – Conesus LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville LIVI; G – T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; I – T Irondequoit, Summerville Pier MONR, IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; M – Manitou Beach area MONR, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds

County Park MONR; MU – T Murray ORLE; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; PA – T Parma MONR; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PE – T Perinton MONR; R – C Rochester MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN; SP – Sodus Point WAYN; SW – T Sweden MONR; W – T of Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 S 5-8 Aug.
Brant: 1 SP 15-16 Jul (DS, mob), first of the year, unusual date.
Trumpeter Swan: at least 6 pr w. 18 cygnets WAYN thru, information gathered by (DS) from mult sources.
Wood Duck: max 58 PE 19 Aug.
Gadwall: 2 C 4 Jun; arr 3 HB 25 Jul.
Am. Wigeon: 1 PE 3 Jun; 2 HB 12 Jun; 1 PE 15 Jun, good June total; arr 4 HB 30 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: 1 HB 4 Jun.
N. Shoveler: 2 PE 28 Jul.
Redhead: 1 G 1 Jul, unusual date.
Greater Scaup: arr 1 HB 7 Aug (WS, DT), record early.
Lesser Scaup: 1 HB 4 Jun; 2 HB 31 Jul.
White-winged Scoter: last 1-5 HB 13 Jun (WS, CWo); arr 2 HB 22 Aug.
Black Scoter: 1 HB 4 Aug.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 1 HB 22 Aug; 1 G 30 Aug.
Com. Merganser: 1 HB 1 Jun.
Red-breasted Merganser: 6 PB 5 Jul; arr 9 HB 20 Aug.
Red-throated Loon: last 1 HB 12 Jun.
Com. Loon: max 10 HB 7, 12 Jun.
Horned Grebe: last 1 HB 6 Jun.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 HB 28 Jul (WS), tied record early; 2 HB 31 Jul (WS); 1 HB 3 Aug (WS, RS); max 5 HB 7 Aug (WS, *et al.*); 2 HB 19 Aug (WS); 1 HB 23 Aug (mob); 2 HB 26 Aug (WS).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 424 HB 7 Jun.
Least Bittern: max 5 MP 24 Jun.
LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1 G 23 Aug (DT, JeB, CWo).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 6 S 12 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 3 y banded IB nest Jun (DEC); 11 OB 4 Aug (TJ); 12 BB 17 Aug (DT); 10 BB 18 Aug (DT).
N. Goshawk: 1 imm G 20 Jul (GL), only report.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 686 BB 17 Aug.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 OB 30 Aug (JeB, TJ, CWo), 1st Regional summer record.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 1956 BB 18 Aug.
Golden Eagle: 1 imm G 9 Jun (KG).
Merlin: 2ad, 3y, nest west R all Jun (L&DA); 1ad, 1y northeast R 26-30 Jun (BW).
Peregrine Falcon: 3 ad R all Jun, *intro*; 1 HB 2 Jun.
KING RAIL: 1 H 2 Aug (DT).
Com. Moorhen: max 20 S 30 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 1-2 S all Jun, 1 colt seen earlier, not this season.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 1 SW 29 Jul.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 P 23 Aug; max 58 Byron GENE 29 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last 1 HB 13 Jun; arr 1 HB 19 Jul.
Killdeer: max 150-200 CU 25 Aug.
AMERICAN AVOCET: 1 SP 16 Jul (WW, JL); 1 HB 17 Jul (JC); 1 SP 1 Aug (MT, JT).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1 HP 26 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 HP 27 Jun (DT).
“Western” Willet: 1 HP 12 Jun (DT, mob, AG photos); 1 OB 21 Jun (DT); 1 PB 2 Aug (ST); max 12 HB 17 Aug (DT), Reg. record high count.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 1 H 2 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 26 Jul; max 15 CU 6 Aug.
Whimbrel: 1-4 I 13 Jul (FL, GL); 1 HB 24 Jul; 1 HB 27 Jul; 2 HB 29 Jul; 3 HB 30 Jul; 1 HB 12 Aug; 1 HB 23 Aug; 2 CU 30 Aug.
MARBLED GODWIT: 1 HB 31 Aug (DT, BC, AG, RS).
Ruddy Turnstone: max 25 HB 2 Jun; arr 1 HB 28 Jul.
Red Knot: arr 1 SP 1-2 Aug (MT, JT, DT, DK).
Sanderling: 6 SP 2 Jun (DT), few in spring; arr 1 HB 19 Jul; max 16 HB 26 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 506 HB 2 Jun (RS); arr 2 I 22 Jul.
Western Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 18 Aug (DT).
Least Sandpiper: max 119 HB 23 Aug (AG, DS, DT, CWo).
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 4 HB 2 Jun; arr 1 HB 17 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1 SP 2 Jun (DT), very rare spring migr; arr 1 SP 26 Aug; max 11 K 27 Aug (DT, BC, DS).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 28 Jun.

Dunlin: arr 1 HB 29 Jul (DT), tie Reg. record early.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1 T Barre ORLE 4 Aug (DT, KG).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 HB 29 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 4 G 28 Aug (JeB, CWo).
SABINE'S GULL: 2 imm HB 31 Aug (AG, DT, BC, RS), early date.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 imm HB 11 Aug (WS, RS).
Iceland Gull: 1 HB 1 Jun.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 ad HB 2 Jun (RS); 1 1st sum OB 11 Jun (RS); 1 HB 16 Aug (DT, WS, AG).
Caspian Tern: max 95 HB 21 Jun.
Black Tern: arr 1 BB 15 Jul (KG); 2 BB 17 Jul (R&SS); 4 G 22-25 Jul (GL); 1 G 3 Aug (KG); 2 HB 20 Aug (WS); 1 HB 23 Aug (WS); 1 HB 24 Aug (DS).
Com. Tern: max 46 HB 23 Aug.
Forster's Tern: arr 1 BB 3 Aug.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr 1 BR, HB 30 Aug (TL, CWi, TJ, DS); 1 HB 31 Aug (DT, RS).
Long-tailed Jaeger: 1 HB 31 Aug (DT).
jaeger species: 2 HB 31 Aug (sev).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1 P all Jun, all Jul (DT, mob); 2 H 20-30 Jun, all Jul (DT, mob); 1-2 H & P all Aug (mob); 1 Ogden 25 Jul (D&KT); 1 H 14 Aug (KG).
Barred Owl: max 5 BE 20 Aug (DT).
Long-eared Owl: max 2 BE 20 Aug (DT).
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 BE 20 Aug (DT).
Com. Nighthawk: max 32 G 3 Jun (GL); last 1 G 13 Jun (KG); 1 Henrietta 28 Jul (DN); arr 1 G 20 Aug (GL).
Chimney Swift: max 20 Fairport 12 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 1 R 17 Aug (DT); 1 G 20 Aug (KS); 1 HB 28 Aug (DT).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1 C 9 Jun; arr 12b M 23 Aug.
White-eyed Vireo: 1 R 19 Jun (WR), interesting site for potential breeding.

Com. Raven: 1 HB 6 Aug (WS), scarce on lakeshore.
Purple Martin: max 120 M 20 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: max 22 HB 23 Aug.
Winter Wren: b M 6 Jun; 1 Ellison Park 13 Jul (CJ), unusual location for the season.
Sedge Wren: arr 3 HP 1 Jun (DT); 1 HP 18-30 Jun (GL, KG); 2-3 C 5-31 Jul, 1-9 Aug (AG, mob).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 M 30 Aug (TJ, CWo, DT), early.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1b M 2 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last 1 HB 1 Jun.
Am. Pipit: arr 1 P 30 Aug.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 MU 11 Aug (KG).
Tennessee Warbler: arr 2b M 27 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: 1b M 6 Jun; 1b M 10 Jul.
N. Parula: 1 HP 11 Jun (DT); 1 G 14 Jun (CWo).
Cape May Warbler: arr 1 M 23 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: 1 Sweden 1 Jun (JeB, CWo); 1-2 Canadice 7-13 Jun (sev); 1 HB 16 Aug (DT, AG); 1 Auburn Trail 31 Aug (SD).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 M 23 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 G 13 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: 1 MU 15 Aug (DS).
Ovenbird: 1b M 24 Jul.
Wilson's Warbler: last 1b M 8 Jun; arr 1 M 23 Aug.
Canada Warbler: 1b M 9, 21 Jul, unusual loc for date.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 H all Jun (sev); 1 H 6 Jul; 1 H 15 Aug (DT); 1 H 22 Aug (GL).
Henslow's Sparrow: 1 C 5-31 Jul, 1-9 Aug (AG, mob).
White-throated Sparrow: 1b M 2 Jun; 1 HB 17 Jul; 1 imm b M 24 Jul; unusual loc for dates.
White-crowned Sparrow: no rep after sev yr w. late ind.
Bobolink: max 270 S 27 Aug (DT).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 Barre 11 Aug (JP, DT).
White-winged Crossbill: 1 HB 15 Jun (JeB, CWo); 1 Victor 29 Jun (DT).
Pine Siskin: rep of local breeding.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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June and July were unusually cool throughout the Region, with average monthly temperatures in Ithaca more than 2.4° F and 3.5° F below usual, respectively. Precipitation levels in both months were close to normal. August's average temperature was about 1° F warmer than the long-term mean in Ithaca, with more than fifty percent more rain.

Reports of waterfowl and other aquatic birds were mostly as expected for the Region. On 13 June at the north end of Cayuga Lake, Steve and Susie Fast saw 14 Snow Geese, a new high count for the Region in summer. One Eurasian Wigeon, seen by Mike and Joann Tetlow at Montezuma NWR on 12 June, was the only rare dabbling duck of the season. Jessie Barry, Chris Wood, and Ben Clock observed some late diving duck species—Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Ring-necked Duck—in early June at the north end of Cayuga Lake. Even more surprisingly, given the rarity of the species in midsummer in our Region, Chris, Jessie, and Marshall Iliff found another Bufflehead on 23 July at Stewart Park in Ithaca. Lyn Jacobs found a Horned Grebe off the east shore of Canandaigua Lake on 10 and 14 July.

The absence of unusual duck numbers or species surely resulted in part from the draining of the Main Pool at MNWR all summer. While unfavorable for ducks, the huge flats of emergent weeds proved hospitable to foraging Sandhill Cranes, which were consistently observed here throughout the summer, with an impressive high count of 10 reported to eBird in August. Before the weeds grew, the Main Pool briefly had abundant habitat for shorebird stopovers in the last days of northbound migration in early June. Steve Kelling reported 555 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 4 June, a record for Region 3.

This was just the beginning of a season of big shorebird surprises. On the morning of 9 June, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry found a Whimbrel at Myers Park in Lansing. This bird remained for about two hours, eventually viewed by many observers. On 2 August, shorebird excitement recurred, or you could say recurved, at Myers Park, with the arrival of three American Avocets, first found by Bob McGuire and subsequently seen by many. Those birds were present only for an afternoon, but on 20 August Sam and Steve Kelling found an American Avocet at May's Point Pool at MNWR. This bird stayed through the end of the reporting period.

Shorebird habitat was limited at MNWR, and shorebird numbers therefore were generally low during fall migration. Still, birders reported the expected wide variety of shorebird species at the refuge. Most notable among these was an adult Western Sandpiper found by Dominic Sherony and Brad Carlson at MNWR on 18 August. For quantity and location, Tom Johnson's find of four Red-necked Phalaropes off Stewart Park in Ithaca on 28 August is also worthy of note.

This year there were no summer records of American Golden-Plover or Buff-breasted Sandpiper, two long-distance migrants that can be expected in our Region by late August. Lack of drier open flats at MNWR, combined with minimal observer effort to find such habitat elsewhere, may explain the absence of these species.

Mike and Joann Tetlow found 30 Bald Eagles feeding on concentrations of carp in the vestiges of the Main Pool at MNWR on 12 June. Area birders submitted no unusual reports of gulls or owls during the season. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at a feeder in Ithaca on 23 July.

Few songbird rarities turned up during the summer. A Yellow-breasted Chat, first found in late May on Pulteney Road in Yates County, stayed until at least 4 June, when it was last reported to eBird by Leona Lauster. In Summer Hill State Forest, near the northeast corner of Region 3, several boreal breeders lingered well into June, including a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (present in June for the second consecutive year), Rusty Blackbird, and Philadelphia Vireo. No one has presented definitive confirmation of whether these birds attempted to breed, or were late passage migrants.

After an unprecedented irruption the previous winter and spring, White-winged Crossbills seemed to vacate the Region, with only one reported on 5 June by Chris Wood and John Berner, also at Summer Hill SF. Matt Young found two Red Crossbills here on 7 June, and in a much bigger surprise, Ryan Douglas saw one Red Crossbill in atypical habitat in Sapsucker Woods on 20 July. Pine Siskins were observed throughout the period and Region by multiple observers, albeit in apparently declining numbers by the end of July. Lee Ann van Leer saw a juvenile begging from an adult in Freeville in early June.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory (Schuyler); MNWR – Montezuma NWR; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing; SW – Sapsucker Woods; SHSF – Summer Hill State Forest; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 14 Mud Lock (CAYU) 13 Jun (SF), late, high, +; 1 StP 10 Jul thru (DN, *et al.*), early.

EURASIAN WIGEON: 1 MNWR 12 Jun (MT, JT).

Ring-necked Duck: 2 MNWR 8 Jun (CLW, JesB, BeC), late.

Greater Scaup: 2 Harris Park (CAYU) 4 Jun (CLW), late.

Buffhead: 1 Harris Park (CAYU) 4 Jun (CLW); 1 StP 23 Jul (CLW, JesB, MI), rare in summer.

Com. Goldeneye: 2 Harris Park (CAYU) 4 Jun (CLW), late.

Horned Grebe: 1 Canandaigua Lake (ONT) 10 and 14 July (LJ), only reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 30 MNWR 12 Jun (MT, JT), high, +.

Merlin: 1 Geneva 15 Jun (JN); 2 Ithaca 13 Jul (CS), probable breeding.

Peregrine Falcon: arr StP 7 Aug (JesB, CLW, BC).

Sandhill Crane: 10 MNWR Aug (eBird), high.

Black-bellied Plover: last 1 Myers 4 Jun (DN); arr Myers 23 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: arr MNWR 3 Jul.

AMERICAN AVOCET: 3 Myers 2 Aug (BM, mob); 1 MNWR 20 Aug (StK, SaK), thru.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 3 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 3 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 11 Seneca Falls 29 Jun thru (PH, *et al.*), confirmed breeding.

WHIMBREL: 1 Myers 9 Jun (CLW, JesB, mob).

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 arr MNWR 2 Aug (TL), only report.

Sanderling: arr Myers 31 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 555 MNWR 4 Jun (StK), high ++; arr MNWR 17 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: 1 MNWR 18 Aug (DS, BrC, !)

Least Sandpiper: arr MNWR 3 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MNWR 16 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 20 Aug (StK, SaK); 1 Myers 28 Aug (TJ).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 11 Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 13 Jul.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: no reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 11 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 3 arr and max MNWR 26 Aug (TJ).

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 arr MNWR 11 Aug (LSC).

Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 25 Aug (SD); max 4 StP 28 Aug (TJ *et al.*).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 4 Myers 12 Aug (RD).

Forster's Tern: arr StP 4 Aug.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Ithaca 23 Jul (MW).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr KH 20 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 SHSF 15 Jun (MY), late.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 SHSF 5, 6, 8 Jun, 7 Jul (CLW, JBer, MY), possible breeding unconfirmed.

WARBLERS

Blackpoll Warbler: last Brooktondale (TOMP) 9 Jun (EB).

Yellow-breasted Chat: last Pulteney Road (YATE) 4 Jun (LL).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Bobolink: max 400 MNWR 19 Aug (eBird).

Rusty Blackbird: 1 SHSF 5 Jun (CLW, JBer), late.

Orchard Oriole: max 6 Lick Brook TOMP 17 Jul (MC).

Red Crossbill: 2 SHSF 7 Jun (MY), 1 SW 20 Jul (RD).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: 1 SHSF 5 Jun (CLW, JBer), only report.

Pine Siskin: many reports throughout Region, thru; juv FY Freeville early Jun (AvL).



REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Summer 2009 could be described as cool and wet. A temperature of 86° F in August was the highest recorded at the Binghamton Weather Station during the three-month period. The precipitation was not significantly above normal for the period, just consistent and combined with the lower temperatures. Dry conditions were only occasional. The most important month for reproduction, June, was the wettest and coolest. Precipitation of 5.48" was only 1.68" above normal but occurred over 14 days, with a trace of rain on eight other days. The heating degree-days (14) exceeded the cooling degree-days (8). Only three days with temperatures in the eighties were recorded in June. July was not much better, with only two days reaching the eighties. The heating degree-days were less (6) but so were the cooling degree-days (7). Precipitation of 3.75" was 0.26" above normal, occurring over 18 days with two others having a trace. Except for one week in the middle of the month, August weather continued the trend for the year. There were a total of nine days of temperatures in the eighties, with seven of them on consecutive days. There were eight heating degree-days and 13 cooling degree-days. Twelve days had measurable precipitation with another two having a trace for a total of 4.75", 1.40" above normal. In summary, the weather should not have been an exceptional problem for ground nesting species unless they were in a habitat that was more susceptible to the problems. Actually the "poor" weather may have been a benefit to some field nesting species since farmers had difficulties harvesting hay; this caused a delay that may have allowed more nests to be successful. Species dependent on wetlands must have had a good year.

Patricia M. Ford observed a **Brown Pelican** at Genegantslet Lake, Town of McDonough, Chenango County, from 11 through 17 August. A photo appeared in *The Evening Sun* (Norwich) on Monday 17 August. A sighting on Fourth Lake near Old Forge/Eagle Bay in the Adirondacks two days later possibly was the same bird since it is only about 100 miles distance.

Jim Barry had two good sightings in June in Cortland County, a **Black Vulture** in migration early in the month and a **Rough-legged Hawk** at the end of the month.

Osprey were observed in several areas of the Region this year. The only report of nesting Bald Eagles shows that the nest on Hiawatha Island continues to be used. Observations of adults and immatures throughout the Region and period reaffirms that they are doing well. While the maximum number of American Kestrels sighted is not significantly different from last year, the number of sightings is up, indicating they may have had a good year.

Charlie Scheim and Sandy Bright observed a pair of **Merlins** during the month of July for the second year in a row. The Merlins produced three fledglings by 23 July in Wilber Park, Oneonta, Town of Oneonta, Otsego

County. The adult female did not appear to be the same as last year; she did not have a band and last year's bird did. All three fledglings appeared to be strong and active, giving hope that all three would survive this year. Tom Salo observed a single Merlin in Cooperstown, Town of Otsego, Otsego County on 29 June. Two more, possibly juveniles, were observed at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown on 27, 28 July and 2 August by John Davis and an employee of the hospital who reported observing them for over a week. The distance between Cooperstown and Oneonta is about 20 miles, leaving open the possibility that there were two nestings in Otsego County.

The "Weed Walkers" group of the Naturalists' Club of Broome County saw an adult **Golden Eagle** in northern Broome County in August. Marie Petuh observed a **Peregrine Falcon** on buildings in downtown Binghamton, Town of Binghamton, Broome County on several occasions indicating a continued presence in the city even though there were no reports of nesting this year.

Shorebird reports were down, possibly due to higher water conditions this year throughout the season. As usual, Killdeer was the most common species.

Eastern tent caterpillars were in great abundance in the western part of the Region. Both cuckoos were reported as being commonly heard indicating that they must have been taking advantage of the situation. Tom Salo, in West Burlington near Cooperstown Otsego County, commented that he has been seeing both species, and, with a heavy forest tent caterpillar defoliation, "more would be welcome."

Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported for the third year in a row.

Cliff Swallows were reported in several locations including at the end of May at a bridge in Cortland, Cortland County, a colony using an overhang at a business in Owego, Tioga County, and a bridge in the Town of Kirkwood, Broome County. The "Weed Walkers" saw an impressive number of Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the same August walk mentioned above.

No Mourning Warblers were sighted in the southern part of the Region. However, it was a different story in the northern part. In response to a listserve question about high densities of Mourning Warbler populations, Tom Salo replied "Mourning Warblers like brambles which thrive in our forests after the canopy is opened by logging. Several consecutive years of forest tent caterpillar infestation—as we have had in parts of northern Otsego—can create the same conditions. My timber looks terrible for the third year in a row. I am hoping most of the hard hit trees survive. I may also not tap next spring since those trees are now being impacted. I am compensated to a small degree by large numbers of Mourning and Chestnut-sided Warblers, towhees, catbirds, and cuckoos—this year mostly Yellow-billed Cuckoos." A couple of years ago the same problem was considered a cause of the lack of Eastern Wood-Pewees. This gives justification to the idea that what may be a problem for one species is likely to be an opportunity for another species, or, as in this case, several species.

Bobolinks were reported in several locations but not in any large numbers.

Remnants of the winter 2008-2009 Pine Siskin invasion persisted throughout the Region into mid-summer.

Other species apparently doing well were Gray Catbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Baltimore Oriole. Notable birds missing from the Region were several species of shorebirds, American Black Duck, and Northern Waterthrush. Scarce birds included Am. Woodcock, Purple Martin, and Eastern Meadowlark. The only constant location for the Purple Martin is at a spot in Tioga County where they have nested for 40+ years. Common Nighthawk continues in low numbers with fewer reports than last year. Marie Petuh checked several times on sites used by hundreds of Chimney Swifts in the past, but to no avail. It appeared that they had abandoned the sites. Only one other site had high numbers.

There were a limited number of reports this year and activity on the listserve used by many in the Region was also light. There were 140 species reported for the season, 21 fewer than last year and the lowest reported in the last seven years.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bing – Binghamton BROO; CBS – Candor Banding Station TIOG; Coop – Cooperstown OTSE; GH – German Hollow CHEN; MSF – Milford State Forest OTSE; PIBA – Pharsalia Important Bird Area CHEN; SR – Susquehanna River; TCA – Tri Cities Airport BROO; TC – Town of Candor TIOG; TH – Town of Homer CORT; TL – Town of Lisle BROO; TS – Town of Scott CORT; TU – Town of Union BROO; TW – Town of Windsor BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

BROWN PELICAN: Geneganslet Lake T McDonough CHEN 11-17 Aug (PF), possibly the same bird as seen later in Regions 5 & 6.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 9 SR T Vestal BROO 12 Aug.

Am. Bittern: TU BROO 15 Jul; only report.

BLACK VULTURE: TH CORT 4 Jun (JB).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: mob sev loc thru; numbers up, no nesting reported.

Bald Eagle: y Hiawatha Island TIOG 3 Jun.

N. Goshawk: Oneonta OTSE 5 Jul; Otselc CHEN 15 Aug; only reports.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: TH CORT 24 Jun (JB)

GOLDEN EAGLE: ad T Nanticoke BROO 19 Aug (NCBC).

Am. Kestrel: max 13 n BROO 5 Aug.

MERLIN: ad Coop OTSE 29 Jun; 2 ad 3 y Oneonta OTSE thru Jul (CS & SB), confirmed breeding; 2 Coop OTSE 27 Jul-2 Aug; 1 other report.

Peregrine Falcon: Bing BROO 23 Jun, 12 Aug.

Virginia Rail: 2 TU BROO 8, 12 Jun, only report.

Sora: TU BROO 8, 12 Jun, only report.

Killdeer: max 12 TCA BROO 29 Jul.

Spotted Sandpiper: T Dickinson BROO 27 Jun; only report.
Solitary Sandpiper: TCA BROO 26 Aug; only report.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 TCA BROO 26 Aug, only report.
Am. Woodcock: TC TIOG no date, only report.
Caspian Tern: Dorchester Pk BROO 5 Aug; only report.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5 BBS OTSE 7 Jun (BG); mob.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 6 BBS OTSE 7 Jun (BG); mob including firsts.
Com. Nighthawk: max 4 T Harpersfield DELA 23 Aug; three other reports.
Chimney Swift: max 75 Bing BROO 23 Jun (MP); few reports, numbers are still down.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Otselic OTSE 16 Aug, only report.
Least Flycatcher: 5 BBS OTSE 7 Jun (BG); CBS TIOG no date; TL BROO 15 Jul.
Purple Martin: 10 T Tioga TIOG 22 Jul; only report.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 200+ TL BROO 15 Jul (NCBC); only 1 other report.
Cliff Swallow: Owego TIOG thru Jun, 4 SR T Kirkwood BROO 10 Jun.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: MSF OTSE 5 Jul (GC), only report.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: GH CHEN 8 Jul (NCBC), only report.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Livingston PK T Owego TIOG 22 Jul (NCBC), only report.
Swainson's Thrush: PIBA CHEN 16 Aug, only report.

Gray Catbird: max 30+ CBS TIOG thru period; many reports.

WARBLERS

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 5 GH CHEN 8 Jul; mob.
Magnolia Warbler: max 2 BBS OTSE 7 Jun (BG); TW BROO 10 Jun (NCBC); only reports.
Black-thr. Blue Warbler: TW BROO 10 Jun; TS CORT15 Jun; MSF OTSE 5 Jul.
Black-thr. Green Warbler: TS CORT15 Jun.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 3 BBS OTSE 7 Jun; TS CORT15 Jun.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: GH CHEN 5 Aug (DW), only report.
Black-and-white Warbler: m TU BROO 15 Aug (MP).
Louisiana Waterthrush: TS CORT 15 Jun; TC TIOG Jun; only reports
Mourning Warbler: max 7 pr T Burlington OTSE thru Jun; 2 other reports.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3m, 2f, 2y T Tioga TIOG 15 Jul; mob; doing well.
Bobolink: max 8 BBS OTSE 7 Jun (BG); 6 BBS OTSE 3 Jun (AM); 5 other reports.
Eastern Meadowlark: 1 BBS OTSE 7 Jun (BG); TC TIOG no date; only reports.
Baltimore Oriole: max 30 T Springfield OTSE 26 Jul; 12 Walton DELA 11 Aug; several other reports.
Red Crossbill: max 2-4 PIBA CHEN 1 Jul (MY).
Pine Siskin: 3 T Cherry Valley OTSE 1 Jun; 3 T Bing BROO 6 Jun; TS CORT 13,14 Jun; T Owego TIOG Jun; TH CORT 10 Jul.



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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June was cool and wet with an average temperature of 64.7° F, 1.1° below normal, and 5.24" of precipitation, 1.53" above normal. July continued to be cool as the temperature averaged 68.0°, 2.9° below normal, and there was 2.04" of precipitation, 1.98" below normal. The August averages were 70.9°, 1.7° above normal, and 4.57" of rain, 1.01" above normal. The dry July recorded in Syracuse differed greatly from areas to the north, as Oswego and northern Oneida and Herkimer Counties had many thunderstorms during the month. The Old Forge area saw up to two inches of ice pellets on 26 June. Even discounting the July precipitation differences, the wet June and cool weather must have had a negative effect on breeding success.

Unusual waterfowl for the season were Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser. There was a single Snow Goose, no longer considered unusual in the summer given their exploding population. A well-photographed Brown Pelican was on Fourth Lake in Herkimer County for several days in August, often shuttling between Regions 5 and 6. There was some mention that the bird had been first seen some days before but no dates were ever pinned down. The pelican was later taken to a rehabilitator, where it was found that it had ingested some plastic, and the bird died soon thereafter.

Gary Lee found that Common Loons had some breeding success on smaller Herkimer County lakes, but Tom Salo reported that Stillwater Reservoir was very high in June and that he saw no juveniles in August. A Common Loon in alternate plumage at Sandy Pond in August was unusual. Least Bitterns were breeding at several locations, while Great Egret sightings were down, likely due to high water, even as the species seems to increase around us. Black-crowned Night-Heron was scarce, and, once again, none were seen until the last half of the season when they may have been post-breeding dispersals.

A Black Vulture over Syracuse was only the third June sighting. There was little monitoring of the hawk migration in June because of the lack of favorable south winds to push nonbreeding birds towards Derby Hill. What appeared to be an August dispersal flight of raptors, mostly Red-tailed Hawks, showed clearly on radar within several miles of Derby Hill on 17 August but was otherwise not detected. Bald Eagle, Osprey and Merlin are all doing well as summer sightings continue to increase. An "honorary raptor," Common Raven, is another species doing very well. The pair of Peregrine Falcons in Utica commenced nesting late for the second consecutive year and again the nest failed.

A Sandhill Crane over Derby Hill was another summer sighting of a species that breeds immediately to our west and may now be breeding to our north. The two King Rails at Peter Scott Swamp were last reported on 3 June, but few people checked at the peak calling hours of dawn or dusk after that time.

American Coot is normally a rare, local breeder, but they nested at two sites this summer. Shorebird habitat was limited this season with high water on all lakes. The only Whimbrel, Red Knot, and White-rumped Sandpiper reports came from the Sandy Pond outlet at Lake Ontario, while Baird's Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher were found in wet fields and temporary mudflats at Verona Marsh. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was the only unusual gull for the season. 50 Black Terns at Sandy Pond was a large group of August migrants.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo had mostly withdrawn to the southern part of the Region where caterpillars were more numerous, and there were more reports for them than for Black-billed Cuckoo. Both species may have been adversely affected by the cool weather. In the aftermath of the big winter irruption, one Snowy Owl lingered into early June in Oneida County and another Snowy was seen in Onondaga County in August, a first record for that month. Someone deemed it necessary that the latter owl be captured and transported to northern New York, possibly ten percent closer to its breeding range.

The Common Nighthawk watch in Syracuse was forced to relocate this year, so the very low total of nine seen over the last half of August may not be directly comparable to the previous 15 years of data, but numbers have declined drastically over the term of the watch. Red-headed Woodpecker was not found at most of the recent breeding sites, but there were still a few reports of nesting elsewhere. An Olive-sided Flycatcher came with a wave of migrating flycatchers on 12 August, a flight that included an early Blue-headed Vireo. Several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and a Philadelphia Vireo arrived at season's end. In late August large numbers of Purple Martins were found using a marsh in Three Mile Bay WMA as a staging area, and there was a large assemblage of Cliff Swallows in Oneida County.

Pine Warblers have increased in the southern part of the Region, an area they had barely penetrated during the expansion of the past 20 years. Prairie Warbler was only reported at recent locations although there is much suitable habitat for them elsewhere. Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Wilson's Warblers had arrived by season's end, and there was a late Louisiana Waterthrush. Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows seem to be holding on in breeding areas, but early cutting of fields remains a concern. Orchard Oriole had a good season especially at Green Lakes State Park. White-winged Crossbills had left the area by summer, a few Red Crossbills remained, and a few Pine Siskins were still present into July, but they all seemed to leave as the young fledged. This year's lack of a cone crop suggests that this winter will be a poor season after several very good winter finch years.

The wild berry and nut crop at higher elevations was affected by a freeze on 1 June, but production was otherwise good. The white pine and spruce cone crops were spotty with mostly little to no production, while red pine and northern hemlock had some cones. Ash, oaks, and mountain ash had good production, but the beechnut crop was poor.

For the season a total of 202 species was found, three species more than the previous 10 year average. Highlights included Brown Pelican, Black

Vulture, Bufflehead, King Rail, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Snowy Owls, and Red Crossbill.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; Dvl – Durhamville; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SCH – T Schroepel; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: Phoenix 30 Jul (KM).
Trumpeter Swan: pair Volney thru 10 Jul, nest apparently failed.
Blue-winged Teal: SPd 17 Aug.
N. Pintail: Canastota 2 Aug.
Lesser Scaup: OneiL 27 Jun.
Long-tailed Duck: last LOL 2 Jun.
Bufflehead: DH 8-9 Aug (TSh).
Red-breasted Merganser: last LOL 2 Jun.
N. Bobwhite: released winter survivors with young SL.
Com. Loon: imm. Delta L 19 Jul; SPd 20 Aug, alt.
Pied-billed Grebe: ad & y Volney 6 Jun.
BROWN PELICAN: Eagle Bay 19-22 Aug (BPut, NYSARC, mob), fifth Regional record.
Least Bittern: 3 Volney 6 Jun; 2 UM 16 Jun; 3 SPd thru.
Great Blue Heron: 14 juv DH 31 Jul, dispersal flight.
Great Egret: max 4 Red Mill T Onondaga 19 Aug; about 8 other individuals.
Green Heron: max 20 Volney 26 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: SL 19 Jul; OnonL 14 Aug; SPd 17 Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Black Vulture: Syr 7 Jun (LE), third summer record.
Bald Eagle: max 15 DH 28 Jul & 18 Aug.
N. Harrier: 5 BRH 27 Aug.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 BRH 27 Aug.
N. Goshawk: 5 reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: DH 29 Jul, 18 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 17 DH 18 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 221 DH 18 Aug.
Merlin: migrants after 8 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: DH 20 Aug; SL 29 Aug.
KING RAIL: 2 SCH to 3 Jun.
Com. Moorhen: max 47 Volney 31 Jul, mostly young.
Am. Coot: 2 Volney 6 Jun; ad & y UM 24 Jun.
Sandhill Crane: DH 28 Jul (TC).
Black-bellied Plover: 2 SHF 5 Aug; 2 SPd 12 Aug; SHF 25 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr & max 6 SL 25 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 Verona Marsh 25 Jul; max 5 Verona Marsh 30 Jul.
Killdeer: max 210 SHF 18 Jul.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 14 OnonL 25 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr SL 2 Jul; max 12 SL 25 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr SL 11 Jul, max 2 per day.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SL 1 Jul; max 15 SL 18 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Volney 6 Jun; SHF 26 Aug.
Whimbrel: SPd 12 Aug (BP), only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: SPd 20-25 Aug.
Red Knot: SPd 3 Aug, only report.
Sanderling: 4 FH 31 Jul; max 30 SPd 3 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: SL 17 Jul; max 18 SPd 12 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: arr SL 11 Jul; max 92 Verona Marsh 25 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: SPd 12 Aug, only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr & max 3 Verona 27 Jul; 4 late Aug reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 Volney 19 Jul; max 4 SHF 4 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr SL 1 Jul; max only one per day.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 76 OneiL 28 Aug.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SPd 17 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 87 SPd 17 Aug.
Black Tern: max 50 SPd 3 Aug.
Com. Tern: max 75 SPd 12 Aug.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 12 reports, mostly southern half of Region.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 9 reports, hurt by cool weather?
Snowy Owl: Deerfield 3 Jun (Steve Heering, ph); Lysander & Clay 4-14 Aug (JB, mob).
N. Saw-whet Owl: Remsen 19 Jul, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: max 3 Waterville 25 Aug; total of 18 Aug migrants.
Whip-poor-will: at usual sites T's Constantia & Cleveland.
Chimney Swift: max 323 Oneida 13 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Cicero 6 Jun; Morrisville 20 Jun; SVB 11 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Old Forge 21 Jun; arr SPd 12 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 3 reports after 15 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: reports from Camillus & Whiskey Hollow.
E. Kingbird: max 14 Verona Marsh 22 Aug.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr SPd 12 Aug, early.
Philadelphia Vireo: DH 30 Aug.
Com. Raven: Lafayette 19 Jul; widespread OSWE.
Horned Lark: max 25 SHF 15 Jul.

Purple Martin: max 320 WM 13 Aug.
Tree Swallow: max 1400 Skan 22 Aug.
Bank Swallow: max 45 SPd 3 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: max 400 Dvl 22 Aug.
Barn Swallow: max 600 WM 25 Aug.
N. Mockingbird: Stillwater Res 10 Jul, unusual site (TSA).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 6 reports.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Clinton 9 Aug.
Tennessee Warbler: arr SFNS 27 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: migrants after 21 Aug.
N. Parula: Adks only.
Yellow Warbler: max 65 SPd 12 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: arr SFNS 14 Aug.
Black-throated Green Warbler: Clay Marsh 1 Jun, late migrant.
Blackburnian Warbler: DH 31 Jul, presumably southbound.
Pine Warbler: 2 Muller Hill Geo 27 Jun, increasing there.
Prairie Warbler: Tully 3 Jun & 2 Geo 27 Jun, only sites.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr WM 28 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Hamilton 12 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: SVB 11 Jul, new site.
Prothonotary Warbler: WM thru Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: last Clinton 16 Aug, late.
Mourning Warbler: 11 VB 18 Jun, good count.
Wilson's Warbler: last UM 2 Jun; arr SVB, SFNS 28 Aug.
Canada Warbler: migrants after 13 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Clinton 9 Jun, new site; SL 2 Jul, in cornfield.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 5 Carley Mills 17 Jun.
Lincoln's Sparrow: several Adk reports.
Bobolink: to 60 per day SL after 15 Aug.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 3300 WM 17 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: 14 Fulton Airport 16 Jul, good number.
Com. Grackle: max 2100 WM 25 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: max 8 Green Lakes SP 25 Jul, 7 imm; others at SFNS, SL & VB.
Purple Finch: usual mid Jul dispersal with small flocks in Aug.
Red Crossbill: Nelson Swamp 5 Jun (MY); 3 Geo 9 Jul.
Pine Siskin: small numbers in Jun; last 2 W Winfield 7 Jul.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Summer was generally cool and damp, and many residents of northern New York felt that it really wasn't a summer at all. The mean temperature in Watertown was 63.5° F in June and 67.3° in July, which were 1.8° and 2.9° below normal, respectively. August's mean temperature of 69.9° was 1.3° above normal. The 1.9" of precipitation that fell in June was actually 1.5" below normal, but the month was characterized by many cool, damp days, and, coming on the heels of an exceptionally wet May, it certainly seemed wetter than usual. July was wetter than average, as the 4.6" of precipitation for the month was 1.3" above normal. The 3.2" of rain that fell in August was within an inch of normal.

It's tempting to attribute to the weather the presence of several species of birds not normally found in New York during the summer months, but the actual explanations are likely more varied. Seasonally unusual waterfowl included a Snow Goose at Perch River WMA through at least mid-July that many observers surmised was injured and a late flock of Brant seen flying over Lake Ontario 15 June. Another late migrant was a Horned Grebe in Norwood on two days in early June. Among the season's highlights was an apparently healthy Snowy Owl that continued from the spring in Clayton through at least 22 July. A quick and incomplete review of historic Kingbird reports turned up no summer Snowy Owl reports predating the birds that occurred in Region 6 and elsewhere during 2006, but the occurrence of this species in northern New York into at least early summer may be more frequent than is generally recognized (Tom MacDonald pers. comm.).

Nesting waterfowl numbers and productivity seemed about average, at least based on the numbers of broods seen at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA and a few other local duck hotspots. More adult Trumpeter Swans were at Perch River WMA than in past years, and at least one pair fledged four young. Redhead are generally scarce in Region 6 during summer, so a group of 47 at Wilson Hill 29 August was noteworthy. Redhead have nested at this location historically, but it is unclear whether they nested this summer, as I received no reports from earlier in the summer, and in fact have received no breeding season reports of Redhead in several years.

On or slightly before 24 August a **Brown Pelican** that previously had been seen in Region 5 appeared at Low's Lake, where it was observed begging from people and even perched atop a kayak that was in use. The pelican was eventually captured and taken to a wildlife rehabilitator, but was in very poor condition and died a short while later. The pelican was a male originally banded in 2001 in Maryland. The death of this bird, along with accounts of begging and other abnormal behaviors for a wild bird stirred up a lively debate about whether such vagrants seen to be in poor health should be captured and cared for. The

Great Egret roost in Stockholm continues to set new record maximum counts for Region 6, with the highest single count of 145 in late August.

Water levels were very high throughout the summer, with virtually no shorebird habitat along the Lake Ontario shoreline. It should therefore come as no surprise that several observers commented on the almost total lack of shorebirds on visits to the lakeshore. Whimbrel was perhaps the most notable of the exceptions to the general lack of birds, with three reports from late July and August. Single reports of White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers came from St. Lawrence County, but many species were missed entirely.

The number of carcasses found on Little Gallo Island that were suspected to be the result of Type E botulism was lower than during the peak of the outbreak in 2006 and 2007, but higher than during 2008. Carcass search effort was reportedly similar between years, so clearly the outbreak has not subsided entirely, although at least one observer noted far fewer dead birds along the Lake Ontario shoreline this year than during the previous several. The Caspian Tern colony on Little Galloo continues to decline following the beginning of the outbreak, and the 1499 nests counted in 2009 was 23% below the record high count made in 2006. Double-crested Cormorant nest counts were also at their lowest level since they peaked in the mid-1990s, but this decline is largely the result of active management to control cormorant populations on Lake Ontario.

A one day maximum count of six Yellow-billed Cuckoos from Fort Drum illustrates the continued presence of this species in decent numbers several years after the end of the most recent large tent caterpillar outbreak. Short-eared Owls were observed in three locations in June, but the bird in at least one of these locations apparently departed during the middle of the month, and no evidence of nesting was reported. Common Nighthawk numbers were about typical on and near Fort Drum during June and July, but this species was almost entirely unreported during August, when large numbers of migrants typically pass through.

Passerine highlights included a singing male **Kentucky Warbler** Gerry Smith found in Hammond, a new species for Region 6. Unfortunately, subsequent efforts to relocate this bird were unsuccessful. Other highlights included a Louisiana Waterthrush along the Grass River in Russell, a location where this species has been found in the past, and Rusty Blackbirds on territory near Wanakena. This latter species is barely holding on as a breeder in the northern Adirondacks. There were a few reports of single Red and White-winged Crossbills, but these species were largely absent. Pine Siskins were slightly more abundant early in the season, but declined during June and were largely absent by mid-summer.

As they did in 2008, personnel from Fort Drum and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation visually confirmed the phenotypes of 189 singing male winged warblers on Fort Drum, yielding 36.5% Blue-winged Warblers, 47.1% Golden-winged Warblers, and 16.4% hybrids. These results are very similar to those obtained in 2008, albeit with a marginally smaller percentage of Golden-wings and higher percentage of Blue-wings. Crews from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology found Golden-winged Warblers to

be more abundant in St. Lawrence County relative to Blue-winged Warblers, but Blue-wings are established even in the northernmost portions of the Region.

As in most recent years, grassland birds continue to be found in historically low numbers. Sedge Wren is perhaps one exception, as numbers on Fort Drum steadily increased throughout June and July to a high of at least 39 singing males by early August. It is not clear to what extent later arrivals to Fort Drum represented recent migration into the Region or local movements of birds that were forced out of hayfields as they were mowed. At least 10 additional reports came from areas throughout the St. Lawrence Valley and Lake Ontario Plains. Upland Sandpipers were reported from seven locations, which is a modest increase over recent years, but likely represents better reporting rather than an increase in individuals, and the long-term prospects for this species in the Region remain a concern. At least 17 territorial male Henslow's Sparrows were found on Fort Drum, constituting the largest concentration of this species, as is typical. Five singing males on Dog Hill Road were also in a traditional location, but the two males Gerry Smith found in the town of Hammond represented a new location.

Although a few notable species of early "fall" migrants were seen on Fort Drum, overall few birds were seen migrating in August, and warblers seemed to move in especially small numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, and Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers were all seen on Fort Drum during the last two weeks of August, but unlike the past few years, no substantial flocks of warblers were encountered.

The season's species tally was 197 species, which is the highest summer total in at least five years, although only by a few species. The clear highlights were Brown Pelican and Kentucky Warbler, although few people saw either bird, and the death of the pelican was disappointing. Weather aside, the lack of shorebird habitat again was among the biggest negatives for the season, and the continued occurrence of botulism in Lake Ontario was also bad news.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CV – T Cape Vincent; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; LGI – Little Galloo Island; LPd – Leonard Pond trail, T Colton; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; SLR – St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower

Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WS – Winthrop Swamp, T Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: PRWMA thru at least mid-Jul (mob).
Brant: 27 Lyme 15 Jun (NL), late.
Trumpeter Swan: up to 11 ad PRWMA thru; pr w 4 y PRWMA 20 Jul.
Wood Duck: max 91 ULLWMA 7 Aug.
Am. Wigeon: max 4 ULLWMA 7 Aug.
Blue-winged Teal: max 13 PRWMA 21 Aug.
Redhead: 47 WHWMA 29 Aug, many for date.
Ring-necked Duck: max 97 ULLWMA 21 Aug.
Spruce Grouse: ad f with 2 chicks MM 28 Jul (TB, GB, VP, photos).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 86 ULLWMA 16 Aug; many broods noted.
Horned Grebe: Norwood 7-8 Jun (JH), rare in summer.
BROWN PELICAN: wandered to Low's Lake from Region 5 by 24 Aug; picked up and taken to wildlife rehabilitator 26 Aug where it subsequently died.
Double-crested Cormorant: 2751 nests on LGI, Bass, Gull, and Calf Is, continuing downward trend from NYSDEC control efforts; 96 carcasses collected by DEC staff LGI, Type E botulism suspected.
Least Bittern: 2 PRWMA 5 June; 2 FD 3 Aug; WS 24 Aug.
Great Egret: max 145 WS 24 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 78 nests Gull Is.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Golden Eagle: imm West Martinsburg 28 Jul (JB).
Merlin: CV 20 Aug; 3 MM 31 Jul.
Peregrine Falcon: CV 2 Jun (NL); PRWMA 10 & 23 Aug (JB).
Com. Moorhen: 16 FD 19 Aug, included 3 broods;
Sandhill Crane: 2-3 ad Madrid early Jul to at least 16 Aug (AJ fide JB); nesting not confirmed.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr FD 16 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: pr CV 4 Jun; 3 Galloo Is. 12 Jun; Pamela 13 Jun; pr Lyme 14 Jun; Alexandria 14 Jun; Lafargeville 21 Jun; max 10 FD 1 Aug at traditional late summer gathering site.
Whimbrel: Hounsfield 12 Aug; 2 ED 22 Aug; CV 25 Aug.
Sempalmated Sandpiper: max 3 ED 23 Aug.

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Least Sandpiper: max 4 Dekalb 12 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: SLR Waddington 29 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: Canton 23 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: 193 carcasses collected by DEC staff LGI; Type E botulism suspected.
Herring Gull: max 356 nests LGI.
Great Black-backed Gull: 2 ad LGI but no nest observed.
Caspian Tern: 1499 nests LGI 2 Jun, down 23% from record high count in 2005; 73 carcasses collected by DEC staff LGI, Type E botulism suspected.
Black Tern: 37 Wilson's Bay CV 2 Jun mobbing Peregrine Falcon.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 6 FD 4 Jun, high.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 16 FD 4 Jun.
E. Screech-Owl: Canton several dates Jun.
Snowy Owl: Clayton thru 22 Jul (mob).
Short-eared Owl: FD 10 & 22 Jun (JB, AF); CV 16 Jun (NL), Ashland Flats WMA 16 Jun (NL); no reports after late Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: many breeding reports FD thru; Dekalb 9 Jun; few migrants noted.
Whip-poor-will: max 24 FD 5 Jun.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 9 territories FD thru; Hammond early June.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: none found during surveys Francis Lake T Watson first time in several years; Tooley Pond Road T Clare 1 Aug; additional reports Colton, Fine, and Piercefield.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 11 singing m MM 13 Jun; Francis Lake T Watson Jun; arr FD 17 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr FD 24 Aug.
Gray Jay: max 7 MM 7 Jun.
Boreal Chickadee: max 6 LPd 13 Jul.
Carolina Wren: CV thru.
Sedge Wren: 2 singing m FD early Jun increased to 14 early Jul and 39 late Jul; different locations ULLWMA 8 & 27 Jun; Lyme 14 Jun; 2 Ashland Flats WMA 16 Jun; Antwerp 16 Jun; Potsdam 6 Jul to at least 9 Aug; 3 Dekalb 8 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: different locations FD 5 Jun & 21 Jul; 2 Limerick Cedars 9 Jun; FCWMA 27 Jul.
N. Mockingbird: max 2 singing m FD 19 Jun.

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WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 69 singing m on FD surveys; fewer than 10 banded at Yellow Lake by Cornell field crew.

Golden-winged Warbler: 92 singing m on FD surveys; 50+ banded at Yellow Lake by Cornell field crews.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: 30 singing male on FD surveys.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: ad m & ad f on neighboring territories FD 12 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 24 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 4 CB 12 Jun; 4 Limerick Cedars 12 Jun; 7 FD 25 Jun.

Palm Warbler: max 31 singing m MM 13 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: last FD 4 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: FD 25 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Downerville SF Russell 20 Jun.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: Hammond 27 Jun (GS!).

Wilson’s Warbler: arr FD 25 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 19 singing m FD 10 Jun; no reports away from FD.

Henslow’s Sparrow: 14-16 singing m FD Jun increased to 17-19 by late Jul (JB); 5 singing m in two location Dog Hill Rd T Orleans (NL).

Lincoln’s Sparrow: max 19 singing m MM 13 Jun.

Rusty Blackbird: High Rock Trail Wanakona 9 Aug.

Red Crossbill: Brasher SF 9 Jul; FD 18 Jul.

White-winged Crossbill: FD 30 Jun.

Pine Siskin: scattered reports mostly from Adirondacks early Jun; scarce after mid-Jun.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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This season is being called The Summer That Never Was. A hard frost at Inlet 1 June wiped out some crops of berries, fruits, and nuts. Although the first week of June was mostly sunny and warm, the remainder of the month was cloudy, rainy, and cool. The same cool and wet trend extended into July, with 3" of rain at Inlet 11 July, a high of just 69° F at Plattsburgh 14 July, and 3" of rain at Rouses Point on 29 July, plus other scattered deluges across the four northeastern counties. Early August was sunny, hazy, and breezy, but remained cool until mid-month, when temperatures finally reached the 80s. Westport reached 92° on 16 August, and Plattsburgh was 89° the following day, highest temps of the season, but Inlet had another 3" of rain on 23 August, with over a foot falling during the month. Humidity was high, and many mornings were foggy, with or without the constant rains that fell on at least 35 days of the season. Lake Champlain stood at 97.24' on 1 June, but, instead of falling as usual, it rose with the summer rains to 97.40' by 6 August—over two feet above the 84-year median—before dropping to 96.56' at season’s end, still an exceptionally high level that inundated shorebird beaches from July through August.

The relatively high water levels do not explain the late records of geese and shorebirds. Snow Geese were found at the Chazy Riverlands in all three

summer months, Brant lingered until 11 June, and Canada Goose migration extended until 20 June. Spring shorebirds are unusual enough in this Region, so sightings into June are especially noteworthy. Between 1-3 June, the Chazy Riverlands hosted Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper (100 peeps in all), an impressive 29 Dunlin, and eight Short-billed Dowitcher, while inland Oseetah Lake had a Sanderling on 8 June. Also notably late were 82 Bonaparte's Gull at Chazy Riverlands 24 June. **White-crowned Sparrow** was found at two northern Franklin County sites on 2 June and 11 August.

Among boreal species, there were welcome reports of Spruce Grouse and American Three-toed Woodpecker from new locations and the first report of Gray Jay from Chubb River Swamp since Geoffrey Carleton saw the last family group there in July 1961. No reports were received, however, of Ring-necked Duck or Common Goldeneye from Adirondack waters, and there were no encounters with Cape May Warbler. The finches were in short supply, with the exception of American Goldfinch, and most of those at feeders. There were just three reports of Red Crossbill and only a few chips from White-winged. In the wake of their winter invasion, followed by a brief flurry of spring nesting activity, most Pine Siskin moved on.

Looking ahead toward fall and winter, the summer crop of wild foods was less than promising. Conifer species that were heavy with cones in some areas were barren elsewhere, with a summary showing: eastern redcedar—no berries; northern white-cedar—heavy with cones; balsam fir—none to excellent; tamarack (eastern larch)—very few to excellent; white spruce—no cones; black spruce—none to excellent; red spruce—none to excellent, but spotty; red pine—holding '08 cones, some new; eastern white pine—dropped '08 cones, some new; birches—poor; Am. Beech—no nuts; northern red oak—a few acorns; apples—poor to abundant fruit; pin (fire) cherry—none; Am. mountain ash—loaded with fruit along lakeshores; staghorn sumac—spotty; boxelder—no seeds; dogwoods—poor.

The list of rarities was led by a wayward **Brown Pelican**, banded in Maryland in July '01, that visited Fourth Lake, Inlet 19-20 August (and Herkimer County waters of the lake to 21 August) and Lows Lake 22 August (and St. Lawrence County waters of that lake to 26 August), when captured and taken in turn to Tupper Lake, Ray Brook, and Newcomb, before being transported to Delaware, where the bird died 29 August. This represents a first record for Hamilton County and the Adirondack-Champlain Region, but—including human-assisted transport—the pelican toured six northern counties and three Regions during its brief eight-day visit. Noblewood Park hosted a **Whimbrel** and a **Baird's Sandpiper** during August. **Acadian Flycatcher** at Miner Flat Rocks on 18 July provided a first record for Clinton County and Region 7. Third and fourth Regional records for the hybrid "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** came from Essex County, with June reports from Elizabethtown and Westport. A **Nelson's Sparrow** at the always productive Chazy Riverlands provided a fourth Regional record. The singing male was located on 21 July and apparently lingering into early August, with two sparrows possibly present. An

adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** near the former Essex County Home in the Town of Essex was a late July surprise and the tenth Regional record. Despite this abundance of riches, only 182 species were reported, below the previous summer's 189 and well short of the record of 192 set in '04, an Atlas year.

Lost Pond Press, publisher of *Adirondack Birding: 60 Great Places to Find Birds* (2008), reports that its inventory is now exhausted, but copies are still available from the distributor, the Adirondack Mountain Club, at www.adk.org.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BTS – Brown's Tract Stream; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; CRS – Chubb R Swamp; FB – Ferd's Bog; FBI – Four Brothers islands; IL – Indian L; LA – L Alice; LL – Long L; MRP – Moose R Plains; PtF – Point au Fer; SB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Scotion Cr; SLB – Silver L Bog; SPB – Spring Pd Bog; TL – Tupper L; WM – Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: CR 20 Jun; max 6 CR 13 Jul (BK); CR 10 Aug (DH,BK), all late.

Brant: 6-7 Isl "A" FBI 2-7 Jun (LS); AP 11 Jun (DR), grazing on Rte 9 lawn, both late.

Canada Goose: 100 headed n. Witherbee 1 Jun (CW), 100 following day; 100+ headed n. T. Willsboro to 20 Jun (LS), also late.

Blue-winged Teal: 5 CR 25 Jul (DH), only report.

N. Shoveler: ad, 4 y CR 21 Jul (BK), rare breeder.

Spruce Grouse: f Blue Mt 8 Jun (CS); m Shingle Shanty Preserve 9 Jun (SL,RT); m Uncas Rd bog, T Inlet 2 Jul (JW), welcome reports.

Com. Loon: nest Indian L, MRP 9 Jun (GL), 1st since '02; 4 NP 11 Aug (EKT) & 22 Aug (J&PT); ad, juv CH 13 Aug (SJ,BK), shepherding call heard throughout; max 10 Limekiln L 22 Aug (GL).

Pied-billed Grebe: ad, y CR 7 Jul (BK); SC 8 Aug (NO); 2 ad, 4 y CR 9 Aug (BK,CM); basic NP 11 Aug (EKT); Little Weller Pd 18 Aug; 3

AP 22 Aug (J&PT), good numbers.

Horned Grebe: CH n.d. (NO).

BROWN PELICAN: banded ad Fourth L, Inlet **19 Aug** (SH, MMe, photo); e. Dollar I, Fourth L **20 Aug** (JL); Lows L **22 Aug** (JC,Jr., SN), near floating bog mat; 1st record HAMI & Reg 7; captured campsite 10 Lows L, STLA 26 Aug and transported to TL, FRAN and Ray Brook & Newcomb, ESSE; arr DE rehab ctr 28 Aug, died there emaciated 29 Aug; banded MD Jul '01, lived to age 8 yrs, 2 mos.

Double-crested Cormorant: 9 Auger L 2 Jun (GH); 2 Raquette L 10 Aug (GL), unusual inland; numbers killed by DEC unknown.

Least Bittern: heard SC 25 Jul (NO), nice find.

Great Egret: AP 6 Jul (NO); CR 7 Jul (BK); 2 CR 25 Jul (DH, BK); max 8 Hogansburg 30 Jul (HW); 2 CH 9 Aug (DH).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: SC 10 Jul & 8 Aug (NO); no FBI report.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 y in nest T Chesterfield 6 Jun (DR); nest T Morehouse (GL), new ESSE & HAMI sites.

Am. Kestrel: 7 of 35 FRAN nest boxes produced 28 y; 10 boxes failed, 9 empty, 6 Com. Grackle, 2 Eur. Starling, 1 box down (MAMA).

Merlin: Cedar R Flow; CR; Helldiver Pd; IL, FRAN; Inlet; LL; Lost Pd, MRP; NP; Plattsburgh; TL, only suggestive of range.

Peregrine Falcon: 10 of 16 ESSE aeries produced 20 y (EKT), despite unfavorable weather.

Virginia Rail: CR 20 Jun (BK); AP 6 Jul (NO), only reports in a non-Atlas summer.:

Com. Moorhen: ad, 2 y CR 21 Jul; ad, 4 y CR 10 Aug (BK), different family.

Black-bellied Plover: last CR 3 Jun (BK), molt incomplete.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 CR 3 Jun (BK); arr NP 7 Aug (J&PT); max 7 NP 23 Aug (MDM); CR 23-30 Aug (DH,BK,CM), despite high water.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr NP 2 Aug (EKT); CR 23 Aug (BK,CM), sparse.

Greater Yellowlegs: CR 15 Jul-23 Aug (BK, CM), max 3, only location.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr CR 13 Jul (BK, CM); NP 29 Jul (EKT); max 32 CR 22 Aug (DH,BK).

WHIMBREL: NP 7 Aug (J&PT), 5th ESSE & 11th Reg 7 record since late July 1964.

Sanderling: Oseetah L, near Kiwassa L outlet 8 Jun (WS), 3rd FRAN record; 3 NP 29 Jul-2 Aug (EKT).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 10+ CR 1 Jun

(BK), 100+ peeps present; arr CR 28-29 Jul (DH,BK); 9 NP 29 Jul, 2 there 2 Aug (EKT); CR 20-28 Aug (BK); NP 23 Aug (MDM).

Western Sandpiper: juv NP 25 Aug (SP, photo).

Least Sandpiper: 2+ CR 1 Jun (BK), day of 100+ peeps; arr CR 29 Jul (BK); max 38 CR 20-30 Aug (DH, BK); 2 NP 23 Aug (MDM); NP 25 Aug (SP).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Sixth L 28 Aug (GL), 2nd HAMI record; CR 30 Aug (MAMc), nice finds.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: NP 23 Aug (MDM), well worth a NYSARC report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 CR 21 Aug (BK), only report.

Dunlin: 29 CR 3 Jun (BK), a good late number.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last 8 CR 1 Jun (BK); arr CR 25 Jul (DH,BK), always welcome.

Red-necked Phalarope: 3 CR 23 Aug (DH,BK,CM, photo), carefully identified.

Bonaparte's Gull: 82 CR 24 Jun (BK); max 150 NP 7 Aug (J&PT); 15-60 Pt Kent 10-12 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants; 6 NP 22 Aug (MDM).

Little Gull: 2 Pt Kent 12 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants; 2nd winter NP 22 Aug (MDM,PT), good finds.

Ring-billed Gull: banded FBI 12 Jun '99 returned Shelburne Bay, VT 15 Jun (TM), 5th return, aged 10 yrs; 30 Pt Kent 10 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants.

Caspian Tern: CR 1 Jun; 2 CR 20 Jun (BK); 3 CH 24 Jun (SJ,BK,J&PM); 3 CR 13 Jul-25 Aug (DH,BK); 6 NP 7 Aug (J&PT); 12 NP 11 Aug (EKT); few CLIN 11 Aug (EDT); 2 ads NP 22 Aug (MDM), now typical locations and numbers.

Com. Tern: 3 NP 7 Aug (J&PT); ad, 2 banded y NP 11 Aug (EKT); 2 CLIN 11 Aug (EDT), also typical.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: BTS 1 Jul (GL), rare HAMI; CRS 8 Aug (J&PT).

E. Screech-Owl: LA 1 Jun (BK); Inlet 8 Aug (CB), rare HAMI.

Com. Nighthawk: 3 Pt Kent 10 Aug (DR), feeding on flying ants.

Whip-poor-will: Rand Hill; Rte 9N, Keene; Ticonderoga; Trembleau Mt; Witherbee, encouraging.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: 2 Donaldson Mt, FRAN 13 Jun (MR-T), only report.

Black-backed Woodpecker: BB; Bog L; BTS; CRS; FB; Icehouse Pd; LL; Minerva; MRP; Owls Head, FRAN; River Rd; Shingle Shanty; South Inlet; Uncas Rd, ubiquitous in boreal

habitat.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FB; LL; MRP; Perkins Clearing; Silver L Bog; Vanderwacker Mt, typical sites.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Blue Mt; CRS; FB; Helldiver Pd; LL; Marion R; MRP; Osgood R; Pillsbury Mt; SB; SPB, widespread in boreal habitat.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: 2 Miner Flat Rock, T Altona 18 Jul (KA, MAMc, TM, EDT, J&PT, photo), 1st record CLIN & Reg 7.

Willow Flycatcher: True Brook Rd, T Saranac 24 Jun (CM), new CLIN location; AP 6 Jul (NO).

Yellow-throated Vireo: WM 1 Jun (KF), known site, but only report.

Philadelphia Vireo: CRS 8 Jun (BM); T Lake Pleasant 13 Jun (JC)-22 June (MMo); Dix Mt 28 Jun (RW); Hardy Rd, T Wilmington 28 Jun (DP, DR), Baxter Mt Rd, T Keene 1 Jul (J&PT), a good showing.

Gray Jay: CRS 8 Jul (BM), 1st there since 6 Jul 1965; also BB; Beaver Bk; BTS; FB; Helldiver Pd; Lost Pd, MRP; Osgood R.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max ~8 Carpenter's Flats 27 Jun (BK); 7 CH 22 Jul (NO).

Cliff Swallow: colony Rouses Pt Bridge 3 Jun (JO); nest-building nearby Ft Montgomery 13 Jun (M&WS); nesting Willsboro Pt (SP); feeding y Carpenter's Flats 27 Jun; CR 20 Jul (BK), fewer known sites.

Boreal Chickadee: BB; Blue Mt; CRS; Helldiver Pd; Icehouse Pd; LL; Minerva; MRP; Pillsbury Mt; Red R; SPB; Wakely Mt, all expected sites.

Tufted Titmouse: Elizabethtown; Inlet; Plattsburgh; Pt Kent; Witherbee, but surely more.

Carolina Wren: Plattsburgh 22 Jul (NO); ad, y Plattsburgh 23 Aug (CM), only locale.

Sedge Wren: 2 CR 13 Jul-24 Aug (BK), only report.

Marsh Wren: LA 18 Jul (J&PT); ad feeding y CR 20 Aug (BK); AP 22 Aug (J&PT); SC thru (NO).

Bicknell's Thrush: max 10 Pillsbury Mt 5 Jun (JC); also Blue Mt; Wakely Mt; Whiteface Mt, but surely other peaks.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 transients banded 660' Elizabethtown 25 Jul-17 Aug (JP).

Am. Robin: leucistic ad PtF 20-30 Jun (BK), 3rd yr in row, carrying food.

N. Mockingbird: downtown Plattsburgh 2 Jun (JH); LL 6 Jun (JC, CP), very rare HAMI;

Plattsburgh 25 Jun (EF), former Plattsburgh AFB 22 Aug (NO); now established in 4 parts of city – northeast & west ends, old & new areas of former AFB (JH).

Cedar Waxwing: albino Sabattis Rd 19 Jun (JC).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: m T Westport 22 Jun (MDM, EKT); Rte 9N, T Elizabethtown 28 Jun (DP, DR), excellent finds.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 m T Westport 22 Jun (MDM, EKT); singing m Webb Royce Swamp 28 Jun (J&PT); ad NP 22 Aug (MDM), good finds.

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: m T Westport 22 Jun (MDM, EKT), 2nd ESSE record; F2 backcross Rte 9N T Elizabethtown 28 Jun (DP, DR), 3rd ESSE & 4th Reg 7 record, superb finds.

Tennessee Warbler: Redford 30 Jul (DF), only report.

Palm Warbler: Beaver Brook; Osgood R; Paul Smiths; SB; SLB; South Inlet; SPB, between 6 Jun-1 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: m Osgood R 24 Jun (J&PT); summit 4857' Dix Mt 28 Jun (RW), good finds.

Blackpoll Warbler: late transient AP 2 Jun (KF); breeders Blue Mt; Cascade Mt; Pillsbury Mt; Wakely Mt, undoubtedly many other peaks.

CERULEAN WARBLER: LA 1 Jun (BK), 2nd CLIN & 6th Reg 7 record, present from 9 May '09.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

NELSON'S SPARROW: singing m, possibly 2 birds CR 21 Jul (BK), 3rd CLIN since '02, 4th Reg 7 since 1983; probable CR 28 Jul; heard only CR 3 Aug (DH).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Hogansburg 2 Jun (HW); Red Tavern Rd, T Santa Clara 11 Aug (JT), both late FRAN & Reg 7.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 8 banded Elizabethtown 21 Jun-31 Jul (JP), 3 pr Witherbee feeders, feeding y there 5 Jul (CAW), increasingly regular at feeders.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad m Rte 22, Whallonsburg, T Essex late Jul (ME), 5th ESSE & 10th Region 7 record since early Dec 1980.

Rusty Blackbird: pr FB 4 Jun (JN); calling T Keene 9 Jul (J&PT); Shingle Shanty Jul (SL), only reports.

Com. Grackle: max 50+ T Keene 23 Aug (J&PT), grounded by rain shower.

Purple Finch: 1-3 pr Witherbee feeders thru

(CAW); 4 banded Elizabethtown 26 Jul-1 Aug (JP), widespread, but scarce at feeders.

House Finch: CH thru (NO); pr Witherbee feeder 4 Jun, first ever; m, 4 y there 22 Jun (CAW).

Red Crossbill: 4-5 Inlet Jun (JB, CW); flyover Owls Head E, T Elizabethtown 5 Jul (J&PT); several IL early Aug (DS), feeding on tamarack cones, only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: "some chips" heard MRP 11-15 Aug (WL), only report.

Pine Siskin: last 3 Witherbee 3 Jun (CAW); 4

banded Elizabethtown 6 Jun-15 Jul (JP); 1-3 Peru 11 Jun-8 Aug (E&HF); 4 Pt Kent 24 Jun (DR), only reports in wake of Winter/Spring 2008-09 invasion.

Am. Goldfinch: 58 banded Elizabethtown 6 Jun-31 Aug (JP); 21 Pt Kent 23 Aug (DR); up to 14 daily Witherbee (CAW), the most abundant finch at feeders.

Evening Grosbeak: small numbers & families IL; L Everest; LL; Peru; Rand Hill; Redford; TL; Witherbee; only flock Ingraham Pd Rd, T Belmont 11 Aug (JT).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Summer 2009 was cooler than average and very wet. June ended slightly cooler than average with rainfall 1.28" above average at Albany International Airport. July was among the wettest on record. It rained 21 days that month, with rainfall 6.41" above average. The rain flooded streets, rivers, and fields. Farmers couldn't cut hay for most of the month, giving a slight break to nesting grassland birds, but this advantage was probably eclipsed by poor foraging conditions and greater thermoregulatory challenges. August warmed up a bit and dried out. The month ended 2° F above average with rainfall near average. Berries such as blackcaps and wild raspberries benefited from the rain, as did wild grapes, many large-seeded grasses, and sumac. It was an average cone crop and flooding disrupted growth and reproduction of many species of emergent vegetation along the Hudson River and other floodplains.

The rarest birds of the season are without question the county-record sightings of two **Mississippi Kites** in Montgomery County. Steph Restuccia reported that on 1 June, while travelling down Mapletown Road south of Canajoharie, she spotted a pale-colored raptor in a tree. As she checked off its field marks—pale head, solid grey breast, dark tail, and wings that extended just beyond the tip of the tail—she rushed home for her camera and alerted other birders to come see the bird. And come they did, from Buffalo, from Long Island, from beyond. The regular sightings of the bird created excitement, especially one year after documented breeding kites had been recorded in New Hampshire and Connecticut. On 28 June, Rich Guthrie and Kevin McCann spotted a second Mississippi Kite at the same location, fueling speculation that

the birds could be nesting. Additional study revealed that the two birds represented an adult and sub-adult. For most of July, sightings of the birds were reported almost daily as birders staked out nearby roads and the birds' favorite perching snags. Despite extensive searching effort by many, I am not aware of any confirmed nests or of sightings of fledglings, leaving the question of nesting unfortunately unresolved.

Shorebird migration went largely unnoticed, probably because the high water table erased marginal shorelines and mudflats and flooded meadows were either obscured by high grass or inaccessible. I did receive word of a tarrying Sanderling. Two reports of Snowy Egret were likewise surprising.

T. Lloyd Williams reported an Albany County flock of 80 Common Nighthawks, a number rarely reported in Region 8 anymore. A second report of 60 came in the next day nearby in downtown Albany.

Bill Cook sent word of a **Summer Tanager** that had flown against the window at the Columbia County Golf Club in Claverack on 1 July. The last report of this species in Columbia County was June 2000 when a road-killed female was found by Jens Braun in Chatham and brought to Bill Cook to add to his study skin collection at Columbia-Greene Community College.

Reports of rarer grassland specialists did not materialize this summer. We have no reports of Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, Clay-Colored Sparrow, or Henslow's Sparrow—all the more disappointing because so many birders checked the hayfields and meadows of Montgomery County diligently as they travelled to that area to chase the celebrity Mississippi Kite.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

COH – T Cohoes ALBA; COX – T Cocksackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards
WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

Blue-winged Teal: Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 2 Aug; Austerlitz COLU 22 Aug.
White-winged Scoter: Saratoga L SARA 17 Jun.

Com. Loon: Galway L SARA 1-18 Jul; L George WARR 13 Aug.

Red-necked Grebe: COH 8-20 Jun.

Least Bittern: 2 Black Creek Marsh ALBA 4 July.

Great Egret: 5 Colonie ALBA 23 Jul; Greenport COLU 23 Jul; COH 25 Jul; COX Boat Launch 25 Jul; Niskayuna SCHE 31 Jul; 2 Scotia SCHE 5 Aug.

SNOWY EGRET: Halfmoon Crescent SARA 26 Aug; Austerlitz COLU 30 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 COH 8-12 Aug.

Black Vulture: 3 Ravena ALBA 6 Jun; Greenport COLU 17 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 8 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 2 Root MONT 1 Jun-3 Aug (SR, mob, photographed), 1st county record.

Merlin: Ames MONT 7 Jul.

Black-bellied Plover: L George WARR 1 Jun.

Semipalmated Plover: L George WARR 1 Jun.

Solitary Sandpiper: Western Gateway Bridge SCHE 19 Jul; COX Flats 23 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: COH 8 Aug; COX 12 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: COH 8 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: max 7 Ames MONT 29 Jun.

SANDERLING: COX Boat Launch GREE 23 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 6 COH 20 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: L George WARR 8 Jun; COH 25 Jul.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

SNOWY OWL: Albany County Airport 6 Jun, rare in summer.

Long-eared Owl: max 5 Rensselaerville ALBA 1 Jun-13 Jul.

Com. Nighthawk: max 80 Guilderland ALBA 22 Aug (TLW); 60 Albany 23 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: 5 Cold Spring Road SARA 4 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Slingerlands ALBA 6 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Hunter Mt GREE 6 Jun.

White-eyed Vireo: Hannacroix Creek Preserve ALBA 5 Jun.

Cliff Swallow: 2 Gansevoort SARA 8 Jun; Perth FULT 2 Jul; Southern RENS 29 Jul.

Bicknell's Thrush: 3 Hunter Mt GREE 6 Jun.

WARBLERS

"Brewster's Warbler": Hannacroix Creek Preserve ALBA 4-21 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: Hannacroix Creek Preserve ALBA 4 Jun.

N. Parula: Johnsburg WARR 13 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: Partridge Run WMA ALBA 23 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Saratoga Battlefield SARA 23 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: Hunter Mt GREE 6 Jun, Chatham COLU 28-30 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: Hannacroix Creek Preserve ALBA 4 Jun; 2 Schodack I COLU 20 Jun.

Mourning Warbler: Hunter Mt GREE 6 Jun; Partridge Run WMA ALBA 15-21 Jun; Petersburg RENS 24 Jun; max 3 Burnt-Rossman SF SCHO 27 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: New Salem ALBA 4-21 Jun; Bennett Hill Preserve ALBA 10 Jun.

Canada Warbler: Salem RENS 24 Jun.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Greenwich WASH 24 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Sharon Springs SCHO 4 Jun; 2 Rensselaerville ALBA 4 Jun-13 Jul; Scotia SCHE 3 Jul; Saratoga Battlefield SARA 16 Jul.

SUMMER TANAGER: Claverack COLU 1 Jul (JF).

E. Meadowlark: FtE WASH 1 Jun.

Orchard Oriole: Saratoga Battlefield SARA 4 Jun.

Red Crossbill: 5 Crane Mt WARR 13 Jun; 4 Partridge Run WMA ALBA 1 Aug; 10 Burnt-Rossman SF 16 Aug; 2 Partridge Run WMA 23 Aug; Fox Hill Road SARA 23 Aug.

White-winged Crossbill: Hunter Mt GREE 6 Jun.

Pine Siskin: Taghkanic COLU 15 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 26 Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: Edinburg SARA 9 Jun; 2 Eleventh Mt WARR 13 Jun.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season started off on a very chilly note. The low for Poughkeepsie on the first day of June was only 37°. A Nor'easter type storm on 5 June missed the Region just to the south but still gave the area a decent soak. June turned out to be incredibly wet. Poughkeepsie recorded 9.22" of rain. The norm is only 3.73". Only six days of the month had no trace of rain and the high never went above 84° F. For the month Poughkeepsie came in 1.6° cooler than normal and White Plains 3.4° colder. July continued wet, with 6.72" of rain, 4.72" above the norm, in Poughkeepsie, and it remained very cool. A strong trough of low pressure parked itself over the eastern portion of the U.S., funneling down plenty of cold air from Canada. Half of the days in July never reached 80°, the other days were in the low eighties except one, 28 July, which reached 87°. The month averaged 3.1° below normal. August was slightly drier and warmer than normal, with no heat waves or unusually cool temperatures.

Highlights from the Westchester part of the Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count, held the weekend of 13-14 June, included a Gadwall in Rye, three White-winged Scoters off Edith G. Read Preserve, and a Blackpoll Warbler at Marshlands Conservancy along with five Clapper Rails and a Ruddy Turnstone. The islands off Rye in Long Island Sound hosted Black-bellied Plover, Forster's Terns, two Willets, and a Sanderling. Common Ravens were at Myers Preserve and in White Plains. The marshes along the coast of Rye provided twenty-four Marsh Wrens and five Saltmarsh Sparrows. A few Pine Siskins were also present for the count.

Jack Haber discovered an American White Pelican on the Hudson River in Kingston on 8 July. Mark DeDea was contacted and was able to get the word out so that a number of people observed the bird for the next two days between Kingston and Port Ewen. There were no reports after the morning of the 10th after the bird lifted and disappeared up the channel into Roundout Creek. Numerous checks along the creek failed to find the bird.

Nancy Slowik found a Least Bittern at dusk in her driveway near Tallman State Forest on 28 July. The bird was disoriented and was taken to a rehabilitator. It was treated for parasites.

Evan Mark discovered an American Golden-Plover at Piermont Pier 17 August. The bird was videotaped and posted to YouTube. This is Rockland County's third record. Montgomery had a single bird the same day along with a White-rumped Sandpiper. They were seen by multiple observers. The black dirt region near Pine Island in Orange County hosted larger flocks of American Golden-Plover with a high of 30 birds on 29 August. The Region also hosted an Upland Sandpiper, a Sanderling, Baird's Sandpipers, two Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and two Red-necked Phalarope. A Whimbrel was found by Alan Mapes on 29 August while kayaking at Vanderburg Cove. This is the second

sighting in Dutchess County. The first was in 2004. Piermont Pier hosted three Short-billed Dowitchers on 27 July. A boat trip 16 August by Tom Burke, Gail Benson, and Bob Shriber out to Hen and Scotch Cap Islands yielded 43 Semipalmated Plover, 180 Ruddy Turnstone, 23 Short-billed Dowitcher, 275 Semipalmated Sandpiper, three Willet, one Sanderling, and a White-rumped Sandpiper.

Tom and Elda Dow, Ed Treacy, and Jack Focht observed a Caspian Tern at Piermont Pier 27 July. Jim Vellozzi observed a large single tern flying up the Hudson River at the Yonkers JFK Marina the next day which was most likely another Caspian. Carol Weiss had two Caspian Terns back at Piermont on 25 August.

Sullivan County produced two nice finds on 22 August. Lance Verderame found a Black Tern on Neversink Reservoir. John Haas and Arlene Borko were able to get there and view the bird before it circled skyward and headed south. Later John and Arlene were greeted by two Caspian Terns making their way from the south west end of the Bashakill, past them on Haven Road, then gradually up and over the mountains to the northeast.

On the afternoon of 16 June, Curt McDermott heard a singing Sedge Wren at Benedict Park, Montgomery. He was unable to locate it but came back in the evening with his father Ken and they were able to get great looks at the bird, as well as a pair of Grasshopper Sparrows. The bird stayed for over a month into July affording plenty of birders who patiently waited good looks at the bird. In July it appeared to be on territory.

The Mohonk Preserve Research Center's Breeding Bird Census team found a male **Western Tanager** 8 June. The bird was flying between various small trees in a field and ended up flying into thicker cover along the field. At one point it was chased by an Eastern Bluebird.

Rich Guthrie posted on the New York Birding List a second hand report of a banded flamingo observed and photographed at Croton Point in the second week of August. Curiously a banded American Flamingo was observed in Rhode Island on 6 August with a band on its left leg. I contacted the naturalist at Croton Point Park but he was unable to confirm who saw and took the photo. The photo showed a **Flamingo**, pale pink, foraging among some Canada Geese in a wetland pool. The bird had a band. It was there one day and then gone the next.

Other notable species include Little Blue Heron, "Lawrence's" Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; GSSBC – Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: 20 Waryas P, Poughkeepsie 10 Jun; 2 EGR 17 Jun.
Gadwall: Rye 14 Jun (GSSBC).
Blue-winged Teal: Wappingers Lake 19 Aug.
Greater Scaup: Piermont Pier 26 Jun (CW).
White-winged Scoter: 3 EGR 14 Jun (GSSBC).
Hooded Merganser: f Clinton Nature Garden, Rhinebeck 6 Jun.
Ring-necked Pheasant: MC 1 Jun.
Com. Loon: Chelsea 10 Jun; 2 EGR 17 Jun; Rhinebeck 5 Aug.
flamingo, sp: CPP 2nd week August (RG), see *intro*.
Am. White Pelican: Kingston Point, Pt Ewen 8, 9, 10 Jul (PS,JaH, MD, GM, LM, SJ).
Least Bittern: Piermont 26 Jun (CW); near Tallman SP 28 Jul (NS); Tivoli Bays 31 Jul (Cha).
Snowy Egret: Lower Wappingers Creek HRA 9 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: Wiccopee HRA 20 Aug (ES).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Clapper Rail: 5 MC 14 Jun.
Black-bellied Plover: Scotch Caps I 14 Jun; 6 MC 10 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: Piermont Pier 17 Aug (EM,CW,ML) Rockland's 3rd record; Montgomery 17 Aug; 5 Pine Island 23 Aug; 30 Pine Island 29 Aug; 20 Pine Island 30 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: Rye 31 Jul; 32 MC 10 Aug; 43 Hen I 16 Aug; Montgomery 17 Aug; Piermont Pier 17 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 4 EGR 1-30 Jun; 5 Rye 27 Jun; 12 Rye 1 Jul; 5 MC 10 Jul; 9 Scotch Cap I 16 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: MC 1 Jun.
Greater Yellowlegs: 7 MC 16 Aug.

Willet: 2 Hen I 14 Jun (GSSBC); 2 Scotch Cap Island 16 Aug (TB, GB, BS); Hen I 16 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 4 SGNWR 14 Jun; Pine Island 28 Aug.
Whimbrel: Vanderburg Cove 29 Aug (AM).
Ruddy Turnstone: MC 1 Jun (TB); Scotch Caps I 14 Jun (GSSBC); 180 Scotch Cap Island 16 Aug (TB, GB, BS); Piermont Pier 17 Aug (FV).
Sanderling: Scotch Caps I 14 Jun (GSSBC); Pine Island 22-23 Aug (CM, RS, JoH, DMu, KM); Scotch Caps I 16 Aug (TB, GB, BS).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 140 MC 5 Aug; 275 Hen I 16 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Scotch Cap Island 16 Aug (TB, GB, BS); Montgomery 17 Aug (CM, RS, JoH, DMu, KM);.
Baird's Sandpiper: Pine Island 28 Aug (CM,RS,JoH,DMu,KM); Goshen 25 Aug (CM,RS,JoH,DMu,KM); 2 Pine Island 29 Aug (CM,RS,JoH,DMu,KM); 7 Pine Island 30 Aug (CM).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Montgomery 17 Aug; Piermont Pier 17-31 Aug.
Purple Sandpiper: 5 Rye early Jun (TB).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 Pine Island 29, 30 Aug (CM,RS,JoH,DMu,KM).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 Piermont Pier 27 Jul (CW); 7 MC 10 Aug; 18 Hen I 16 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: 2 Pine Island 23 Aug (CM,RS,JoH,DMu,KM); Walkkill NWR, Oil City Rd 29 Aug (CM,RS,JoH,DMu,KM).
Laughing Gull: 6 EGR 17 Jun; 20 MC 10 Aug; 60 Scotch Cap I 16 Aug.
Least Tern: 3 MC 6 Aug.
Caspian Tern: Piermont Pier 27 Jul (T&ED, ET, JF); Piermont Pier 8 Aug (DC); 2 Bashakill 22 Aug (JoH, ABo); 2 Piermont Pier 25 Aug (CW).
Royal/Caspian Tern: Yonkers 28 Jul (JV).

Black Tern: Neversink Res 22 Aug (LV, JoH, ABor).
Com. Tern: 200 Rye 3 Jun; 250 Rye 7 Jul; Norrie Point 8 Aug.
Forster's Tern: 2-3 Scotch Caps I 14 Jun; 2 Rye 27 Jun; Piermont Pier 8 Aug (DC).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 12 Stony Point 30 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: imm Pearl River 7 Aug.
Pileated Woodpecker: 9 Ward Pound Ridge P 13 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Doodletown 4 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Cooley Road Bog, Parksville 27-28 Jun (LV).
Acadian Flycatcher: 3 Amenia 10 Jun; Pawling Nature Preserve 13 Jun; Mianus River Gorge 14 Jun; Nuclear L, Pawling 20 Jun; Thompson Pond 22 Jul.
White-eyed Vireo: Millbrook 8 Jul; Reese Sanctuary, Wappingers Falls 5, 14 Aug.
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 Amenia 10 Jun; Mt beacon 14 Jul; Cary Arboretum 15 Jul; LaGrange 15 Jul.
Com. Raven: 3 Myers Preserve 14 Jun; 4 White Plains 14 Jun.
Purple Martin: 6 EGR 3 Jun; 2 EGR 31 Jul.
Bank Swallow: 2 EGR 14 Jun; MC 10 Jul.
Winter Wren: 2 with young Deep Hollow 15 Aug.
Sedge Wren: Benedict Farm Park, Montgomery 16 Jun-12 Jul (CM).
Marsh Wren: 24 Rye 14 Jun; 5 MC 5 Jul; 3 Thompson Pond 22 Jul; 2 Rhinebeck 5 Aug.
Veery: 14 Buttercup East 1 Jul.
Hermit Thrush: LaGrange 15 Jul; feeding young Cary Arboretum 15 Jul.

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Cary Arboretum-IES, Washington Hollow 1 Jun-31 Jul; Rockefeller SP Preserve 13 Aug (EMa).

Magnolia Warbler: MC 1 Jun; 3 Nellie Hill Preserve 3 Jun.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 Pawling Nature Preserve 13 Jun.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 5 Amenia 10 Jun; MC 12 Jun; 5 Pawling Nature Preserve 13 Jun; 5 Mianus River Gorge 14 Jun.
Blackburnian Warbler: MC 1 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: MC 1 Jun; Rye 14 Jun (GSSBC).
Cerulean Warbler: 3 Nuclear L 20 Jun.
Am. Redstart: MC 1 Jun.
Worm-eating Warbler: 5 Ward Pound Ridge 13 Jun; 3 Pawling Nature Preserve 13 Jun; 11 Mianus River Gorge 14 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 18 Ward Pound Ridge 13 Jun; 6 Pawling Nature Preserve 13 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: 6 Pawling Nature Preserve 13.
Canada Warbler: Scot's Cap I 13 Jun.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Red Hook 28 Jun(BB); 4 Red Hook 5 Jul.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Pine Plains 3 Jun; 2 Benedict Park, Montgomery 16 Jun; 4 Red Hook 28 Jun; 2 Red Hook 5 Jul.
Saltmarsh Sparrow: 5 Rye 14 Jun.
Scarlet Tanager: 9 Mianus River Gorge 14 Jun.
WESTERN TANAGER: Mohonk Preserve 8 Jun (L&AB,RE,EMo).
Pine Siskin: Rye 1, 2 Jun; 2 at feeder White Plains 11 June (Benjamin Van Doren); 7 Ward Pound Ridge 13 Jun; 3 Greenwood Cemetery 14 Jun (GSSBC); 7 Pound Ridge 14 Jun (GSSBC); Hyde Park 19 Jun (SJ); Poughquag 30 Jul (CP).

EXOTICS:

Yellow-fronted Canary: Piermont Pier 22 Aug (DC, CW, A&DW).



REGION 10—MARINE

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The first two thirds of summer 2009 were cool and wet, and many observers reported poor breeding success for various different kinds of birds. June's mean temperature was 65.4°, 3.1° below normal, and precipitation was 4" above normal at 7.71". July temperatures were 3.8° below normal at a mean of 70.8° and the wet trend continued as well with 6.52" of rain falling, 3.59" above normal. In August the mean temperature was 74.7°, 1.6° above normal, and precipitation totaled only 0.68", 3.80" below normal. All weather data are from Islip, as reported by the NOAA website.

The passage of Hurricane *Bill* well to our east on 22-23 August had few obvious effects on our bird life, the most likely exceptions involving unusually large and early aggregations of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (see note by Brendan Fogarty elsewhere in this issue), a couple of Hudsonian Godwits, and an extremely cooperative—and tired-looking—adult Red-necked Phalarope at Jamaica Bay's East Pond. A week later, the grossly overhyped *Danny* proved almost comically effete to savvy storm-birders, vanishing as a named entity from the weather maps just as he was poised to influence our Region. A widespread buildup of Black Terns, a curious west to east passage of *Sterna* terns, and some more Lesser Black-backed Gulls were his most obvious effects.

One of this summer's most memorable aspects was the persistent presence of large numbers of seabirds within sight of Long Island's outer beaches. Modestly productive seawatches during late May and early June shifted abruptly into high gear on 18 June with the arrival of hundreds of Cory's and dozens of Greater Shearwaters. The numbers of Cory's observed that day, 300+ from Robert Moses SP and 100+ from Shinnecock Inlet, almost all moving steadily from west to east, were without precedent so early in the season, as were 2,500+ Cory's from Montauk Pt. on 8 July. Manx Shearwaters were reported multiple times from each of several outer coast sites, heightening suspicions of possible nesting in the Region. Seawatchers reported good numbers of immature Northern Gannets throughout the summer. The season's highest tally of 89 at Fire Island on 19 June included a single adult and was roughly double last summer's maximum. This kind of variability in numbers between years is typical for many species of seabirds, tied as they are to the even more highly variable distributions of fish such as sand launces.

We also enjoyed a wealth of offshore seabird data this season from a series of short-distance whale-watches out of Montauk and from dedicated deepwater runs to Hudson and Block Canyons out of Belmar, NJ, and Pt. Judith, RI, respectively. Not surprisingly, given the season's exceptionally productive shore-based seawatches, these organized trips produced consistently good numbers of Cory's and Greater Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels as well as a smattering of Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Black Terns, Parasitic Jaegers, and both sea-faring phalaropes. Ironically, both canyon runs yielded fewer Cory's and Greaters than a typical near-shore whale-watch, but both scored multiple **Audubon's Shearwaters**—eight near Hudson Canyon and a remarkable **26** in the waters 10-30 miles north of Block Canyon. Long fraught with intrigue, New York State's ornithological claims to these two canyons could be effectively mooted if the Empire State continues to lag behind its maritime rivals in chartering dedicated birding trips to these productive destinations. Countering this trend almost single-handedly was John Shemilt, whose frequent fishing trips toward Block Canyon and superb photography continue to amaze veteran observers and to fill in gaps in our knowledge of Long Island's pelagic birdlife. In addition to lots of **Audubon's Shearwaters**, John documented **Leach's** and **White-faced Storm-Petrels**, **South Polar Skua**, Pomarine Jaeger, and unseasonal Dovekies. See John's photos of several of these birds on p. 353.

Possibly a first for the state, an apparent **Yellow-legged Gull** was closely photographed at Robert Moses SP on 4 June. The uncertainty concerning this first-summer gull's identity arises from the lack of definite data concerning the appearance of this age class in various hybrid combinations, but experienced commentators were remarkably consistent in stressing the bird's close resemblance to Yellow-legged Gull.

Following publication of a re-evaluation of its status in NYS (KB 59: 2-15), non-breeding **Arctic Terns** were sought more avidly and more widely than ever this summer, with predictably favorable results. At least nine individuals were documented around the ocean inlets between 7 June and 10 July, from Democrat Pt. to Mecox Bay. Of these, four were first-summer birds, one was a "typical" second-summer type, and four were adult-like birds showing more subtle deviations from definitive alternate plumage. The actual number of individuals observed this summer might have been as many as 16, because conservative assumptions were applied to undocumented reports and to reports of similarly plumaged birds reported from a given site on similar dates but whose individual identities were not rigorously assessed. Only one individual demonstrably persisted for more than a day, the second-summer type photographed near Moriches Inlet on 13 & 21 June.

Without question the most impressive breeding record of the season was Region 10's **first confirmed nesting of Black Vulture**, at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island. On 16 July 2009, Dave Taft and Jason Wickersty videotaped an adult and a nestling in an abandoned embrasure (see video still, p. 398). For the first time in several summers, a territorial **Black Rail** was detected in the Region, this time at Napeague. Also of note was Chip Hamilton's observation of

an American Bittern at a DEC wetland in central Nassau County on 29 July. On a negative note, saltmarsh nesting birds (terns, Willets, etc.) experienced near total breeding failure this season (A. Graves pers. comm., R. O. Paxton, pers. comm., pers. obs.).

The number and diversity of shorebirds overwintering in our Region were comparable to most recent years. The first returning migrants were noted a tad early on 26 June, but the expected early-season peaks of adults seldom reached typical levels—e.g., 330 Least Sandpipers vs. the usual 500+ at favorable sites and 780 Short-billed Dowitchers vs. the usual 1,500+. Lesser Yellowlegs peaked at a normal-looking 275 at Jamaica Bay, but this concentration came two weeks late on 4 August and included juveniles as well as adults. One exception to this pattern was a very healthy tally of 4,150 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Jamaica Bay on 5 August. Most observers agreed that the southbound shorebird migration was weak overall and that juveniles of arctic-breeding species were both late and very sparse.

A banding study of breeding landbirds at Fort Tilden on Queens County's Rockaway barrier beach yielded several noteworthy insights. For the second consecutive summer, a male Northern Bobwhite sang here across a range of dates and was answered by a second bird giving a contact call at least once. Another male sang persistently at Robert Moses SP on Fire Island on 18 June and thereafter, and others were reported on more easterly barrier beaches near Cupsogue and Mecox Bay. This species is local and declining on Long Island's mainland, with strongholds in east-central Suffolk County and on the North Fork. Away from these places, a large proportion of recent N. Bobwhite records have come from the barrier beaches—a series of records from the Fire Island Lighthouse Tract 1996-1998, including females as well as singing males; as many as 20 at Smith Pt. near the eastern tip of Fire Island on 2 Oct 2001; and a series of records covering all seasons from Dune Rd. between Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets, including a covey of 12 near Cupsogue on 5 Feb 2000. The origins of these birds are debatable, but perhaps no more so than those of the remaining mainland populations, many/most/all of which are suspected to derive at least in part from latter day releases.

Another interesting sight at Fort Tilden in recent summers has been the presence of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. This species is more numerous and widespread than Black-billed Cuckoo as a breeder on the Long Island mainland, but the latter is the species that breeds in maritime shrublands on the immediate coast. It is possible that the Fort Tilden Yellow-bills simply represent summer wanderers, but their year to year occurrence forces attention to the puzzle of these species' peculiar geographic and habitat preferences in our Region.

Finally, for the third summer in a row, a molt-migrant Worm-eating Warbler was captured at Fort Tilden, an adult in heavy molt on 27 July (see KB 58: 348-349). Considering that, apart from Gray Catbirds, this small-scale study captures only 40-80 birds per season, and considering also how infrequently Worm-eating Warblers occur on Long Island as southbound migrants, the regularity with which molt-migrants have been detected on the barrier beach

deserves attention. Curiously, there were several additional odd dates and locations for this species throughout the Region this summer.

Other Highlights, not mentioned above, included a spate of Brown Pelicans mid June to late July, a **White-faced Ibis** at Jamaica Bay, a **Sandhill Crane** at Orient during early June, and early **Red Phalaropes** off of Montauk on **25 Aug.**, several reports of **Sandwich Terns** from eastern Long Island, continuing **Common Ravens** in northern Long Island near the Queens-Nassau line, and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** on Staten Island.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, Deborah Allen, Mohammed Alomeri, Jim Ash, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Andrew Baksh, Catherine Barron, Matt Bayer, Bill Belford, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlingeri, Shane Blodgett, Jean & Ron Bourque, John Brush, Jr., John Brush, Sr., Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Eva Callahan, Rafaella Campos, Brad Carlson, Jared Cole, Jim Cullen, Doug Daniels, Robert DeCandido, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Jacob Drucker, Ken Feustel, Sue Feustel, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, L & R Fried, Gerta Fritz, Mike Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Tom Garrecht, Doug Gill, John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Juliette Goulet, Paul Guris, Andy Guthrie, Cliff Hagen, Chip Hamilton, Susan Arnott Heaney, Dan Heglund, Rob Jett, Tom Johnson, Richard Kaskan, Linda & Rick Kedenburg, Dave Klauber, Kathy Klecan, Robert J. Kurtz, Mary Laura Lamont, Anthony J. Lauro, Jody Levin, Patricia J. Lindsay, Leslie Lupo, Lisa Manne, Bob May, Curt McDermott, Ken McDermott, Rich McGovern, Hugh McGuinness, Rob McGuinness, Eric Miller, Karlo Mirth, Shaibal S. Mitra, William Parker, Jim Pawlicki, Carlos Pedro, Vinnie Pellegrino, David Perry, Steve Plust, Tom Preston, Joan Quinlan, Bobby Rossetti, George Rowsom, Eric Salzman, John Sep, Steve Schellenger, Sy Schiff, Donna Schulman, Eileen Schwinn, Michael Shanley, John Shemilt, Carl Starace, Sally Swain, Dave Taft, Dianne Taggart, Guy Tudor, Richard R. Veit, Mercy Van Vlack, Steve Walter, Scott Whittle, Jason Wickersty, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Seth Ian Wollney, Byron Young, Shari Zirlin.

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P QUEE; BHP – Blue Heron Pd P RICH; CCP – Cupsogue County P SUFF; CHP – Conference House P RICH; CLP – Clove Lakes P RICH; CP – Central P; DOP – Dreier Offerman P KING; EH – East Hampton SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field KING; FP – Forest P QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P RICH; HLSP – Hempstead L SP NASS; HSP – Heckscher SP SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref KING/QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; MB – Mecox Bay SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet; MP – Montauk Pt SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area NASS; PB – Pikes Beach SUFF; PP – Prospect P KING; RBA – NY Rare Bird Alert; RMSP – Robert Moses SP SUFF; Sagg –

Sagaponack Pd SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet SUFF; SSNC – South Shore Nature Center SUFF; VSSP – Valley Stream SP NASS.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: max 26 Plumb Beach, KING 19 Jun & 22 Jam Bay 19 Jul; smaller numbers noted City I, BRON, GKP, E. Rockaway, CCP, & Shinn.

Wood Duck: arr CP 26 Jul (DA).

Gadwall: e LI CCP 6 Jun (AGu *et al.*).

Blue-winged Teal: arr well documented at Jam Bay: 1 thru Jul, 12 on 19 Aug, & 125 on 27 Aug (DGo).

N. Shoveler: m Plumb Beach 13 Jun; arr CP 14 Aug.

N. Pintail: arr 3 Jam Bay 25 Aug (DGo).

Green-winged Teal: CP 31 Aug (TF), unus at site.

Ring-necked Duck: one PP thru 5 Jul (RJ, mob).

Greater Scaup: max 17 Jam Bay (J Drucker, L&R Fried) 14 Jun, 7 GKP 28 Jun (SIW), & 5 Dead Horse Bay, KING thru (R Bourque).

Com. Eider: imm m Hubbard CP, Flanders, SUFF 26 Jul (RBA), v unus site and date.

Surf Scoter: ad m RMSP 18 Jun (SSM); ad m Riis P 23 Jun (SSM), f Orient SP 9 Jul (JSe); f GKP 24 Jul.

White-winged Scoter: 1-3 Orient Harbor & vic 25 Jun-29 Jul; 2-3 Montauk 25-30 Aug.

Black Scoter: m Riis P 19 Jun; m RMSP 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*); 1-2 GKP 28 Jun-10 Jul (SZ).

Long-tailed Duck: m Northport 3 Jun; 1-2 GKP 9 Jun-10 Jul (SZ); Southold 12 Jul (JSe); Orient Harbor 23 Jul (JSe).

Hooded Merganser: f CLP 9 Jul (CB).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Shinn 5 Aug (CMcD *et al.*).

Ruddy Duck: GKP 28 Jun.

N. Bobwhite: m s HSP 12 & 16 Jun (PJL); m s FT 16 Jun, 23 Jun, & 7 Jul (JGo, SSM); m s Eastport 16 Jun (DF); m s RMSP 18-21 Jun (SSM *et al.*); m Wainscott 24 Jun (ESc); Orient SP 9 Jul; CCP 17 Aug (TJ); 9 MB 16 Aug (DSc); *intro*.

Red-throated Loon: alt Inwood Hill P 11 Jun (M Alomeri); 3 Amagansett 21 Jun (AnW); 2 Ft Wadsworth, RICH 30 Jun (CB); CCP 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*).

Com. Loon: northbound migr cont thru 21 Jun; Amagansett 5 Jul (AnW); alt Horton's Pt, Southold (L&R Kedenburg).

N. Fulmar: 3 offshore from Montauk 28 Jun (T Garrecht ph).

Cory's Shearwater: arr Fire I Inlet 17 Jun (RJK); 300+ RMSP (SSM) & 100+ Shinn (A Baldelli) 18 Jun, record numbers for date; 442

Amagansett 3 Jul (AnW); max 2,500 MP 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); offshore: max 1,000 sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh); 500 sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh); just 18 on 8 Aug Belmar pelagic to Hudson Canyon (M Fritz *et al.*); several reports of 100-300 Jul-Aug Montauk whalewatches.

Greater Shearwater: arr 17 RMSP 18 Jun (SSM); 20 MP 17 Jul (BBE); max 300 MP 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); offshore: 750 sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh); max 2,500 sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh); just 19 on 8 Aug Belmar pelagic to Hudson Canyon (M Fritz *et al.*); several reports of 100-300 Jul-Aug Montauk whalewatches.

Sooty Shearwater: single digit counts from many ocean vantages thru Jun & Jul; westernmost Riis P 19 Jun (DGo); max from shore 19 RMSP 19 Jun (TB *et al.*); offshore max 20 Montauk whalewatch 5 Jul, small numbers offshore thru.

Manx Shearwater: RMSP reports inc 6 Jun (PJL), 2 on 18 Jun (SSM); 5 on 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*); Amagansett reports inc 2 on 20 Jun (AnW), 3 Jul (AnW), 5 Jul (AnW); MP reports inc 4 on 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels), 2 on 18 Jul (AnW); CCP 18 Jul; offshore: 2 ca. 100 fathom line sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh); several reports of singles from Montauk whalewatches.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 7 Block Canyon 25 Jul (JSh ph); 4 Block Canyon 2 Aug (JSh ph); 8 Hudson Canyon 8 Aug (M Fritz *et al.*); 25 ca. Block Canyon 15 Aug (JSh ph); 26 10-30 nm n Block Canyon 19 Aug (C Pedro, mob ph), some in RI waters.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: max from shore 100+ Shinn 18 Jun (A Baldelli); 113 RMSP 19 Jun (TB *et al.*); 180 Amagansett 21 Jun (AnW); several reports from Riis P, Plumb Beach, and Raritan Bay, where unusual; several reports of 100-400 Montauk whalewatches.

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: 1-2 ca. Block Canyon 16 Aug (JSh ph); 67 nm sse Shinn 17 Aug (JSh ph).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: 12 ca. 75 nm sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh ph); 12 ca. 500 fathom line sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh ph); 25 ca. Block Canyon 15 & 16 Aug (JSh ph), but none 17-18 Aug.

N. Gannet: max 80 RMSP 18 Jun (SSM), all imm; 89 RMSP 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*), one ad.

Brown Pelican: Great Gull I 13 Jun (JDi); Montauk 13 Jun (D Heglund); 2 CCP 18 Jul (A Baldelli, G Tudor); 5 FT 19 Jul; 5 CCP 22 Jul (DK, B May, J Cullen); 3 JBWE 24 Jul (BF); Riis P 25 Jul (RJ).

Am. Bittern: Jericho, NASS 29 Jul (C Hamilton), rare in summer.

Least Bittern: CHP 6 Jun (Rich McG); many reports of 1-2 inds Jam Bay 6 Jul thru, inc juv with down.

Little Blue Heron: max 11 Jam Bay 1 Aug (DGo); nested MI (SSM); ad & 2 juvs William Floyd Estate 23 Jul (MLL); few reports from elsewhere.

Tricolored Heron: max 2 Jam Bay 12 Jul & 22 Aug (DGo); few other reports; declining.

Cattle Egret: Grand Central Parkway, QUEE 22 Jun (SBI); Jam Bay 4 dates 4-18 Jul.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 11 OMNSA 23 Jun (SF).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: imm Jam Bay 13 Aug (TJ), details desired.

Black Vulture: Orient 8 Jun (JBrJr.); Greenport 28 Jul (J Levin); **nest with young** Fort Wadsworth, RICH 16 Jul (W Parker, D Taft, J Wickersty), 1st Reg breeding; *intro*.

Turkey Vulture: many reports thru Region and period, with concentrations North Fork, Calverton, & Gabreski Airport area; max 6 Northville 16 Jun (MLL); 6 Riverhead 25 Jun, & 15 Calverton 27 Jul; Plum I 26 Jun (MLL), notable loc.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: Jam Bay 1 Aug (VP); ad Carman's R 5 Aug; CP 31 Aug.

N. Harrier: arr CP 27 Aug.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Laurel 12 Jun (JBrJr), rare in summer.

Cooper's Hawk: incr and widespread breeder, e.g., nests with yng SSNC 4 Jul (JGI) & William Floyd Estate 18 Jul (MLL), the latter a first for the site.

Broad-winged Hawk: PP 15 Aug (SWh, PD); arr CP 31 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: many nests in cornices of Manhattan buildings (DA); few breeding reports from Long Island, where core breeding area remains Calverton-Riverhead-North Fork; arr Jam Bay 27 Aug (DGo).

Merlin: PP 29 Jul (AxW); arr Jam Bay 20 Aug (RJK).

Peregrine Falcon: residents present Jam Bay, Jones Inlet, Fire I Inlet thru; Ponquogue Bridge, Shinn 10 Jun (L Lupo); many reports of disturbance to breeding and staging waterbirds along LI south shore.

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Orient 2 & 7 Jun (Rob McG), 8 Jun (JBSr), & 15 Jun (*fide* D Taggart).

BLACK RAIL: m s Napeague three dates Jun-Jul (GB, TB, HM, AnW, B Carlson, D Daniels).

Clapper Rail: breeding confirmed Marine P & Plumb Beach (DGo).

Sora: Marine P 22 Jun-6 Jul (J&R Bourque); Herricks, NASS 7 Aug (B Belford ph), found dead; Jam Bay 14 Aug (KF) & 22 Aug (mob).

Com. Moorhen: ad Jam Bay 14 Jun (J Drucker).

Am. Coot: pr Aquebogue thru (A Baldelli); Jam Bay 12 Jul-12 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: 160 Jam Bay 12 Aug; no juvs reported thru end of period.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Jam Bay 12 Aug; several reports of 2-3 by month's end.

Semipalmated Plover: 110 Jam Bay 5 Aug.

Piping Plover: max 40 MI 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*).

Am. Oystercatcher: bred E Pd, Jam Bay; 53 E Pd Jam Bay 12 Aug, many for site; 104 JBWE 27 Jul (SyS).

Am. Avocet: Jam Bay 18 Jul (SBI); CCP 2 Aug (JGI); Sagg 7 Aug (J Ash, A Baldelli); Jam Bay 19 Aug, joined by another 27 Aug thru.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr PB 28 Jun (K&SF), no longer breeds at this and other similar sites in Region.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Aquebogue 9 Aug (A Baldelli).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 CP 26 Jun; max 150 Jam Bay 22 Aug.

"Eastern" Willet: post-breeding gangs inc 78 CCP 8 Jul, 185 CCP 18 Jul; single-digit counts by end of Aug; v few juvs this season.

"Western" Willet: arr ad alt CCP 4 Jul (PJJ, SSM); MB 11 Jul (HM); max 35 JBSP 29 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 275 Jam Bay 4 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 8 Gabreski Airport 28 Jun (A Baldelli, V Pellegrino), inc yng with down; FBF 22 Aug (DGo).

Whimbrel: arr Shinn 28 Jun (SA, DK), widespread in small numbers thereafter; max 9 CCP 1 Aug (DF, D Gill) & 9 Cedar Pt, Southold 8 Aug (K Klecan).

Hudsonian Godwit: ads PB 23 Aug (KF *et al.*), Plumb Beach 25 Aug (DGo), & Jam Bay 27 Aug (DGo *et al.*), only reports.

Marbled Godwit: arr Jam Bay 28 Jul (DGo); MB 21 Aug (A Baldelli, HM); Jam Bay 19 Aug (TF) & 22 Aug (PD).

Ruddy Turnstone: 297 PB 3 Jun (B Young); mid-season max 19 MI 14 Jun (PJJ, SSM).

Red Knot: mid-season max 23 PB 14 Jun (PJJ); no large counts of migrants and few reports of juvs, e.g., one Jam Bay 22 Aug.

Sanderling: 464 PB 2 Jun (B Young); 650 JBSP 24 Jul (BF); 220 MB 14 Aug (AnW).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: mid-season max 301 MI 14 Jun (P JL, SSM); southbound max **4,150** Jam Bay 12 Aug (DGo).

Western Sandpiper: CCP 21 Jun (A Baldelli *et al.* ph), unus date; arr MB 11 Jul (HM); max 9 ads Jam Bay 9 Aug (mob); 11 juvs Jam Bay 27 Aug (DGo).

Least Sandpiper: max 330 Jam Bay 28 Jul, late and low; max count of juvs 160 Jam Bay 22 Aug, late and low.

White-rumped Sandpiper: northbound max 21 PB 14 Jun (P JL); 7 Jam Bay 7 Jun (DGo); southbound arr 2 Jam Bay 5 Aug; max 25 Jam Bay 20-22 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 23 Aug (SA, DK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 28 Jul & HSP 29 Jul; max 9 Deep Hollow, Montauk 30 Aug (JGi).

Dunlin: mid-season max 8 MI 14 Jun (P JL, SSM).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 18 Jul (SA); max 32 Jam Bay 1 Aug, low; first juv 15 Aug, late; away from Jam Bay and Saggs; ad HSP 3 Aug (P JL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr ad Georgica PD 16 Aug (TJ ph), ads rare in Region.

Short-billed Dowitcher: mid-season max 12 MI 21 Jun (SSM *et al.*); arr 66 CCP 26 Jun (SSM), inc one *hendersoni*; southbound max 780 Jam Bay 6 Aug, all ads, late and low; ad PP 21 Jul (RJ), only 2nd ever for site; no large counts of juvs.

Long-billed Dowitcher: ad alt CCP 25 Jul (SSM *et al.*); single ads Jam Bay 28 Jul & later; max 2 Jam Bay 4 Aug; first juv Jam Bay 20 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Jam Bay 15 Aug (SA); max 3 Jam Bay 22 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: ad Jam Bay 26-27 Aug (mob).

RED PHALAROPE (R10): 5 Montauk pelagic **25 Aug** (SA, RJK, DK, BR), v early.

Black-legged Kittiwake: juv Main Beach, EH (AnW).

Bonaparte's Gull: SY MB 28 Jun-4 Jul; SY CCP 4 Jul (P JL *et al.*); Nickerson Beach 11 Jul (BBe).

Laughing Gull: early concentrations e LI inc 100 MP 12 Jun (AnW) & 17 Cutchogue 28 Jun (JBrJr).

Ring-billed Gull: juv CCP 18 Jul (SSM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SY resembling *Larus michahellis* (Yellow-legged Gull) RMSP 4 Jun (SSM ph), *intro.*; TY RMSP 4 Jun (SSM ph); SY Tiana Beach 21 Jun (P JL, SSM ph, *et al.*); SY RMSP 8 Jul (SSM ph); SY JBSP 9 Jul (BF); SY JBSP 27 Jul (SyS); **6 MB** 21

Aug (HM); **12 JBSP** 24 Aug (BF); **9 JBSP** 29 Aug (SA, SSM, *et al.*); ad EH 29 Aug (AnW); *intro.*, also p. 337 this issue.

Gull-billed Tern: pr JBWE 23 Jun-25 Jul; unprecedented numbers at Jam Bay: 3 on 7 Jun, **13** on 26 Jul, **24** on 31 Jul, & **12** on 1 Aug (DGo! ph, mob), all ads; see spring 2009 report.

Caspian Tern: CCP 4 Jul (P JL, SSM), PB 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*), PB 22 Jul (DK *et al.*), unus dates; Jam Bay 10 Aug (A Baksh); Captree SP 28 Aug (SSM).

Black Tern: Tiana Beach 2 Jun; Shinn 6 Jun; ad RMSP 18 Jun (SSM); ad RMSP 19 Jun (TWB *et al.*); ads CCP 10, 18, 25 Jul (mob); 4 CCP 1 Aug (DF, D Gill); 2 10 mi s MP 5 Aug (mob); 2 Jam Bay 5 Aug; widely reported after 5 Aug; major influx 29 Aug, under *Danny's* influence: 8 Plumb Beach (DGo), 8 JBWE (SA *et al.*), one at Tobay (SA *et al.*), 7 RMSP (SA *et al.*), 11 Main Beach, EH (AnW), & **200** Napeague (AnW); max **261** Napeague Harbor 30 Aug (AnW), comparable to high counts of 1998 & 1999.

Roseate Tern: present DP, CCP, Shinn, and points east; major west to east flight 29 Aug: 8 JBWE, 40 RMSP, 326 Main Beach, EH (AnW).

Com. Tern: 12 SY CCP 4 Jul (SSM), max for age-group; major west to east flight 29 Aug: 450 JBWE, 1,423 Main Beach, EH (AnW); 1,043 DP 30 Aug (SSM *et al.*), still moving e.

ARCTIC TERN: about 9 records: arr ad-like CCP 7 Jun (SWh ph); TY CCP 13 (P JL, SSM ph) & 21 Jun (P JL, SSM ph, *et al.* ph); ad-like DP 19 Jun (SSM ph); SY MB 29 Jun (ESc ph); ad-like & 2 SY CCP 3 Jul (JGI ph, SWh ph); 2 SY present 4 Jul also; SY MB 8 Jul (JSh ph); ad-like CCP 10 Jul (SBI, DG ph, *et al.* ph); *intro.*

Forster's Tern: CCP reports ad alt 30 Jun (B Adamo, A Baldelli), SY 4 & 8 Jul (SSM), and TY & fresh juv 25 Jul (SSM); eastward dispersal by mid Aug, e.g., 25 Mecox 16 Aug (AnW), 19 Main Beach, EH (AnW).

Royal Tern: max 15 MB 4 Jul (HM) & 46 PB 9 Aug (A Baldelli *et al.*).

SANDWICH TERN: ad bas CCP 4 Jul (P JL, SSM ph *et al.*) & 25 Jul (P JL, SSM ph *et al.*); 2 MB 21 Aug (A. Baldelli, HM).

Black Skimmer: 450 Nickerson Beach 11 Jul (BBe), major colony; 423 inc 37 juvs Plumb Beach 25 Aug (DGo).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 42 nm sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh ph); 23 nm sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh).

Pomarine Jaeger: subadult 80 nm sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh ph).

Parasitic Jaeger: all reports included: JBSP 6 Jun (GB, TB); CCP 6 Jun (GB, TWB); 2 ads East Hampton 7 Jun (AnW); subadult MP 12 Jun (AnW); ad Im RMSP 16 Jun (DK) & 18 Jun (SSM); Tiana Beach 18 Jun (A Baldelli); imm RMSP 19 Jun (TB *et al.*); subadult Amagansett 20 Jun (AnW); 3 subadults MP 21 Jun (AnW); ad Im RMSP 8 Jul (PJL, SSM); 3 MP 8 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); imm CCP 10 Jul (DGo *et al.*); ad Montauk whalewatch 27 Jul; 2 Montauk whalewatch 5 Aug (SSM *et al.*); 6 Main Beach, EH 29 Aug (A. Baldelli).
Dovekie: 2 birds, 51 nm & 62 nm sse Shinn 27 Jun (JSh ph); 74 nm sse Shinn 4 Jul (JSh ph).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: nesting Brooklyn 7 Jul (B Carlson, D Daniels); Riverhead 14 Aug.
Black-billed Cuckoo: Jam Bay 14 Jun (J Drucker); FT 23 Jun; Eastport 25 Jun (SyS).
Com. Nighthawk: Babylon 1 Jun (SF); 1-2 SI home 13-20 Jul (E Callahan); arr Quogue 3 Aug (ESc); max 100+ CP 23 CP (TF).
Chuck-will's-widow: breeders reported Westhampton & Napeague.
Whip-poor-will: breeders reported Westhampton & Napeague.
Chimney Swift: 45 CP 7 Aug (B Cacace).
Red-headed Woodpecker: CP 3 Jun (RDeC, mob); nested Calverton again this year: ads fd yng 17 Jun (B Adamo); ads with fledged juv 30 Jul (DGo, J Pawlicki); ads exchanging at nest hole 1 Aug (PJL *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Springs, East Hampton 6 Jun; CP 31 Aug (TF).
E. Wood-Pewee: late migr inc CCP 14 Jun & FT 23 Jun; present CP 1 Jun-5 Jul (DA); pr fledged 3 yng HLSP (S Schellenger); arr CP 12 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: CP 3 Jun; Gardiner Co P 4 Jun (JGI); BHP 6 Jun (HF); Wertheim NWR 7 Jun (D Taggart); Hoyt Farm, SUFF 8 Jun; FP 12 Jun (Karlo Mirth); PP 12 Jun (RJ); failed nest VSSP (BBe, MBa, *et al.*).
Alder Flycatcher: PP 3 Jun (AxW); William Floyd Estate (C Starace, S Swain).
Least Flycatcher: Jam Bay 7 Jun, late; 21 Jun Hunters Garden (A Baksh, C. Finger), plausible breeding site.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr CP 9 Aug.
E. Kingbird: 12 migr Jam Bay 19 Aug; 15 migr CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne); max 65 FBF 29 Aug (DGo) .

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Fresh Kills x Richmond Ave., RICH 12 Jun (C Hagen).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Rocky Pt DEC 1 Jun (R Kaskan); PP 21 Jun (RJ); nested APP (EM, SWa); arr CP 31 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: s FT 16 Jun (JGo, SSM), unus loc.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr CP 12 Aug.

COMMON RAVEN (R10): FP 12 Jul (S Plust); 2 Roslyn Harbor 14 Aug (R Kedenburg); 2 Shu Swamp 22 Aug (SWa).

Horned Lark: breeders noted Grumman, Gabreski Airport, PB, north shore of Easthampton.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr CP 31 Aug.

Brown Creeper: Greenport 26 Jul (S Arnott Heaney).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr CP 12 Aug; max 20 CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne).

Veery: arr CP 23 Aug.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: CP 1 Jun.

Am. Robin: albino HLSP 16 Jul (S Schellenger).

Cedar Waxwing: unusually numerous & widespread SI this season (MSh); max 80 CP (B Cacace), present there thru period.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr CP 9 Aug.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: CP 14 Aug (TF).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Jam Bay 14 Aug (KF).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 26 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr CP 31 Aug.

N. Parula: m s William Floyd Estate 7 Jun & carrying food 20 Jul (MLL), second year nesting there; arr CP 14 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: arr CP 17 Jul.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr CP 12 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr CP 25 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CP 31 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr CP 29 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: m s FP 23 Jun (KM), late; arr CP 12 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 10-12 Edgewood Pres DEC, Deer Park 1 Jun; arr CP 12 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last William Floyd Estate 7 Jun (MLL); arr CP 30 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: first migr DOP 18 Jul (AxW) & CP 2 Aug (J Cole).

Am. Redstart: arr CP 7 Aug (B Cacace).

Prothonotary Warbler: DOP 29 Jun (SBI); PP 14 Aug (SWh).

Worm-eating Warbler: Rocky Pt DEC 1 Jun (R Kaskan); Riverhead 3 Jun; APP 21 Jun (SWa); FBF 28 Jun (PD); ad banded SSNC 9 Jul (SSM), prior to molt; molting ad b FT 27 Jul (JGo, SSM); *intro*.

Ovenbird: 1-2 s thru Jun APP (EM, SWa), where absent both Atlases; arr CP 6 Aug.

N. Waterthrush: arr CP 17 Jul; arr Jam Bay 28 Jul; max 12 Jam Bay 20 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CP 5 Jul; Greenport 25 Jul (G Rowsom); CLP 30 Jul (CB).

Kentucky Warbler: CP 23 Aug (M Van Vlack).

Mourning Warbler: FP 1 Jun; m CP 2 Jun; 4 PP 3 Jun; Jam Bay 7 Jun (T Preston); southbound arr CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne).

Com. Yellowthroat: arr CP 12 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: m s North Sea 27 Jun; southbound arr CP 12 Aug (TF).

Wilson's Warbler: CP 3 Jul (DA, RDeC), unus date.

Canada Warbler: arr CP 8 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 1-3 Gabreski Airport 3-12 Jul (JGl, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: Northville nests mowed twice but 2 m still on terr 22 Jul (MLL).

Grasshopper Sparrow: breeders Grumman & Gabreski.

Lincoln's Sparrow: PP 3 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: s Snug Harbor, RICH 3 Jun (MSh), v unus date.

Summer Tanager: f Park Slope 1 Jun (R Campos); PP 25 Aug (SWh).

Scarlet Tanager: arr CP 16 Aug.

Blue Grosbeak: f & SY m Eastport 1-18 Jun plus one there 17 Jul, from spring; m Calverton 2 Jun (GF, JQ); f APP 9 Jun; m s Gabreski 3 Jul (R Kaskan); ad m Camp Hero, Montauk 30 Aug (JGi).

Indigo Bunting: PP thru 10 Jul (D Perry, RJ), possibly breeding.

Bobolink: arr CP 14 Aug (TF).

Baltimore Oriole: max 30 CHP 19 Aug (RRV, L Manne).

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Jam Bay 5 Aug thru (mob).



Black Vulture, Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, 16 Jul 09. First confirmed Region 10 breeding record. Video still copyright Jason Wickersty, National Park Service.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

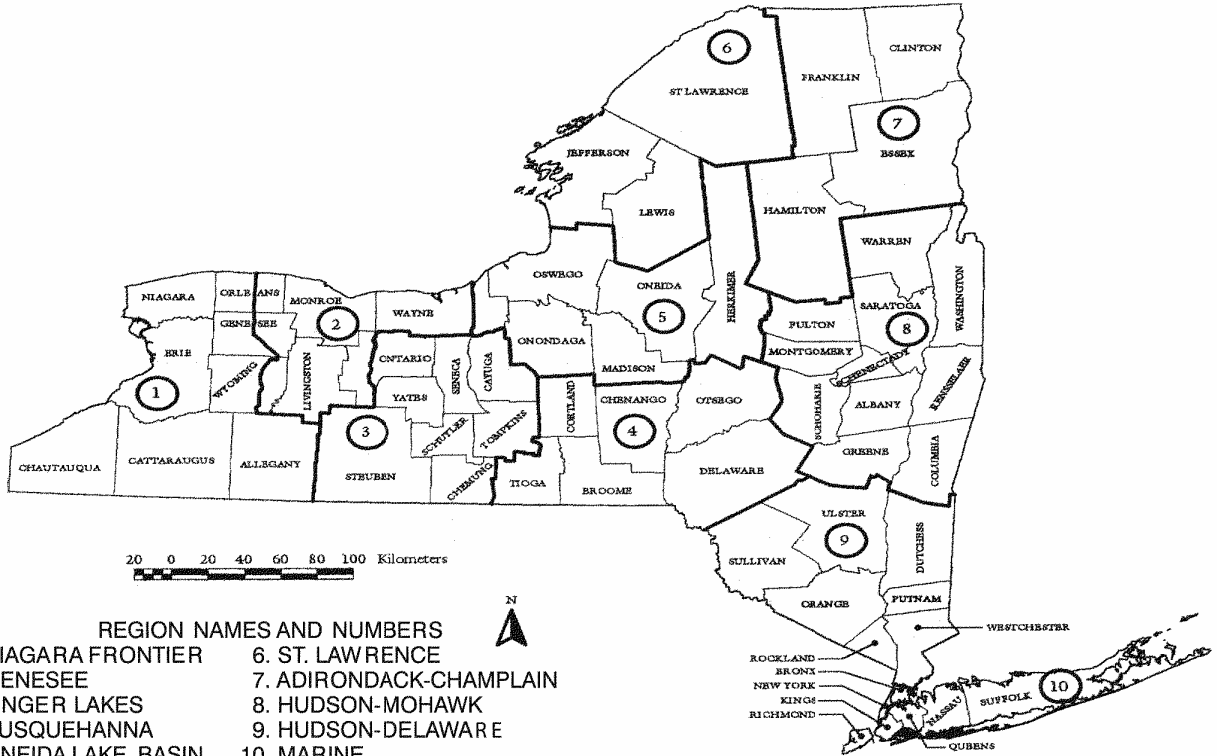
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



- REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS**
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. NIAGARA FRONTIER | 6. ST. LAWRENCE |
| 2. GENESEE | 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN |
| 3. FINGER LAKES | 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK |
| 4. SUSQUEHANNA | 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE |
| 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN | 10. MARINE |

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