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# LEGALITIES AND PRACTICALITIES OF SALVAGING DEAD BIRDS FOR MUSEUM SPECIMENS

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Recently on the NYSbirds-L listserv, an observer reported that a possible Pacific Loon had washed up on a Long Island beach. The birder, recognizing that this might be an important record to document with a specimen, wondered if s/he should pick up the bird and bring it to a museum, and whether it was legal to do this. Digital photos eventually made the rounds and it turned out that the bird, which was never salvaged, was a Common Loon. This incident provoked a very long “thread” of discussion among the listserv readers regarding the legalities and practice of bird specimen salvage by the bird-observing public. By the time the listserv administrator cut off the discussion it was clear that New York birders appreciate the scientific value of specimens (e.g., as discussed by Kirchman 2008, *Kingbird* 58: 214-219), but that the legal implications of picking up a dead bird are not well known. One point of agreement was that there is a need for some clarification of the laws and permits that govern the salvage of birds in New York. As curator of the ornithology collection at the New York State Museum, and an enthusiastic (and permitted) salvager, I am in a position to provide some of the needed clarification and have decided to summarize in this article what I know about the subject.

***Laws Governing the Salvage of Birds***—The question birders have is “Is it legal to pick up and transport that dead bird?” The short answer is “no”. From a museum curator’s perspective, this is unfortunate; we are happy to receive birds from people who innocently put a road-killed, cat-killed, or window-killed bird in their freezer and then bring their frozen birds to the museum rather than leaving them to rot at the side of the road. I want state and federal wildlife agencies to protect our (living) birds, but I also know the scientific value of a specimen with accurate date and locality data. However, citizens that pick up a dead bird are in violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (hereafter MBTA) unless they hold a permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service or are listed as a subpermittee of a permit holder. Further, if they do not also hold a New York State Fish and Wildlife Special License to Collect or Possess they are in violation of New York State law (Article 11, Title 3), which simply states that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) “shall adopt rules and regulations in relation to migratory game birds consistent with federal regulations made under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act”.

The federal MBTA and the state laws that follow it were born in an era of large-scale commercial hunting of wild birds for the millenary industry; people were shotgunning whole heron rookeries to harvest egret feathers that were used to adorn hats. The well publicized demise of the last Passenger Pigeon in 1914 also made it clear that commercial markets for birds and bird parts were leading to huge losses of wild bird populations. At the same time, sport hunters were pushing for a federal law that would unify state waterfowl hunting regulations and eliminate commercial harvest of ducks and geese. The MBTA made it illegal for people to "take" migratory birds, their eggs, feathers or nests. Take is defined in the MBTA to include by any means or in any manner, any attempt at hunting, pursuing, wounding, killing, possessing or transporting any migratory bird, nest, egg, or part thereof. A migratory bird is any native species belonging to a family of birds that live, reproduce or migrate within or across international borders at some point during their annual life cycle. Because there are no bird families that reside entirely within the boundaries of the United States, this definition of "migratory" covers all native bird species found in the United States, regardless of whether or not they migrate. European Starlings, Rock Pigeons, House Sparrows and other non-native species are not protected by the MBTA. Thus, as of March 1, 2010 (the most recent update to the official list of species covered by the MBTA) the total number of species protected under the MBTA is 1007, 58 of which are currently legally hunted as game birds. This list and other details regarding the MBTA can be viewed at:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/RegulationsPolicies/mbta>

The federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 provides additional, specific protections to both our eagle species.

**Practicalities**—As a condition of our permits, institutions such as the NYSM disclose in annual reports all salvaged birds, but these reports do not require disclosure of the identities of individual salvagers. In practice, government agencies understand that the motivation behind bird salvage is the advancement of ornithology, and that the spirit of the laws is to protect living animals. Enforcement of the MBTA is consequently very rare in cases where individuals are attempting to salvage specimens in good faith (eagles and their feathers have special protection and are an exception in this regard). In fact, I do not know of a single case in which a citizen was charged with violation of the MBTA for salvaging birds for a museum.

I think everyone, including the federal and state agencies that regulate us, is sympathetic to the desire to "make the most" out of the natural death of a wild animal. This is why the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the NYSDEC issue permits to research museums and educational institutions to allow their staff to possess and transport whole dead birds and bird parts for the purpose of building specimen collections that have undisputed educational and research value. USFWS issues different permit types (Special Purpose-Salvage, Scientific Collecting, Special Purpose-Possession for Educational (Dead)) depending on the needs of the institution that is applying for the permit. Individuals who have regularly salvaged specimens for permitted institutions in the past and might

expect to do so in the future can also be designated as agents of the permit-holders in question, or they can apply for their own permits:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/mbpermits/ApplicationForms.html>

The NYSDEC allows individuals to salvage birds by issuing a Special License To Collect or Possess. Details and applications can be viewed at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/359.html>

Museums generally refrain from advising citizens on how to handle dead birds, but the NYSDEC's Wildlife Pathology Unit provides this kind of information on their web page under the heading *If You Find Dead Wildlife*:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6957.html>

The Wildlife Pathology Unit is responsible for diagnosing and monitoring causes of illness and death in the state's birds and other wildlife, and they encourage the public to report wildlife found dead to the NYSDEC's Regional Wildlife Offices or to the WPU directly. The NYSDEC is especially interested in cases involving species of special interest or marked specimens (research study animals), and in cases of mass mortality or recurring mortality. State education law (SED 233) gives the New York State Museum right of first refusal on all items held in the possession of the state, and employees of the Regional Wildlife Offices and the WPU contact the NYSM or one of the other two big research museums in the state with active programs in ornithology (Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates and American Museum of Natural History) from time to time to offer us birds legally salvaged in this way.

In addition to directing readers to the NYSDEC, I had hoped to provide in this article a list of permit holders so that birders would know who their "local salvager" is and could contact them directly when a bird is found. I contacted both the state and federal agencies and requested a list of the names of institutions within New York that hold these permits, explaining that I wished to contact permit holders and ask if they wanted to include their contact information in my article. Both agencies declined to help me in this regard. The NYSDEC Special Licenses Unit was willing, but is not able to search its database for permits to salvage birds because Special Licenses to Collect and Possess are issued for many reasons in addition to bird salvage. The USFWS Migratory Birds Office was unwilling to provide me with the names of permit holders, stating that "besides the obvious Privacy Act issues, his message should be, leave it where it is". Readers of *The Kingbird*, as the most active and knowledgeable bird observers in New York State, are the most likely people to find a dead bird and recognize the importance of preserving it as a specimen. My message to them is to be mindful of the law, and contact your local permitted salvager, the NYSDEC, or the New York State Museum for advice when you find a dead bird.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Paul Sweet for friendly advice, to Kim Bostwick for sharing with me her own written attempts to explain the complexities of bird salvage to the bird-watching public, and to an anonymous reviewer.

# PREDICTIONS OF SPECIES TO BE ADDED TO THE NEW YORK STATE CHECKLIST—v. 4.0

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As of the summer of 2010, the *Official Checklist of the Birds of New York State* stood at 475 species. Of those, only about 325 are seen in the state annually, which means that at least 150 species have occurred here as vagrants. At this point, adding a new species to the list is no easy task. A Broad-billed Sandpiper just popped into Jamaica Bay, you say? Certainly a mega-rarity on the continental level, but it's not a new addition. You found the second North American record of Azure Gallinule, and it's in New York? Well, the first happened to be here as well. Western Reef-Heron? Old news. Painted Redstart? Been done. Herald Petrel? Yawn. (Okay, maybe that doesn't warrant a yawn, but it still wouldn't be a first state record.)

Of the six most recent additions to the NYS checklist, one was only the fourth North American record of the species, another was one of only a very few individuals found east of the Mississippi River, and another was the first record of its species for the entire East Coast of North America. Nonetheless, despite the seemingly long odds, it still seems to happen just about every year, and sometimes more than once a year, that a wayward species never before seen in the state, hundreds of miles from home (or at least from where it's supposed to be), runs afoul of an alert New York birder who recognizes it for what it is.

It's a stimulating exercise and a common practice among birders to speculate which new bird species will show up in a certain place, be it a country, state, county, or simply a local patch or park. This speculation has periodically made its way into the pages of *The Kingbird*, in the form of five experienced New York State birders being polled about both the next ten species to be added to the state list and the next five new species to be added to the confirmed breeders list (Able 1983, Levine 1994, Levine 2002). Thinking along those lines, but in an attempt to make it a more inclusive exercise than the previous iterations, a larger sample of New York birders was polled for the same two questions. The individual lists were ordered from most likely to least likely to occur in the respondent's opinion, and a composite list was generated.

There are many considerations to take into account when predicting which birds will be officially added to the checklist; most of these criteria were mentioned by one or more respondents. The most important, and obvious, consideration is that the bird must actually show up in the state. While this in and of itself seems like a simple enough concept, there are several very important factors that affect the likelihood of a species appearing within our borders. Some of the most commonly mentioned are: 1) proximity of the species' normal range to New York State; 2) tendency of the species to wander

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(this is often tied to the next factor); 3) whether the species is highly migratory, and how far it migrates; 4) size of the overall population of the species; and 5) noticeable temporal changes in distribution.

With these thoughts in mind it is interesting to ponder that some species which seem to be ideal candidates, according to a couple of these factors, have yet to be recorded with certainty. Carolina Chickadee, for example, breeds mere miles away from the New York State border in some places, and is a common bird with a relatively robust population. While being a good candidate for vagrancy to New York for two of the reasons mentioned above (proximity and population size/commonness), it does not fit the bill in some other respects: it doesn't show a strong tendency to wander outside of its range, and it does not undertake a long distance migration.

Conversely, some species that would not seem like ideal candidates for vagrancy to New York State, if one looks only at the distance of their normal ranges away from New York, have actually become almost annual, and occur within the state in numbers in some years. Two examples are Cave Swallow and Ash-throated Flycatcher, both of which do not "regularly" occur any closer than several hundred miles to the Southwest. These two are good examples of species that undertake long fall migrations and, especially in the last decade or two, have shown quite a tendency to wander in late autumn. Since the detected pattern of their wandering seems to be to the Northeast and during a small window of time (late October through November), it would appear that their long migrations are the principal driving factor of their vagrancy here.

An example of a small population size contributing to a lack of records is the Kirtland's Warbler. While we annually see species that undertake migrations similar to that of the Kirtland's Warbler, its population is so small that it's not just rare in the state, it's unheard of. On the other hand, several arctic-breeding goose populations have skyrocketed over the past decade or more, and we now expect to see Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese in northeastern North America every winter, almost assuredly because there are far more of them around. As for changes in distribution, Eurasian Collared-Dove was an amazing rarity in NYS just 10 years ago, but with its prodigious range expansion it is now seen here almost annually—and has even been proven to breed this year with records of young seen in Monroe County, one of its recent strongholds.

Two other extremely important factors are weather and the geography of New York. Again, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Cave Swallow can serve as good examples, as their autumn vagrancy is undoubtedly augmented by weather patterns, so that a strong southwesterly air flow will lead to greater numbers of them turning up in the state. The likelihood of different vagrant species occurring in the state changes throughout the year. While this late autumn window is best for the two southwestern long-distance migrants mentioned above, spring and late summer are the best time for southern vagrants, as we tend to see adults overshooting their spring migrations from April-June, and then wandering juveniles, or adults undergoing post-breeding dispersal from July until their migration starts. This temporal change in the probability of occurrence of different species also means that different weather patterns are



more advantageous for vagrants depending on the time of year. While a strong south wind in the spring can lead to overshoots like Fulvous Whistling-Duck or Gray Kingbird, that same wind in the fall or winter is not likely to turn up many rarities. When looking for seabirds such as shearwaters on the coast from the spring through fall, a strong easterly component to the wind always offers the best chance if given a choice. Of course, different weather patterns will prove more advantageous for different areas of the state due to New York's size and interesting geography.

The unique shape of New York State gives it an ideal situation to collect vagrants from several different directions. Northern New York is at a high enough latitude to annually attract most of the northern specialties of eastern North America, such as Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Grosbeak, and it attracts straying Northern Hawk-Owls relatively frequently. New York stretches far enough north that these species are annual or semi-annual despite the natural barriers of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. However, while Lake Ontario acts as something of a barrier to birds coming from the north, it also creates a migratory funnel along its southern and eastern shores, which produces Swainson's Hawks annually in the spring as well as interesting vagrant passerines annually. New York stretches far enough to the west that Western Meadowlark and Brewer's Blackbird are not unexpected there. Some large lakes in central New York, notably the larger Finger Lakes but also Lakes Oneida and Onondaga, have proven to be excellent traps for vagrants as well. As we go south, the Hudson River Valley has a solid history of turning up rarities, especially around land masses that protrude out into the river, such as Piermont Pier and Croton Point, the former of which produced the famous adult Ivory Gull in February 2007. Vagrant hummingbird reports for downstate seem to be clustered around the Hudson River as well, with Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers and Fort Tryon and Battery Parks in Manhattan being good spots to look for these.

The most productive area hands down, however, for vagrants in New York State is Long Island. It stretches much farther east than any other part of the State, is also at the southern tip of the state, and, of course, happens to have an extensive border with the Atlantic Ocean. Of the last eight first state records, six have come from this comparatively small piece of land and the waters surrounding it. (One of the remaining two was in Manhattan, the next closest place to Long Island in New York). Any bird getting pushed from the west over land will come to its last landfall before the un-crossable Atlantic Ocean here, and any bird coming from over the ocean to the east or southeast will encounter Long Island first. Also, many of the birds following the coast down from farther north are reluctant to continue south beyond Long Island over water, preferring instead to turn west and pass along its shores before leaving New York, giving birders ample opportunity to find them.

Of course, just because a bird is within the friendly confines of our fine state doesn't mean it will be added to the state list. Making it here against long odds is only half the battle. Equally important is that some lucky observer stumbles across it. There are undoubtedly dozens, and probably hundreds, of vagrants that pass through New York State every year without making their way

onto the permanent record, for the simple reason that nobody ever sees them. Perhaps a small portion of these can be attributed to misidentification of a rarity as a more common species (this is where the experience and awareness of the observer certainly come into play); however, this portion of misidentified birds is probably very small compared to the number that are simply never encountered by a birder or other alert observer. As you read this, it is likely that, somewhere in New York State, multiple species that are on the NYS Avian Records Committee review list are going undetected, quite possibly some that have never before been recorded in New York.

Thus, in predicting the next species to be added to the New York State checklist one must go beyond asking which species are most likely to find their way here. One must also consider strongly what areas receive the most birding coverage; a vagrant likely to wind up in a New York City park stands a much greater chance of being found (i.e., Scott's Oriole) than one that is more likely to show up in a farm field upstate, say for a random example, in Yates County, where the birding population is smaller and the ground to cover is larger. (Who knows how many McCown's Longspurs or Sprague's Pipits have passed through upstate New York, either in large flocks of more common field species, or even singly?) New York waters have undoubtedly hosted a number of species of pelagic birds that are not on the New York State list simply by virtue of there being an effective 0% coverage of the deeper waters. While it is undisputedly a great trap for migrants and vagrants alike, one of the reasons *Kingbird* Region 10 (Long Island and New York City) has had such a high percentage of first state records is certainly because of its limited suitable habitat which is covered by more birders than any other area in the state, especially compared to where extensive available habitat can be far too overwhelming to be covered by the much smaller numbers of birders in those areas.

Coverage is one of the major reasons that Cayuga Lake has such a disproportionately high number of rarities found in comparison to the other neighboring Finger Lakes. If a Magnificent Frigatebird had been winging south over Seneca Lake in the autumn of 2008, it is unlikely that it ever would have been found, especially if it didn't last until the next day like that unfortunate Cayuga Lake individual. In fact, we can't say that one DIDN'T do just that. This illustrates another important point: the longer a bird stays around, the higher the likelihood that it will be detected. That new record for the New York checklist needs to be found before it continues on its already wayward journey (not easy for birds that simply fly over and give you very little time with which to view them), or before it dies. The latter point was borne out in the occurrence of the state's first Hammond's Flycatcher, which became lunch for a Merlin barely 24 hours after being found, as well as the recent Thick-billed Murre at Hempstead Lake State Park (Nassau County) which lasted only a couple of days before dying of starvation.

Finally, an important consideration to be taken into account is whether or not a bird, once seen, will actually be added to the checklist. The modern NYS checklist had its beginnings with John Bull's milestone work, *Birds of New York* (1974) and has been a major responsibility of the New York State Avian

Records Committee (NYSARC) since its inception in 1977. For a new species to be added to the list, documentation must be submitted to NYSARC and the committee must vote to accept it. Thorough documentation is an absolute necessity for any mega-rarity, and especially for a potential first state record. There are almost certainly some species that have shown up in the state and have been seen by one or more competent observers yet are not on the state list. This is generally due to some failure in documentation, or at the very least, documentation not reaching the threshold for a new first state record. While it is certainly true that there are a number of accurate reports that haven't been accepted, there are few, if any, accepted reports that aren't accurate. This applied level of stringency is even more pronounced on first state records and documentation of these birds must be especially accurate and thorough.

Because of this acceptance factor, species that are especially difficult to identify (e.g., Carolina Chickadee and Lesser Nighthawk), or whose occurrences tend to be brief (e.g., many seabirds and migrating raptors—Ferruginous Hawk comes to mind), were probably under-represented among the predictions. The possibility of hybridization presents another hurdle, and this factor probably helps explain why Glaucous-winged Gull, to take just one example, didn't get more support from respondents.

## METHODS

I solicited lists from 42 currently or formerly active New York State birders. Twenty-four people responded with lists of ten potential new additions to the NYS checklist: John Askildsen, Shawn Billerman, Shane Blodgett, Mike Bochnik, Brent Bomkamp, P. A. Buckley, Tom Burke, Mike Cooper, Willie, D'Anna, Jacob Drucker, Andrew Farnsworth, Corey Finger, Bob Gochfeld, Doug Gochfeld, Dave Klauber, Bob Kurtz, Heydi Lopes, Shai Mitra, Bob Paxton, Jim Pawlicki, Sean Sime, Bob Spahn, Dick Veit, and Scott Whittle. Of these, 18 also contributed lists of five potential new breeding species: John Askildsen, Shawn Billerman, Brent Bomkamp, P. A. Buckley, Tom Burke, Mike Cooper, Willie, D'Anna, Jacob Drucker, Andrew Farnsworth, Bob Gochfeld, Doug Gochfeld, Bob Kurtz, Shai Mitra, Bob Paxton, Sean Sime, Bob Spahn, and Dick Veit.

Two species, Trumpeter Swan and Mitred Parakeet, were disallowed. Although they may be added to the NYS checklist in the future, the naturalization of introduced populations is far from the focus of this exercise. In the same vein, subspecies that might be elevated to full species status weren't considered eligible if they have already occurred in the state (e.g., "Western" Willet). Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Ground-Dove, and Hermit Warbler were allowed on the lists because requests for lists went out before the recent records of these species occurred or became known. Similarly, Mississippi Kite and Eurasian Collared-Dove were allowed on lists predicting the next five breeding species because lists were solicited before breeding was confirmed in summer 2010.

## RESULTS

Collectively, the 24 lists of ten potential additions to the state list included 78 species, and the 18 lists of five potential new breeders included 33 species. For the purposes of presentation here, the popularity of each species was assessed by (a) counting the number of lists on which it was included; (b) summing the ranks assigned by each contributor who chose it, with ten (or five, for new breeders) being the rank assigned to the species considered most likely; and (c) computing the product of (a) and (b). The resulting index provided a means of balancing the counts and the rank-sums, so that species chosen on a larger number of lists, but at somewhat lower ranks, would not necessarily be ranked lower than a species chosen at very high rank on a smaller number of lists.

Little Egret was the clear favorite among potential new species, being included on 16 of 24 lists and receiving a rank-sum of 125. No other species was listed on more than 11 lists or received a rank-sum greater than 77. Table 1 presents the 21 species deemed most likely to be added to the NYS checklist, including all species named on four or more lists, and it specifies the rank, if any, assigned to each of these species by each contributor. Table 2 lists 56 additional species that were named, along with the number of lists, rank-sum, and index for each.

Mississippi Kite, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Royal Tern led the way among potential new breeders, being named on 12-13 of the 18 lists, and receiving rank-sums of 45-55. No other species was included on more than four lists or received a rank-sum over 13. Table 3 presents the 15 species deemed NYS' most likely new breeders, including all species listed on two or more lists.

As might be expected, the lists varied greatly in terms of their degree of conformity with the overall set. Among the lists of ten new species, four lists included as few as four of the 21 species ranked highest overall, and all included at least one species not among the top 21. Among the lists of five new breeders, some included as few as two or three of the 15 highest ranked species, whereas five consisted exclusively of species in the top 15.

It was very interesting to note the different themes among many of the respondents, often correlated with where and how they approach birding, but also dependent on other factors including where they were from originally, and their age. Avid seabirders tended to be more confident that the next, if not the next few, new species would come from the scantily birded vastness of the Atlantic Ocean. Although most of the non-seabirds on the lists were species from the West, respondents with European origins or leanings were much more likely to look east. Respondents who have been birding for a shorter period of time seemed to favor some species without long histories of vagrancy, but with a recent sighting or two in the Northeast (read: Brown-chested Martin), more so than some of the people who have gone through this exercise before. Those people who scour the October and November gardens famous for pulling in vagrant hummingbirds predictably listed several hummingbird species, whereas one respondent deliberately excluded all hummingbirds in favor of species more likely to be detected away from feeders and gardens.

Table 1. Predicted additions to the New York State Checklist. Species are listed in descending order by the product of # and sum, where # is the number of votes each species received, out of 24 total, and sum = the sum of the ranks assigned to these votes, with 10 being the highest.

Species	JAs	SBi	SBI	MBo	BBa	PAB	TBu	MCo	VDA	JDr	AFa	CFi	BGo	DGo	DKl	BKu	HLo	SMi	BPa	JPa	SSi	BSp	DVe	SWh	#	sum	
Little Egret	4	3		9	8	10		10	3		10		3	9		9	10	9			10	8	10		16	125	
Allen's Hummingbird	10	10	6	4	6	6			5		10								5				9	6	11	77	
Tropical Kingbird	2	6					10	8	1		7					8	2	8						10	10	62	
Black-ch. Hummingbird		9		5	7	7	7		6				10				7				8				9	66	
Green Violet-Ear						9		3		3	8			5	3	6				8		4	6		10	55	
Yellow-legged Gull			1			4	6		10	9						6		10	6			6				9	58
Black-bell. Whistling Duc	9		8	10	10				8				5				4		10							8	64
Hermit Warbler	8	7	10	3	2		3												2		6					8	41
European Golden-Plover			2		3					6		8		5	4		9							2	8	39	
Violet-green Swallow							4	5	2					7			8	7		6						7	39
Lesser Sand-Plover		2						2			9			6	3	5				5		1				8	33
Common Ground-Dove		5	9	6										8			5				9					6	42
Brown-chested Martin			4		9							4			2					4		5				6	28
Carolina Chickadee	7						4		10				1									9				5	31
Black-browed Albatross												6	7		10				9							4	32
Kirtland's Warbler							1		9					10						10						4	30
Snowy Plover							6	7	4							10										4	27
Gray Flycatcher			3		5	8																	8			4	24
Band-tailed Pigeon		1		7	4															7						4	19
Clark's Grebe			7			3	8																	1	4	19	
Fea's Petrel						2									7			6			3					4	18
conformity	6	8	9	7	9	8	7	7	9	5	4	4	5	6	6	6	8	5	5	6	5	6	4	4			

Table 2. Other species predicted to occur in New York State.

Rank	Species	#	sum	index
22	Neotropic Cormorant	3	19	57
23	Virginia's Warbler	3	19	57
24	Brown Noddy	3	18	54
25	Lesser Goldfinch	3	16	48
26	McCown's Longspur	3	14	42
27	Bean Goose	2	17	34
28	Shiny Cowbird	3	11	33
29	European Storm-Petrel	3	10	30
30	Kelp Gull	2	15	30
31	Masked Booby	2	14	28
32	Arctic Loon	2	13	26
33	Macaronesian Shearwater ( <i>baroli</i> )	3	8	24
34	Great-tailed Grackle	3	7	21
35	Ferruginous Hawk	3	6	18
36	Variegated Flycatcher	3	6	18
37	Sprague's Pipit	2	9	18
38	Garganey	2	8	16
39	Mediterranean Gull	2	8	16
40	Prairie Falcon	2	8	16
41	Western Wood-Pewee	2	8	16
42	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	2	7	14
43	Cape Verde Shearwater	2	5	10
44	Bristle-thighed Curlew	1	9	9
45	Chaffinch	1	9	9
46	Gray Heron	2	4	8
47	Common Redshank	1	8	8
48	Long-toed Stint	1	8	8
49	Bermuda Petrel (Cahow)	1	7	7
50	Glaucous-winged Gull	1	7	7
51	Greater Sand-Plover	1	7	7
52	Phainopepla	1	7	7
53	Groove-billed Ani	1	6	6
54	Bronzed Cowbird	1	5	5
55	Brown-Crested Flycatcher	1	5	5
56	Bulwer's Petrel	1	5	5
57	Dusky Flycatcher	1	5	5
58	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	1	5	5
59	Yellow Wagtail	1	5	5
60	Elegant Tern	1	4	4
61	Eurasian Kestrel	1	4	4
62	Steller's Eider	1	4	4
63	White Wagtail	1	4	4
64	Common Greenshank	1	3	3
65	Hooded Oriole	1	3	3
66	Mottled Duck	1	3	3
67	Common Black Hawk	1	2	2
68	Cordilleran Flycatcher	1	2	2
69	Great Knot	1	2	2
70	Lesser Nighthawk	1	2	2
71	Masked Duck	1	2	2
72	Wood Pigeon	1	2	2
73	Black Swift	1	1	1
74	Black-throated Sparrow	1	1	1
75	Chiffchaff	1	1	1
76	Limpkin	1	1	1
77	Southern Lapwing	1	1	1

Table 3. Predicted new breeding species for New York State. Species are listed in descending order by the product of # and sum, where # is the number of votes each species received, out of 18 total, and sum = the sum of the ranks assigned to these votes, with 5 being the highest.

Species	JAs	SBi	BBo	PAB	TBu	MCo	WDA	JDr	AFa	BGo	DGo	BKu	SMi	JPa	BPa	SSi	BSp	DVe	#	sum
Mississippi Kite	5	5	3	5			4			5	3	5	4		5	5	5	1	13	55
Eurasian Collared-Dove		4	4	3		4	5	4	5	3	4	4		5	2		3		13	50
Royal Tern	4	3	5		5	3					5	3	5	1	3	3		5	12	45
White-faced Ibis				4					3					2	4				4	13
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1					5		3			2								4	11
Red-necked Grebe			1				2							3		2			4	8
Yellow Rail		2			4											4			3	10
Carolina Chickadee	3					1		5											3	9
Black-necked Stilt		1							1					4					3	6
Nelson's Sparrow							1						3		1				3	5
Brown Pelican										4	1								2	5
American Pipit				2	3														2	5
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher												2						3	2	5
Pine Grosbeak				1				2											2	3
Manx Shearwater					1								1						2	2
conformity	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	4	5	5	4	2	3		

Table 4. Other species predicted to breed in New York State.

Rank	Species	#	sum
16	Arctic Tern	1	4
17	Brewer's Blackbird	1	4
18	Little Egret	1	4
19	Eared Grebe	1	3
20	Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	2
21	Lark Sparrow	1	2
22	Great Cormorant	1	2
23	Eurasian Wigeon	1	2
24	Sandwich Tern	1	2
25	Common Redpoll	1	2
26	Swainson's Warbler	1	2
27	Solitary Sandpiper	1	2
28	Boreal Owl	1	2
29	Greater Scaup	1	1
30	Little Gull	1	1
31	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1
32	Northern Gannet	1	1
33	Swallow-tailed Kite	1	1

So, in view of all the fore-going, one might ask, what's the single best way to predict New York's next new species? In short, there isn't one. With all the variables listed above, chance plays as big a factor as anything else. At least two of the most recent first state records are unlikely to have been on anybody's Next 10 list before they appeared, and several others would have been on only a handful of lists at the most. So, as you mull over these lists, realize that the next new bird for New York State is probably present somewhere in the state right now. In fact, there might even be one right in your neighborhood. Hey, there's only one way for you to find out....

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

### LATE FLEDGING OF RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER IN NEW YORK STATE

Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes carolinus*) have been regular winter visitors to my feeders in Nassau County, Long Island, since at least 1994-95, when I began keeping systematic records for Cornell University's *Project Feeder Watch*. In 2001-02, my interest in the activities of these Red-bellied Woodpeckers increased, and I began keeping more detailed notes throughout the year. In 2001-02, I was just getting started and noted only that I had a male here all winter but that he did not seem to have a mate. From the way I wrote that statement, there had probably been females—and possibly fledglings—present here before that year. Since then I have seen adult Red-bellied Woodpeckers bringing fledglings to my feeders to be fed every summer except that of 2005 (a very hot, dry summer with heavy rains in spring and early summer). The earliest date I have for a first fledgling is 5 July 2007, and the latest is 5 August 2009. The latest date I have ever seen fledglings being fed was 14 August 2009.

During the summer of 2010, both male and female Red-bellied Woodpeckers were present here. When the female appeared alone at the feeders on 12 July, following an absence since 27 June, I assumed that their nest had failed (I usually don't see females during incubation, until they reappear at the feeders with newly fledged young). Consistent with this conclusion, I saw no fledglings throughout July and August. Much to my amazement, however, I saw a male bird feeding at least one fledgling on 12 September (I barely glimpsed what might have been a second fledgling).

According to the species account in *Birds of North America* (Shackelford, C.E., R. E. Brown, & R. N. Conner. 2000. Red-bellied Woodpecker. *Birds of North America*. No. 500) one successful brood is typical in the northern parts of the Red-bellied Woodpecker's range, although in the South they may have two to three broods. The most northerly instances of second broods noted by these authors include single examples in Connecticut (Sullivan, E. 1992. Red-bellied Woodpecker raises two broods in Connecticut. *Conn. Warbler* 12: 24-25) and New York (Crumb, D. W. 1984. Late nesting of a Red-bellied Woodpecker. *Kingbird* 34: 231). In the case of the New York record, nestlings were observed being fed at a nest site in Onondaga County through 30 August, with fledging suspected that day (an earlier successful nesting at the site was strongly suspected to pertain to the same pair). Red-bellied Woodpeckers in New York may attempt a second nest when the first fails, but the latest published fledging date is 1 September (McGowan, J.K. & K. Corwin, Eds. 2008. *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY). A search of 491 Nest Record cards (1954-2009) for Red-bellied Woodpecker in the collection of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology yielded late dates for young in the nest of 15 and 26 August, both from Florida (Jim Lowe, pers. comm.).

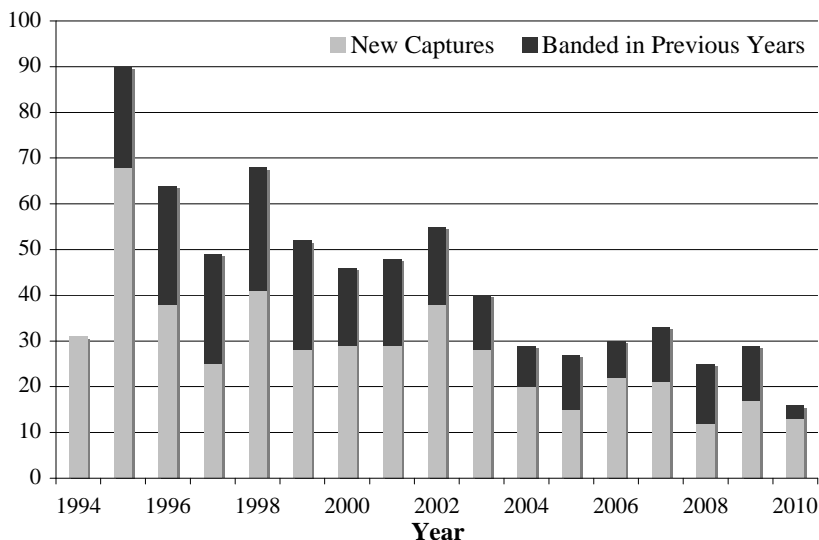
My 12 September 2010 observation of a Red-bellied Woodpecker fledgling being fed in Nassau County appears to represent the latest recorded fledgling date for this species in New York State, but circumstances suggest that it probably involved a re-nesting rather than a second successful brood.

I would like to thank Jim Lowe of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for going through the nest card records for me.

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## FURTHER NOTES ON GRAY CATBIRDS BREEDING IN EASTERN LONG ISLAND

Two years ago I reported on declining capture rates for Gray Catbirds at a banding site in Moore's Woods, Greenport, Suffolk County, Long Island (Kingbird 59: 46). Over 16 years of observation, using the constant-effort methodology of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program, I have recorded a consistent decline in numbers of Gray Catbird, one of the most numerous breeding species at the site. In the two years of work since my earlier note, I captured 17 new and 12 previously banded individuals in 2009, and just 12 new and 3 previously banded individuals in 2010. Results for both years fell well below the 16-year means of 28 new and 16 previously banded birds.



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2010

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All Regions reported that summer 2010 was warmer than average. Much of the state was wetter than average, especially during June, but southeastern Regions 8, 9, and 10 were drier than average.

The flock of five **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at Oneida Lake on 31 May, the day before the summer season began, focused local attention on this species, which has been occurring far north of its usual range in eastern North America with accelerating frequency for more than a decade. Those birds were followed this summer by two more New York State records: a bird found by Anne Lazarus and Isabel Conte on 31 July at Jamaica Bay in Region 10, and one found by Paul Hess and others on 11 August at Tonawanda WMA. Although these records have rightly exerted a powerful influence on many people's attitudes regarding natural vagrancy in this species, it is worth recalling that apparently wild Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have been recorded at least twice previously in New York: Floyd Bennett Field, Kings County 19-20 May 1992 (John Fritz, NYSARC 1994); and Bridgehampton, Suffolk County, 8-18 May 2002 (P.A. Buckley et al., Schiff and Wollin KB 52: 280-286). Conversely, it should not be forgotten that demonstrably non-wild birds have been documented from time to time, including one with a clipped wing photographed by Sean Sime at Camman's Pond, Nassau County on 30 Oct 2006 (Lindsay and Mitra KB 57: 86-94), and another found by Richard Crossley at Broadalbin, Fulton County in June 2008 (Yandik KB 58: 391-394), which was found to have a small plastic band on one leg when studied closely. Evidence for this species' regular and increasing natural occurrence in northeastern North America has been growing for more than a decade now, and it will be interesting to learn where and when Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks might come to be expected in our state.

After tantalizing suggestions of breeding last summer, three **Mississippi Kites** were observed tending a nest at last year's site in Root, Montgomery County, and Rich Guthrie videotaped fledglings being fed. That New York's first nesting record should come from a site well north of the state's southern borders mirrors recent nestings in Connecticut and New Hampshire and illustrates that range expansion, like vagrancy itself, often proceeds via leaps and bounds rather than smoothly and continuously. Additional Mississippi Kites were recorded in Regions 2, 9, and 10. Two other ascendant raptors, Peregrine Falcon and Merlin, were noted as increasing in several Regions, with multiple nests of both species in Region 1, indications of breeding by both in Region 4,

continued expansion of Merlin noted in Region 6, and a juvenile Merlin that lingered for five days during mid August in a Long Island backyard.

Increasing statewide trends continued for Trumpeter Swan, American White Pelican, and Sandhill Crane, all three of which were reported widely around the state. It is a credit to Region 3's savvy cartographers that the crane's breeding range was proven finally to have bulged southward from its Montezuma strongholds into Region 3. All three of these species remain scarcest in southeastern New York, so it was impressive that there were at least four June reports of Sandhill Crane in Region 9, and that even Region 10 recorded multiple American White Pelicans. *Plegadis* ibises were noteworthy in Regions 3 and 5, and the Region 3 bird was suspected as possibly being a **White-faced Ibis**. Other notable waders included a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Dunkirk Harbor in Region 1 and both Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron in Region 8. The latter Region also reported an invasion of Great Egrets, with as many as 24 in Albany and 39 at Vischer's Ferry.

Region 10 had its usual assortment of lingering and summering waterfowl, but the presence of both Common and King Eider along Region 9's Westchester coast in mid June was exceptional. Further offshore, the most exciting news came once again from John Shemilt, whose fishing trips out of Shinnecock Inlet toward Block Canyon have been revolutionizing our understanding of seabirds in New York. His trips this summer yielded plenty of NYSARC-reviewable birds: **Audubon's Shearwater**, **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, as many as **53 Leach's Storm-Petrels** in a day, **Bridled Terns**, and **Long-tailed Jaeger**. The last of these was a first-summer (yearling) bird recorded on 12 June, these details being relevant to an age/date theme amplified at some length below.

American Avocets were noted in Regions 1 (a count of **nine!**), 2, and 10. "Western" Willets were recorded in Regions 1, 4, 7, and 10, arriving on 30 June on Long Island, where this taxon is most numerous in New York, but also as early as 3 July in Region 1. It was an excellent year for godwits, with a rare northbound occurrence of three Hudsonians at Montezuma NWR and southbound reports before season's end at Montezuma again, and from Long Island. This species has been very scarce along the coast in recent years, so several reports there this season, including a brief visit by a flock of **12**, were very welcome. Remarkably, the site chosen by this flock was a mudflat also occupied at the time by an exceptionally large and long-staying group of **10** Marbled Godwits.

Among the scarcer shorebirds, Baird's Sandpiper was very well reported, including a number of July records of adults. Long-billed Dowitchers made early appearances in Region 10 (29 June, then **nine** on 23 July) and Region 2 (31 July), followed by an exceptionally early juvenile at Jamaica Bay, Region 10, on 16 August. The Region 10 report lists many exceptional counts of the commoner shorebird species. Even if these were largely attributable to intensive effort and diligent record-keeping by energetic observers like Doug Gochfeld, they are welcome results.

Although summer is not traditionally associated with gull diversity, observers at opposite ends of the state once again produced some very

interesting records in this part of the checklist. Little Gull was reported from Regions 1 and 2 in June and July, small flocks of Lesser Black-backed Gull were found during June and July in Regions 1 and 10, and a Laughing Gull made a rare early summer appearance in Region 1. Most of the individuals involved in these observations were immatures, most often first summer birds about 12 months old, although some of the Lesser Black-backs were two and three year-olds. The increasingly popular practice of scrutinizing summering flocks of teen-aged larids—"scope-a-dope"—has proven so consistently productive that it hardly seems remarkable that two of the summer's three **Arctic Terns** and one of its two **Sandwich Terns** were found together on the same Long Island mud flat on 6 June. The next frontier for these sorts of field studies should be extended beyond the mere detection of rare species to detailed evaluations of molt, phenology, and status for poorly understood age and plumage classes of common species, such as first summer Common, Forster's, Least, and Black Terns.

Another sort of unusual age/date combination, this one recalling the very early juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher mentioned above, was furnished by a juvenile Black Tern that appeared on Long Island on 20 July, about three weeks earlier than expected. A juvenile Ring-billed Gull that reached Long Island on 10 July, not long after upstate colonies fledge vast hordes of such birds, but weeks in advance of their general arrival along the coast, fits in here also, and raises questions concerning how post-breeding dispersal is related to conventional southbound migration in this group of birds.

By late August, a month or two later than the tarrying Little Gulls discussed above, another series of intriguing larid reports emerged from the Lake Ontario shore. On 16 August, Jim Pawlicki and Dave Wheeler recorded a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Fort Niagara, Region 1's first August record, and one of very few records there ever. This was followed by another at Hamlin Beach, in Region 2, on 21 August. Five days later, along the shore of Cayuga Lake, in Region 3, Chris Wood identified yet another Long-tailed Jaeger, this one also almost unprecedented Regionally. In the meantime, Chris and Jessie Barrie had recorded an adult **Sabine's Gull** along Region 2's Lake Ontario shore on 22 August! Clearly, these juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers represent a very different mode of occurrence compared to John Shemilt's mid-June yearling far offshore (the latter fitting better with the Little Gull/Arctic Tern model). Coincident with the rare late August migrants upstate were two reports of Black-headed Gulls at Region 2's Hamlin Beach, on 27 and 28 August. Described as "immature" in the Regional report, it is intriguing to consider whether these were perhaps loafing yearlings, in the manner of June Little Gulls (but significantly later than expected), or possibly hatching-year birds—in which case they were about two months earlier than that age class' usual arrival on Long Island.

Turning to landbirds, Region 2 hosted its second **White-winged Dove** and continued as the epicenter of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** activity in New York. Multiple individuals of this expanding invader were reported from two sites, one of which yielded internet reports of fresh juveniles, albeit after the summer season ended.

A rare “spring” record of **Western Kingbird**, even more exceptional because it occurred upstate, came from Webster in Region 2 on 19 June. In addition to the well known pattern for western North American landbirds to stray east during late fall, the days surrounding the summer solstice have also proven to be surprisingly productive for these sorts of birds: of New York’s ten or so records of Western Kingbird outside the usual August-January period, no fewer than four have occurred from 16-21 June.

Region 4 hosted the state’s only **Loggerhead Shrike** this summer. This species has essentially withdrawn from its former breeding haunts in the Northeast. Sedge Wrens were reported from three sites in Region 1 and single sites in Regions 2, 6, and 8. Only Fort Drum (Region 6) hosted a large number of birds (18 males), and Jeff Bolsinger offered some interesting notes describing the eccentric manner in which these birds arrive and use this site from year to year. Henslow’s Sparrow, another species whose best days in New York State are long past, was unreported in Region 1 for the third consecutive year; statewide it was reported from just one site in Region 2 and two sites in Region 6. In contrast, Clay-colored Sparrow continues to enjoy the opposite sort of demographic momentum; the species was observed almost throughout the state this breeding season, going unreported only in three Regions along the southern edge of the state (3, 9, and 10). Other positive news regarding open country birds came in the form of territorial Dickcissel and Blue Grosbeak, the latter paired with a female, occupying the same field in Region 9 this summer.

Akin to these Blue Grosbeaks, other Carolinian Neotropicals garnering attention this summer were a Prothonotary Warbler in Region 3, two Cerulean Warblers in Region 4, Louisiana Waterthrushes confirmed nesting in Region 6’s St. Lawrence County, and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Region 8’s Saratoga County.

## BIRD OF THE SEASON

Consider for a moment some of the worthy candidates for this summer’s bird of the season award. Although not even on the New York State checklist, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck occurred in two Regions, and Mississippi Kite was finally confirmed nesting in New York this summer! But to me, these birds’ glory is diminished when we recall that the ducks tramped behind the unclipped halluces of others this spring (and at least a couple of others from previous years too), and that the breeding kites were helped at the nest this summer by an immature bird that was probably the first of its species to fledge in the state—last year. Also, in pondering the gravitas of first breedings, a spirit of fairness would dictate that Eurasian Collared-Dove should be given comparable consideration. If so, fairness for me must be a blade that cuts two ways and excises kite and dove both from consideration for the honor.

At the opposite pole of the demographic continuum, perhaps Region 4’s Loggerhead Shrike deserves some nostalgic sentiment, as this species will almost surely be rarer here in the future than any of the three species just discussed. But, after due consideration, I simply can’t find a particular

individual bird that deserves the BOTS award purely on the basis of its rarity or novelty. Instead, I'm inclined to choose a species whose members collectively made a distinctive impact on New York ornithology during the summer of 2010. In this vein, the contenders might include species such as Trumpeter Swan, American White Pelican, Sandhill Crane, and Clay-colored Sparrow, but none of these seems to stand out above the others. Searching further, let me return to the theme of age-related variation in the modes of occurrence among the long-winged birds in the middle of the checklist.

The usefulness of seeking out and studying first summer larvae during early summer has been discussed in great detail for several years at least, most explicitly in the summer reports for Regions 1 and 10; it was a major theme in a recent re-evaluation of the status of Arctic Tern in New York (KB 59: 2-11); and I've taken pains above to show how these lessons paid off once again this summer, from the Niagara Frontier to Long Island's coastal inlets and beyond, to New York's offshore waters. Similarly, I've tried to show that, if adequate care be taken to document age and species identification, records of exceptionally early juveniles can be used to tackle some fascinating questions regarding variability within and among species in terms of pre-migratory behavior. For instance, among abundant and familiar species that typically delay southbound movements for significant periods, owing to a lengthy staging period to our north (e.g., Dunlin and Bonaparte's Gull), it's easy to recall that a few extremely early outliers can be expected from time to time. Curiously, these earliest birds are frequently juveniles. Perhaps this summer's unusually early juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher, Ring-billed Gull, Black-headed Gulls, and Black Tern represent similar examples of individual variation. In any case, these examples illustrate the usefulness of recording age and plumage data, and of carefully documenting species identification, for even the commonest species, so that the birds' various potential modes of occurrence can be discerned.

These considerations lead quite clearly to summer 2010's bird of the season: **Long-tailed Jaeger**. Sophisticated lake-watchers in Regions 2 and 5 have, in recent years, provided a model for when, where, and how to find this species in upstate New York during southbound migration. In late August 2010, they demonstrated this once again in Region 2—but this season the model was also extended beyond there to furnish the first summer record for Region 1 and the second ever record for Region 3. Far to the south and east and two months earlier, the status of this challenging and mysterious species (just 16 acceptable records statewide as of 1974) was further clarified when a yearling Long-tailed Jaeger was detected, identified, and photographed near Block Canyon, validating a rather different, but also relatively new-found, model for finding rare birds in New York.

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Following a warm and dry spring, June was humid and very wet. The average temperature was 67.0° F, 1.2° above average. A total of 8.13" of rain fell at the Buffalo airport, 4.31" above normal, with much of it falling in the first week. July was consistently warm and mostly dry. The average temperature was 73.5°, 2.7° above normal. Rainfall was 3.17", a mere 0.03" above average. The fabulous summer weather continued through August. The average temperature was 71.7°, 2.6° above normal. There was 1.84" of rain, 2.03" below average. Weather data was excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

With a wet June and warm summer, the expectation is that it was a good year for nesting birds. I read or received several comments tending to positive nesting success and none to the contrary; however, this is mostly anecdotal evidence. It was encouraging to hear from Jeff Reed that Eastern Meadowlarks had an excellent year, with many second nests in his purview of Cattaraugus County grasslands. Most references to meadowlarks in recent years have been about declining numbers. Likewise, there was an encouraging report out of Iroquois NWR that Carl Zenger tracked 113 fledgling Purple Martins. This species has declined dramatically in recent decades, especially at inland locations.

Several raptor species continued to expand in breeding status again this summer. The number of active **Peregrine Falcon** nests expanded to five, in addition to the cliff-dwelling pair below Niagara Falls that chose the Canadian side this year. All were successful this year. Connie Adams also indicated that there were pairs regularly observed at a grain elevator on the Buffalo waterfront and at Gates Circle but with no apparent nesting attempts.

**Merlins** were found in three areas this summer, with at least two of them apparently new breeding locations. During Ted Floyd's "bare naked birding" lecture and walk for the Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival, the large group was watching a Red-shouldered Hawk in flight when a Merlin came out of nowhere and made a pass at the hawk and gave short chase. There were no follow up reports. Merlins were reported in Jamestown last summer; however, it is uncertain if this location was proximate to last year's sightings. Jeff Reed tracked a family group of four Merlins along the Allegany River in Olean from mid-June through 1 August. This is apparently a new breeding location. Mike Zebehazi was surprised to find Merlins in the Village of Hamburg in mid-July. Up to four birds were found at this newly discovered breeding location.

The number of Osprey nests along the Niagara River increased to three; all relatively recent. Nests are also slowly increasing in the vicinity of the Allegheny Reservoir and Iroquois NWR.



NYSDEC monitored colonial waterbird nests along the Niagara River. The heronry at Motor Island held breeding Great Blue Herons (71 nests), Great Egrets (38 nests), and Black-crowned Night-Herons (52 nests). The egret total is another new maximum as nests at this location have steadily increased since the first nests were discovered in the mid 1990s. Double-crested Cormorants had 868 nests, down from 975 last year, and NYSDEC once again implemented nest and bird reduction measures.

**Sandhill Cranes** were again found in summer on multiple occasions at Watts Flats WMA. Three in Dayton, Cattaraugus County, were observed on several occasions after Amish residents notified Jamestown Audubon Society of them. While I am not aware of any confirmed breeding in the Region, I wouldn't be surprised if it has already occurred unbeknownst to birders.

**Upland Sandpipers** were found at only two breeding areas. **Sedge Wren** was found in three locations. Henslow's Sparrow went unreported in the Region for the third consecutive year. A targeted search of suitable habitat would be a worthwhile endeavor next summer.

Most of the other uncommon and/or declining breeding species were found in similar numbers as in recent years. **Common Nighthawks** were again reported in small numbers in North Buffalo throughout the summer, with several sightings of migrants throughout the Region in late summer. One identified in Alfred, Allegany County, on 19 June could have been a very late migrant or possible breeder. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in greater numbers than previous summers. A **Golden-winged Warbler** in the Town of Pomfret was the only one reported. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were once again present in the Red House Section of the Allegany State Park, a now annual occurrence for most of the last decade. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at their regular location at Tonawanda WMA again. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported from three locations, including one new location in Conewango, Cattaraugus County.

The summer shorebird season was fair at best. Sites with the most coverage included Tonawanda WMA, Batavia WWTP, and various locations along the Lake Erie shoreline. A new Regional maximum of **nine American Avocets** was reached when David Wheeler found them foraging with two **Willetts** at the outlet of Cattaraugus Creek on Lake Erie. This sighting occurred on a day (16 July) with strong southwest winds. Summer sightings of both of these species have increased over the past decade, with most occurrences along Lake Erie. A Willet was also found at Barcelona Harbor on 3 July by Jeanine Smith. Three **Red-necked Phalaropes** were found by Bill Watson on 27 August at Tonawanda WMA, and another was sighted over Lake Ontario in late August.

There were three notable gull sightings in June. David Wheeler witnessed a brief appearance by a **Laughing Gull** at Batavia WWTP on 1 June. He saw the bird fly in and then continue on its way. This is the first report for the location and a very rare record away from the Great Lakes or Niagara River. Two first-summer **Little Gulls** among Bonaparte's Gulls at Fort Niagara SP on 16 June follows a trend from recent years. Willie D'Anna identified four immature **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** among many large gulls in a field in Somerset on 6 June; an excellent count for early summer.

Migrant warblers were reported in seemingly typical numbers over the last two weeks of August.

There were some interesting rarities this summer, highlighted by the first **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** for the Region. Paul Hess, Iroquois NWR biologist, spotted and photographed the bird along Route 77 on the Tonawanda WMA in the evening of 11 August. Subsequently we learned that Will Stuart and Jill Palmer had also spotted it earlier in the day. Numerous birders were able to see this duck over the next two weeks at the same location. However, it was often not an easy find as the bird would stay hidden from view in cattails. Many birders' first looks came when the duck would suddenly burst out of the vegetation and fly around in circles while giving its bizarre whistling call, only to return to the same or a nearby spot. The sighting follows an apparent northerly incursion of this species that began in the spring.

There were multiple reports to David Suggs (Buffalo RBA hotline) and the NYSDEC of an **American White Pelican** observed flying over Hamburg on 22 June and then again the next morning on the Buffalo waterfront. This could have been the same bird that was reported the next day in Byron (Region 2).

David Neveu identified a juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Dunkirk Harbor on 9 August that remained throughout August, although not regularly observed after the first few days.

During a late summer lakewatch from Fort Niagara SP, Jim Pawlicki and David Wheeler identified an immature **Long-tailed Jaeger**. The jaeger briefly chased a Bonaparte's Gull before flying out of view. This is one of only a handful of reports for the Region and the first for the summer season. As summer lake watching is practiced much more frequently to the west (Hamilton, Ontario) and east (Region 2) of the Region, it is likely that this rare species is a tad under-reported here.

On 7 July, Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter had the unusual occurrence of watching a bird at a feeder in their yard whose identity they didn't know. An aberrant goldfinch was ruled out, and a review of European field guides revealed the identity as a **European Greenfinch**. European Greenfinch is an Old World species that has never been accepted as reaching North America as a wild bird. European Greenfinch is one of several European species kept as cage birds that have been documented in recent years in the Great Lakes Region. It is believed that these occurrences stem from the release of caged birds from a dealer in the Chicago area. As this sighting along Lake Ontario fits the pattern of other sightings, it is considered a likely escapee.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; MI – Motor I, NR, ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

#### **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:**

TWMA 11-23 Aug (WS, PHI!, mob, NYSARC), first for Region, *intro*.

**Mute Swan:** 2 PB 12 Jun; 2 Wilson NIAG 1 Jul; 2 Barcelona CHAU 16 Jul; 3 ad, 3 yg Olcott NIAG 25 Aug (PF); only reports.

**Wood Duck:** max 126 OOWMA 19 Jul (MW); 28 Tift NP 21 Aug.

**Gadwall:** 4, 5 BWWTP 1, 21 Jun; 2, 2 TWMA 14 Jun, 18 Jul; 2 NF 8 Jul; max 10 BWWTP 16 Aug; 6 Warsaw WYOM.

**Am. Wigeon:** 2, 6 BWWTP 1 Jun, 9 Jul; Buffalo ERIE 13 Jun; 2 TWMA 21 Jun; only reports.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 6 BWWTP 14 Aug; not reported from any other location.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 6 TWMA 21 Jun; arr 6 Alexander GENE 1 Aug; max 50 BWWTP 16 Aug.

**N. Shoveler:** 1, 3, 1 BWWTP 1 Jun, 10 Jul, 7 Aug; only reports.

**Green-winged Teal:** 14 TWMA 21 Jun; 3 BWWTP 7 Jul; arr Tift NP 4 Aug; max 15 INWR 31 Aug.

**Redhead:** BWWTP 14, 24 Aug (DW), only reports.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 2 BWWTP 1 Jun (DW), only report.

**Greater Scaup:** BWWTP 1 Jun – 7 Jul (DW, WW), unusual in summer.

**L. Scaup:** NF 23 Jun (WW), only report.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 5 FNSP 29 Aug (DW).

**Bufflehead:** BWWTP 14-22 Aug (KF, WD, WW), only report.

**Com. Goldeneye:** Sheridan CHAU 27 Jun (DW), unusual in summer.

**Com. Merganser:** W Seneca ERIE 24 Jun, slowly extending north in summer along creeks; 5, 4 NF 8, 31 Jul.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 Wilson NIAG 31 Jul (WD); 2 NF 31 Jul (WW, JP), unusual in summer.

**Ruddy Duck:** 16, 32, 19 BWWTP 21 Jun, 7 Jul, 22 Aug, regular in summer at this location.

**Com. Loon:** S. Dayton CATT 6 Jun (JM); 2 Mayville CHAU 16 Jul (TL); 2 NF 31 Jul (JP, WW); arr FNSP 29 Aug (DW).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 2 + 6 yg Tift NP 11 Jun; max 79 TWMA 27 Aug.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** Hamburg ERIE 22 Jun; Buffalo Harbor ERIE 23 Jun; 2-3 secondhand reports in short time span; *intro*.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 868 nests from NR, L Erie locations (CA), down from 975 last year; max 964 BuSP 1 Aug.

**Am. Bittern:** INWR two reports of singles each month; 2, 1 TWMA 26 Jul, 12 Aug; Warsaw WYOM 27 Jul (DBi); only reports.

**Least Bittern:** 4 nesting pairs Tift NP Jun (CA); INWR 15, 21 Jun; OOWMA 1 Jul; Warsaw WYOM 2 Aug (DBi); Tift NP 4, 29 Aug; TWMA 12, 22 Aug.

**Great Blue Heron:** 71 nests MI (CA).

**Great Egret:** 38 nests MI, highest count yet (CA); 87, 87 MI 24 Jun, 6 Jul (WW); max 104 TWMA 4 Aug, roost; 20 BWWTP 19 Aug.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** BWWTP 7 Jul; 3 TWMA 30 Jul; only reports away from NR; 52 nests MI (CA).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** juv DH 9 Aug thru (DN, mob, NYSARC); rare.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 3 nests NR; Alexander GENE 1 Aug; Alfred ALLE 10 Aug; expanding as breeder.

**Bald Eagle:** well reported from nesting areas.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** last imm Elma ERIE 20 Jun.

**Merlin:** Jamestown CHAU 12 Jun (TB! TF); 4 Olean CATT 19 Jun – 31 Jul (JR!); 4 Hamburg ERIE 15 Jul (MZ, DH!); good showing for breeders; 2, 1 Randolph CATT 15, 28 Aug.

**Peregrine Falcon:** regional total to five nests - 3 in Buffalo, 2 on Grand Island bridges; non-nesting pairs also reported at two additional Buffalo locations.

**Virginia Rail:** max 4 TWMA 12 Aug.

**Sora:** N. Harmony CHAU 10 Jul; 3 TWMA 12 Aug; only reports.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** WFWMA 11, 12 Jun, 18 Jul (WD, JB), regular reports in recent years; 3 S. Dayton CATT 23, 27 Jul (AB, DN).

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr BWWTP 19 Aug, only report.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1, 2 Alexander GENE 26, 27 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last 2 Hartland NIAG 6 Jun; arr TWMA 19 Jul.

**AM. AVOCET:** 9 Hanover CHAU 16 Jul (DW!), new Regional high count.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 57, 31 BWWTP 10 Jul, 7 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr N. Harmony CHAU 18 Jul; 12 Elba GENE 24 Jul; max 13 BWWTP 7 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 BWWTP 1 Jul (DW!), slightly early.

**Willet:** arr Barcelona CHAU 3 Jul (JS); 2 Hanover CHAU 16, 19 Jul (DW!); only reports.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 2 BWWTP, TWMA 7 Jul; max 30 INWR 31 Aug.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Wales ERIE 3 Jun (CN); Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 14 Jun, regular location; only reports.

**Whimbrel:** Buffalo NR 30 Aug, only report.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** BWWTP 1 Jun; arr Buffalo NR 30 Aug.

**Sanderling:** arr DH 15 Aug; 3 Buffalo NR 30 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last 2, 1 TWMA 6, 21 Jun.

**Least Sandpiper:** last 7 Newstead ERIE 3 Jun; arr 9 TWMA, 3 BWWTP 1 Jul; max 50 INWR 19 Jul.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** no reports.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr BWWTP 14, 19 Aug; Alexander GENE 26 Aug; Buffalo NR 30 Aug; only reports.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr N. Harmony CHAU 10 Jul; 2 DH 14 Jul; max 4 INWR 31 Aug.

**Dunlin:** last TWMA 1 Jun.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr BWWTP 14 Jul (DW); OOWMA 19 Jul; only reports.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 11 N. Harmony CHAU 10 Jul (JB); Sheridan CHAU 3 Aug; Elba GENE 22, 23 Aug; only reports.

**Wilson's Snipe:** 2 INWR 19 Jul; TWMA 14 Aug; 2 Elba GENE 22 Aug; Grand I ERIE 28 Aug; max 6 INWR 31 Aug.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr FNSP 26 Aug (DW); 3 TWMA 27 Aug (WW).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 17 ad + 1 juv Wilson NIAG 30 Jul; 22 FNSP, 32 NF 31 Jul; juv BWWTP, juv OOWMA 1 Aug; max 80 FNSP 16 Aug.

**LITTLE GULL:** 2 FNSP 16 Jun (WW!), continued reports at this location in recent Junes.

**LAUGHING GULL:** BWWTP 1 Jun (DW!), rare.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 4 Somerset NIAG 6 Jun (WD), good count for early summer when rare.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 7 NF 8 Jul.

**Caspian Tern:** 2 Times Beach NP ERIE 11 Jun; 6 PB 12 Jun; N. Harmony CHAU 4 Jul; Alexander GENE 1 Aug; max 27 PB 21 Aug.

**Black Tern:** max 17, 21 INWR 14, 27 Jun; FNSP 31 Jul; 6 FNSP 16 Aug (JP, DW).

**Com. Tern:** 49 BuSP 4 Jun; max 155 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 11 Jun; 67 NF 8 Jul; 120 FNSP 16 Aug.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** juv FNSP 16 Aug (JP! DW! NYSARC), 1<sup>st</sup> summer record.

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Com. Nighthawk:** 1-2 Buffalo ERIE 1 Jun thru Aug (PY); Tonawanda ERIE 5 Jun; Alfred ALLE 19 Jun (EB); max 20 Buffalo ERIE 28 Aug (JW); arr 1, 9 Williamsville ERIE 10, 30 Aug; 6 E Aurora ERIE 21 Aug; 3 Tonawanda ERIE 29 Aug; max 6 Lancaster ERIE 30 Aug; 2 Amherst ERIE 30 Aug; only reports.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2 OOWMA 1 Jun; Clarence ERIE thru Jul; Chautauqua Institution CHAU Jun (NK); Buffalo NR 13 Jun; 4 ad + 2 yg Hamburg ERIE 1-24 Jul; GHSP 10 Jul; 2 ad + 2 yg PG 20 Jul; 2 Como P ERIE 28 Jul; 2 Amherst 30 Aug; better showing than recent summers.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Como P ERIE 14 Jul; near extent of breeding range.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last AISP 12 Jun (TB).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Tiffit NP 28 Aug.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** last Tiffit NP 1 Jun, continued from late May; max 5 AISP 3-10 Jul; last Tiffit NP 22, 23 Aug (CN).

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Williamsville ERIE 20 Aug  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Buffalo ERIE 20 Aug (JP, DG); Tiftt NP 27 Aug; only reports.  
**Com. Raven:** no reports away from ALLE, CATT.  
**Purple Martin:** max 8, 30 Bethany GENE 14 Jun, 5 Jul; 25 Oakfield GENE 20 Jun; Yorkshire CATT 26 Jun; N. Harmony CHAU 4 Jul; 26 DH 20 Jul; 113 fledglings INWR (CZ, CM).  
**Tree Swallow:** max 180 BeSP 4 Jul.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 95 BWWTP 7 Aug.  
**Bank Swallow:** max 1000 NF 31 Jul (WW, JP); 170 BWWTP 7 Aug.  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 80 Tonawanda I NR 4 Jun, apparent nest destruction occurred before 2 Jul (WW).  
**Winter Wren:** reported from 4 locations.  
**SEDGE WREN:** 1, 2 Lancaster ERIE 8, 21 Jun (CR, CA); 2, 1 INWR 20 Jun, 27 Jul (S&TO, JP); Leon CATT 3 Jul (RR), absent in two follow up visits.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 25 OOWMA 19 Jul (MW).  
**Veery:** arr E Aurora ERIE 24 Aug, window kill; Wilson NIAG 27 Aug; 3 Tonawanda ERIE 29 Aug (PH), night migrants.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** AISP 5-12 Jun, 7 Jul; only report.  
**N. Mockingbird:** Tonawanda ERIE 11, 14 Jun; Eden ERIE 20 Jun; Aurora ERIE 30 Jun; BWWTP 9 Jul; 3 Bethany GENE 10 Jul; Warsaw WYOM 25 Jul; 2 Tiftt NP 29 Aug; only locations away from L Ontario plains.  
**AMERICAN PIPIT:** BWWTP 5 Aug (RR), very early, 1<sup>st</sup> summer report.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Tiftt NP 21 Aug.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** Pomfret CHAU 5, 8, 11 Jun (TM), only report.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Williamsville ERIE 20 Aug.  
**Nashville Warbler:** Andover ALLE 11 Jun (EB); arr Williamsville ERIE 27 Aug.  
**N. Parula:** 3, 8 AISP 5-12, 22 Jun (TB, PY); arr Tiftt NP 22 Aug.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Alden ERIE 20 Aug.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** last Buffalo ERIE 13 Jun (PY); INWR 12 Jul (WW); arr Alden ERIE 20 Aug.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr Tiftt NP 17 Aug; max 4 Tiftt NP 22 Aug (CN).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last Newstead ERIE 14 Jun (PH); Ward ALLE 20 Jul; arr Wilson NIAG 27 Aug.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Tiftt NP 23 Aug.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 27 Aug.  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** AISP 12 Jun (TB!), has bred at this location in most recent summers.  
**Pine Warbler:** reported from five breeding locations.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 4 Eagle WYOM 8 Jun (WW, MS); Carroll CHAU 11, 12 Jun (MM); max 12 Yorkshire CATT 26 Jun (DW); N. Harmony CHAU 10 Jul (JB); only reports away from ALLE, CATT (except max).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Tiftt NP 22 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last Williamsville ERIE, Pomfret CHAU 3 Jun; arr Tiftt NP 17 Aug.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** 2 AISP 6 Jun; TWMA 14, 20 Jun; Royaltown NIAG 29 Jun; only reports.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** AISP 22 Jun; Ward ALLE 26 Jun; arr Alden ERIE 18 Aug.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr Tiftt NP 17 Aug.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** 3 TWMA 12 Jun (WW, MS), only regular recent breeding location.  
**N. Waterthrush:** INWR 12 Jun; 2 TWMA 14 Jun; Aurora ERIE 24 Jul; arr Tiftt NP 4 Aug; Williamsville ERIE 20 Aug; 2 Wilson NIAG 27 Aug.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** reported from four locations.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Tiftt NP 22 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** WFWMA 2-18 Jul, 1 Aug (JB); Ward ALLE 18 Jul; arr Williamsville ERIE 16 Aug (RS).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1-2 Eagle WYOM 8 Jun (WW, MS); 2 Conewango CATT 25 Jun (PM, MD), previously unreported breeding location; 1-3 Yorkshire CATT 26 Jun, 6, 10 Jul (DW, PY, CN).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Yorkshire CATT 6 Jul; Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 9 Jul; only reports.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Pomfret CHAU 3 Jun; Newstead ERIE 3 Jun; 1, 2 Lewiston NIAG 5, 12 Jun; 3-5 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 14 Jun; 2 Bethany GENE 6 Jul; 3 Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 9 Jul; Warsaw WYOM 27 Jul; only reports.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** no reports.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 2 Ward ALLE 7 Jun; Wilson NIAG 14 Jun (WD), unusual location for date; max 10 Alfred ALLE 21 Jun

(EB); 3 Lyndon CATT 27 Jun (MD); 2 Warsaw WYOM 13 Jul; only reports.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Wilson NIAG 19 Aug.

**Bobolink:** max 40 TWMA 14 Aug.

**Orchard Oriole:** 2 AISP 10 Jun; 3 Portland CHAU 14 Jun (CH); Conewango CATT 16 Jun (PM, MD); 2 Alfred ALLE 20 Jun; 3 Wilson NIAG 30 Jun; 2-3 Bethany GENE 5, 8, 11 Jul;

2 Silver Creek CHAU 12 Jul; last Wilson NIAG 1 Aug.

#### ESCAPES & EXOTICS

**N. Bobwhite:** Andover ALLE 18 Jul (EB), presumed escape.

**European Greenfinch:** Wilson NIAG 7 Jul (BP, WD!), presumed escape.

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## REGION 2—GENESEE

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This summer could be described as slow. There was a lack of consistent coverage of good birding locations. Again, without the Atlas project there seemed to be fewer individuals engaged in summer birding or reporting sightings. Still, there were some summer highlights.

June started the summer season out with humid and wet conditions. The average temperature of 66.8° F was 1° above normal. There was 50% of the possible sunshine compared to the average of 64%. Given the cloud cover, it was also a wet month, with precipitation 2.58" above normal at 5.94". It was the 10<sup>th</sup> wettest June in the 140 years of weather data. There were 17 days of rain, but it often fell during the night leaving the days good for outdoor activity. July was consistently warm and mainly dry. The average temperature of 73.6° was 2.79° above normal, making it the 22<sup>nd</sup> warmest month in 139 years. There was a stretch of 22 days with temps 80+ degrees and four days in the 90s. The warmest day was on the 7<sup>th</sup>, when the thermometer reached 94°. It was the warmest day locally in three years. Possible sunshine was about normal at 69%. Most of the month was dry, but four days of thunderstorms and heavy rains brought the total precipitation to 5.70", nearly double the average. August was a fine summer month with warm, dry weather. At 2° warmer than usual, August's average temperature of 71.0° made for a pleasant month. 20 days reached 80° or higher and two days reached 90°. The precipitation of 2.68" was 0.86" below normal. The rainfall was scattered throughout the month, with no prolonged periods of rain. Sunshine at 61% of possible was a few points below the norm. Except for the few really hot days, it was good weather to be out birding.

The waterfowl picture for the summer was pretty dismal. There were limited reports of the usual summering divers, and uncommon puddle ducks were limited to a couple of Green-winged Teal at RIT and some early migrants at Hamlin Beach. Trumpeter Swans continued to breed in the area, with the Atlantic Avenue pair producing young and the Savannah birds also with

cygnets. With William Symonds time at Hamlin Beach being limited due to illness, the coverage at Hamlin Beach was sporadic. Observers commented on the lack of movement of waterfowl and loons. There were no loon reports in June and only a few Common Loons in July and August. Andrew Guthrie saw the first Red-necked Grebe of the season on 30 July, and by the end of August there were multiple sightings. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were down. One of the highlights of the summer was an American White Pelican seen for two days in June in Byron.

It has been a good year for Black Vultures, and July was no exception with two being found by Mike and Joann Tetlow in Perinton in the company of Turkey Vultures. On 10 June, Dave Tetlow observed a Mississippi Kite diving on a Bald Eagle over his home. Summering Osprey numbers continue to build, with new nesting sites located in Avon and Perinton. The 17 Bald Eagles counted by Mike Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 19 June were a very good June total. Merlins have bred in Rochester in recent years. This year there were sightings during much of June, but no further details were obtained. Peregrine Falcons fledged two young from the new downtown Rochester nest box. The continued presence of Sandhill Cranes near Taylor Marsh suggests breeding but this has yet to be confirmed. The Savannah pair produced two colts, but they were not observed much into June.

It was a poor summer for shorebirds in general. Habitat was generally scarce and the continuous cleaning of the shore at Ontario Beach left little in the way of food for any passing shorebirds. Species totals were down and numbers were low. The only highlights were the Am. Avocet observed by Bill Symonds and Mike Davids at Hamlin Beach on 13 July, a good number of Whimbrel sightings, and Red Knot and Buff-breasted Sandpiper in August. In addition, a Long-billed Dowitcher was observed by Andrew Guthrie at Hamlin Beach on 31 July. The noteworthy gull reports included an adult Sabine's Gull off Lighthouse Point in the town of Greece by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood on 22 August and two reports of Black-headed Gull from Hamlin Beach. Other gull highlights included a Little Gull at Hamlin Beach and scattered reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull. The controversial Ring-billed Gull colony on the roof of an abandoned store in Batavia was eventually destroyed. The Caspian Tern totals of 100 at Sodus Point and 112 at Point Breeze were the only real concentrations. Five Forster's Terns at Braddock Bay were a good total for June.

The Eurasian Collared-Doves in Hamlin and Parma continued to be found sporadically throughout the summer months. A White-winged Dove appeared at the Marino residence in Penfield on 19 July and continued through the season, providing the second record for the Region. Cuckoo reports were okay but not very widespread. Common Nighthawks were reported this year in July, a surprise with no known breeding in the Region in recent years. Whip-poor-will was unreported.

With no breeding bird studies going on and a weak late migration, the passerine picture has been more difficult to assess. There were few highlights or trends to look at. The last migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at BBBO on 3 June. An Acadian Flycatcher found by Norma Platt in Webster was in a new

location. A **Western Kingbird** seen and photographed by a single observer in Webster on 19 June was the first inland June record for the State. An attempt by others to relocate it was unsuccessful. The usual late migration of thrushes in early June was weak. There were few warbler highlights or surprises. Golden-winged Warbler continues to be scarce, so the individual at Manitou on 25 June was noteworthy. The Tennessee Warblers seen in July were possibly record early return migrants. A Bay-breasted Warbler on 3 June and a Blackpoll on 17 June were typical late spring migrants. The number of nesting Hooded Warbler reports continues to increase.

One sparrow report of note is the continued nesting of Clay-colored Sparrow in Hamlin. The Henslow's Sparrows discovered in the Geneseo area by Jim Kimball were the only reports for the Region this year. Observers reported good numbers of Baltimore and Orchard Orioles.

June's 167 species total was 10.5 below the 10-year average; July's 172 species 9.2 above the 10-year average; and August's 188 species 11.1 above the 10-year average. The year's species total of 272 through season's end was just slightly below the 10-year average of 273.2.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

A – T Avon, LIVI; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; C – Conesus, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; EP – Ellison Park, T Penfield, MONR; DE – Durand Eastman Park, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin; HA – High Acres Trail, T Perinton, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; I – T Irondequoit, Summerville Pier, MONR; M – Manitou Beach area,



MONR; NY – nest with young; NE – nest; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; RIT – Rochester Institute of Technology Swamps, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SP – Sodus Point, WAYN; TM – Taylor Marsh, ONTA; W – T of Webster, MONR.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 ad & cyg Atlantic Ave, WAYN 17 Jun; max 13 MAC 6 Jun; 2ad, 3 yng S all Jul (mob); 1-7 MAC all Aug; 2ad, 4yng S all Aug.

**Wood Duck:** max 35 HA 2 Aug.

**Gadwall:** arr 16 Jul. 1 HB.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr 1 HB 16 Jul.

**Am. Black Duck:** 1 HB 29 Jul.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 1 HB 7 Jun.

**N. Shoveler:** arr T Penfield 29 Aug.

**N. Pintail:** arr 1 G, H 26 Aug.

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 RIT 23 Jun, 6 Jul; arr 5 HB 30 Jul.

**Greater Scaup:** 1m HB 20 Jul.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 2 HB 19 Aug.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 3 HB 28 Aug.

**Com. Loon:** 1 HB 4, 19 Jul.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 2 HB 30 Jul; 1 HB 13 Aug; 6 HB 18 Aug; 1 HB 26 Aug; 5 HB 28 Aug; 2 HB 31 Aug.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** 1 T Byron, GENE 23-24 Jun (sev).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 115 HB 26 Aug.

**Least Bittern:** 1 NE (5 eggs) TM 8 Jun (LB).

**BLACK VULTURE:** 2 PE 20 Jul (M&JT).

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 C 17 Jun (EH); 1NY A 18 Jun, 18 Jul (JK), on Genesee River; 1 NY PE 19 Jun, 19 Jul (MT).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 1 Hogan Point, T Greece 10 Jun (DT).

**Bald Eagle:** max 17 BB 19 Jun.

**N. Goshawk:** 1 BB 5 Aug (DT); 1 BB 17 Aug (DT).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 2 BB 17 Aug (DT).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 156 17 Aug.

**Peregrine Falcon:** NY R all Jun; 3-4 R all Jul.

**Sandhill Crane:** 2 T Richmond, ONTA 22-24 Jun (KK, LB); 2 S 3 Jul (mob); 2 TM all Jul (mob); 2 A 12-26 Jul (MW, JK); 1 T Rush, MONR 24 Jul (MZ); max 5 S 13 Aug (DK).

**Black-bellied Plover:** last 2 SP 13 Jun; arr 15 GE 15.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 4 GE 15 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last 2 SP 13 Jun; arr 1 HB 7 Jul.

**Killdeer:** max 100+ CU 4 Aug.

**AM. AVOCET:** 1 HB 13 Jul (MD, WS).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 T Macedon, WAYN, RIT 6 Jul.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** last 1 G 10 Jun; arr 1 RIT 6 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 H 2 Jul.

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 8 GE 20 Jul; max 7 GE 1 Aug; 3 H 1 Aug.

**Whimbrel:** arr 1 HB 9 Jul (DT); 1 SP 14 Jul (M&JT); 1 HB 9 Aug (RS); 1 T Wolcott, WAYN 16 Aug (MS); 1 HB 28 Aug (AGU, RG); 1 I 31 Aug (JLi).

**Red Knot:** 1 HB 28 Aug (DT, GL, JP); 1 BB 28-30 Aug (KG).

**Sanderling:** arr 1 SP 25 Jul; max 7 HB 28 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 29 G 1 Jun; arr 1 HB 7 Jul.

**Least Sandpiper:** last 1 HA 2 Jun; max 50 CU 2 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 2ad HB 27 Jul.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 5 CU 20 Jul.

**Dunlin:** last 1 G 1 Jun; arr 1 CU 23 Aug.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 4 CU 19 Jul; 2 CU 23 Aug.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr 1 CU 23 Aug (JK).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 S 8 Aug.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 HB 31 Jul (AGu).

**SABINE'S GULL:** 1 G 22 Aug (JBA, CWo).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** 1 imm HB 27 Aug (DT); 1 imm HB 28 Aug (DT, GL, JP).

**Little Gull:** arr 1ad HB 30 Jul (AG, R&SS).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 ad HB 13 Aug (RS); 1 imm HB 18-19 Aug (RS).

**Caspian Tern:** max 112 PB 25 Aug.

**Black Tern:** 1 HB 28 Aug (DT, GL, JP).

**Forster's Tern:** max 5 BB 23 Jun.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** arr 1 HB 21 Aug (DT).

**jaeger species:** 1 HB 28 Aug (AGu, RG).

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 1-2 all summer, PA, H (sev).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** 1 PE 19-31 Aug (C&PM), 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional record.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 G 14 Jun (KG); 1 H 27 Jun (AGu); 1 G 10 Jul (KG); 1 G 30 Jul (KG); max 10 EP 30 Aug (DS).

**Chimney Swift:** max 50 EP 30 Aug.

### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 8b M 3 Jun; arr 1b M 24 Aug.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** 1 W 19 Jun (TC), photos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional record and 1<sup>st</sup> inland Jun record for State.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1b M 25 Aug.

**FISH CROW:** 1 G 12 Jul (KG).

**Purple Martin:** max 91b G 29 Jun.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last 1b M 3 Jun;

**Swainson's Thrush:** last 1 HB 1 Jun; arr 1b M 27 Aug.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 1 H 5 Aug (DT), record early.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 1060 HB 21 Aug (DT).

### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1b M 25 Jun.

**“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER:** 1b M 3 Jun (BBBO); Rush 24 Jun (KH), same site where one found last year.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 G 10 Jul (DT), record early if migrant; 1 G 12 Jul (KG).

**Nashville Warbler:** arr 1b M 23 Aug.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 28b M 27 Jul, LOW for date.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr 1b M 27 Jul; 1 G 18 Aug.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last 1 G 2 Jun; arr 10 DE 28 Aug (AGa).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 1 G 17 Jun; arr 1b M 23 Aug.

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1b M 26 Aug (BBBO), record early.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 1b M 21 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** arr 1b M 21 Aug.

### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2 H all Jun; 1 H 10 Jul; 1 G 18 Aug.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 2+ GE 8-11 Aug (JK, JLa).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1 G 27 Aug.

**Bobolink:** max 120 CU 28 Aug.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** fem Savannah (Van Dyne Spoor) 16 Jul (CW).

**Pine Siskin:** 1 HB 4 Aug.

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## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

**Mark Chao**

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The summer months of 2010 were slightly warmer than usual in Region 3. Average temperatures in Ithaca for June, July, and August were 1.9°, 2.9°, and 1.7° above historical norms, respectively. Precipitation totals in June and July were within about 10% of average. At 4.23" inches, aggregate rainfall in August exceeded usual levels by about 25%.

While of course weather and other natural factors may have played some role, it seems clear that many of the season's most notable avian records can be attributed largely to human activity—foremost, the creation and management of habitat at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR), as well as extensive effort by birders to find, document, and count the birds.

The shallow pools of Knox-Marsellus Marsh at MNWR hosted a lingering Snow Goose throughout the summer. One report indicates that this bird may have been injured and thus unable to reach its boreal breeding grounds this year. Also at Knox-Marsellus, Chris Wood reported a season-record tally of 464 Green-winged Teal on 19 August. Other expected dabbling ducks were widely reported here in high but not quite record-breaking numbers in August. Several

pairs of Trumpeter Swans bred successfully around Knox-Marsellus, as well as at Tschache Pool. More surprisingly, a single Tundra Swan lingered at Tschache throughout the season.

Other aquatic birds also frequented the flooded areas of MNWR this summer, including a new high count of Pied-billed Grebes at May's Point Pool and a single Horned Grebe found by David Nicosia at Tschache. Chris Wood counted 275 Double-crested Cormorants, yet another record tally, on 29 August at Knox-Marsellus. A *Plegadis* ibis arrived at May's Point Pool on this same day and stayed through the end of the reporting period. Several observers have assumed that this bird was a Glossy Ibis, but others have noted that the field marks of this individual are ambiguous and possibly consistent with White-faced Ibis.

Bald Eagles, which are common breeders in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, made frequent appearances around the southern half of Cayuga Lake throughout the summer, prompting speculation, so far unconfirmed, about whether the species has extended its breeding range southward. Expanded breeding was confirmed for another MNWR specialty, Sandhill Crane, as a family group was seen throughout the season in a cultivated field at Venice Center in Cayuga County. This is the first formally documented breeding record for this species in Region 3. The owner of this field has said that the cranes have been there for at least several years.

As impressive as the waterfowl and wading birds were, the stars of the season at MNWR were the shorebirds. On 3 June, refuge volunteer Chuck Gibson found and photographed three Hudsonian Godwits, apparently an adult male and two adult females, on the expansive mudflats by the MNWR Visitor Center. This species is very rare on northbound migration in the state. One godwit remained for several days. Then, during July and August, ideally managed mudflats at Knox-Marsellus Marsh set the stage for a most impressive shorebird migration show, including at least 25 species, several observed in record numbers. The most notable rarities among the shorebirds were a Whimbrel found by Gary Chapin on 20 August; a Western Sandpiper seen by Chris Wood, Jessie Barry, and Jim Barry on 22 August; and two more Hudsonian Godwits found by Jay McGowan and Andrew VanNorstrand on 23 August. Again this year, Upland Sandpipers bred successfully at the Empire Farm Days Fairgrounds in Seneca Falls.

On 26 August, Chris Wood found the bird of the season, a **Long-tailed Jaeger** passing south over Myers Park in Lansing. Chris, who is an eminent national expert in field identification, took several fine photos and has shared notes citing multiple aspects of structure and plumage that clinch the species' identification, despite the difficulty of distinguishing Long-tailed from Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. Cornell has one specimen of a Long-tailed Jaeger found dead in Ithaca on 8 March 1942, but Chris's observation is the first record of Long-tailed Jaeger in Region 3 ever published in *The Kingbird*.

Janet Akin found a Red-headed Woodpecker at South Spring Pool at MNWR on 8 June. Tim Lenz and Chris Wiley found another Red-headed Woodpecker in the Finger Lakes National Forest about three weeks later. David

and Debbie Suggs observed one on three separate days in early August at Farley's Point in the town of Springport.

Chris Wood also found the most remarkable songbirds of the season. On the evening of 16 July, he found a female Prothonotary Warbler at May's Point Pool in MNWR. This was the first live Prothonotary Warbler found in the Region in several years. Several other Prothonotary Warbler sightings, presumably of the same bird, were noted at this site through 31 July. On 17 August, Chris found a male "Lawrence's" Warbler at Monkey Run South in Varna (Tompkins County).

Only one other vagrant songbird was reported during the summer. Among the thousands of more common icterids, Alan Belford and Matt Young saw an adult female Yellow-headed Blackbird at Knox-Marsellus on 26 August. This bird could be the same as the female reported by Chris Wood in the Van Dyne Spoor area just to the north in Region 2 on 16 July. Red Crossbills were observed in August at both Summer Hill State Forest and Hammond Hill State Forest. No one has definitively confirmed the breeding status of these birds.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Alan Belford, Joseph Brin, Jean Bub, Gary Chapin, Mark Chao, Nancy Chen, Chris Dalton, Susan Danskin, Nancy Dickinson, Steve Fast, Chuck Gibson, John and Sue Gregoire, Andrew Garland, Andy Guthrie, Bob Guthrie, Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring team at Montezuma NWR, Lyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, Tim Lenz, Alberto Lopez, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matthew Medler, Ann Mitchell, David Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Ken Rosenberg, Dominic Sherony, LaRue St. Clair, Kathy Strickland, David and Debbie Suggs, Joann Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Erik Ungberg, Andrew VanNorstrand, David Wheeler, Chris Wiley, Christopher L. Wood, Matt Young.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CCP – Canandaigua City Pier (Ontario); FLNF – Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing (Tompkins); SHSF – Summer Hill State Forest; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 1 MNWR thru (TJ, DNic, Dnu *et al*).

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 9 MNWR 3 Jul (TJ *et al*), confirmed breeding.

**Tundra Swan:** 1 MNWR 3, 10 Jul thru (TJ, JM *et al*), very rare in summer.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 464 MNWR 19 Aug (CLW), new high count

**Greater Scaup:** 1 CCP and 2 Geneva (SENE) 4 Jun (LJ, JBub), only reports.

**Com. Goldeneye:** 2 Canandaigua 1 Aug (LJ), only report.

**Ruddy Duck:** 1 StP 12 Jun (JM), uncommon in summer, only report.

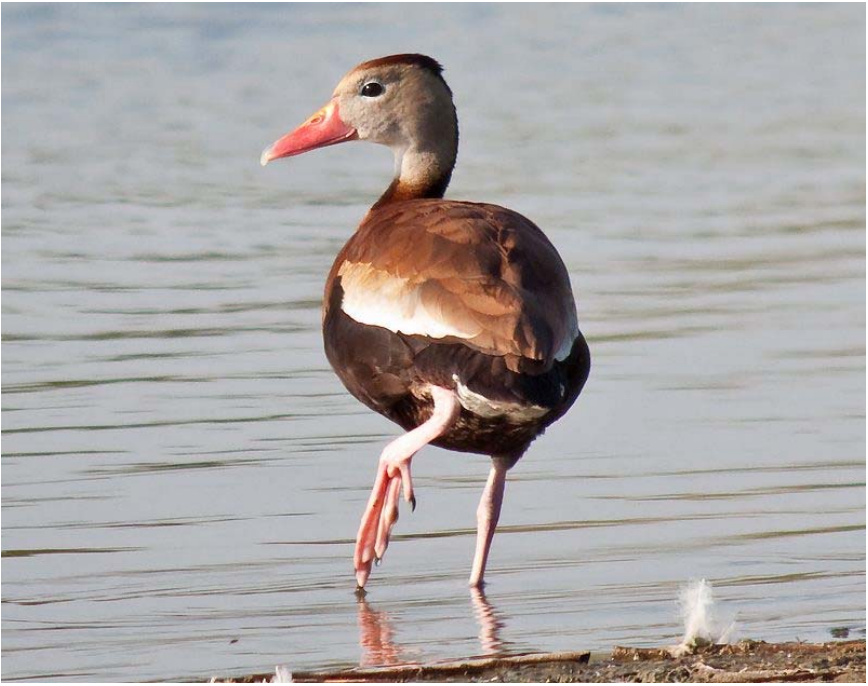
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 63 MNWR 27 Jul (IBA monitoring), new high count.

**Horned Grebe:** 1 MNWR 7 Aug (DNic), early.

## PHOTO GALLERY—SUMMER 2010



Mississippi Kites, Root, *Montgomery*: 30 Jun 10, © Andrew Baksh (top); adult feeding juvenile 20 Aug 10, © Richard Guthrie (bottom).



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, *Queens*, 31 Jul 10,  
© Andrew Baksh (top); Tonawanda WMA, 12 Aug 10, © William Watson, Sr.



Two American White Pelicans at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, *Queens*: 22 Jul 10 (top) and 27 Jul 10 (bottom), both photos © Doug Gochfeld.



First-summer Long-tailed Jaeger, 90 nm sse Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, 12 Jun 10,  
© John Shemilt.



**Double-crested Cormorant:** :max 275 MNWR 29 Aug (CLW), new high count.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 268 MNWR 10 Jul (TJ, TL, NC, AL).  
**Plegadis sp.:** 1 MNWR 29 Aug thru (LL *et al.*)

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** adults and juveniles observed widely in southern half of Cayuga Lake area; previously common only at north end of Cayuga Lake.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 4 Venice Center (CAYU) 23 Jun thru (SF, mob), first confirmed breeding in Region.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr MNWR 11 Aug (AGu).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 5 MNWR 8 Jun (SK, DNu); arr 4 MNWR 6 Aug (JBr, JGK).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr MNWR 18 Jul (AGu); max 273 MNWR 13 Aug (IBA monitoring), +, new high count.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 38 MNWR 22 Jul (DS,MT), ++, new high count.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr MNWR 3 Jul (JM).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr MNWR 3 Jul (JM); max 800 MNWR 22 Jul (DS), +, new high count.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** max 15 Seneca Falls 28 Jun (KR), confirmed breeding.  
**WHIMBREL:** 1 MNWR 20 Aug (GC); 1 Myers 30 Aug (CLW).  
**HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 3 MNWR 3 Jun (CG, mob!), 1 present through 11 Jun, very rare in spring; arr 2 MNWR 23 Aug (JM, AVN).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 2 MNWR 11 Jun (LStC); 1 Myers 12 Jun (TJ).  
**Sanderling:** arr Myers 23 Aug (JM); max 5 MNWR 23 Aug (JM, AVN).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 16 Jul (TJ).  
**Western Sandpiper:** 1 MNWR 22 Aug (CLW, JesB, JimB!).  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 3 Jul (JM); max 1350 MNWR 25 Jul (CLW), ++, new high count.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** last MNWR 12 Jun (MC, DNu, *et al.*); arr MNWR 26 Jul (DNic).  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 24 Jul (TL, CD).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 16 Jul (CLW, JesB, TJ, MM).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 16 Jul (KM); max 20 MNWR 31 Jul (KR).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr MNWR 6 Jul (DW).  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr MNWR 20 Aug (GC).  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 MNWR 5 Jun (TJ); arr MNWR 18 Jul (AGu); various individuals observed throughout Jul-Aug.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr MNWR 11 Aug (DNU).  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr 2 MNWR 28 Aug (KM, JM, DNU).  
**Laughing Gull:** 1 CCP 3 Jun (BG); 1 StP 8-9 Jun (DNU, mob); 1 Myers 12 Jun (DNU), both sightings were of an adult, possibly a single bird.  
**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 1 Myers 26 Aug (CLW!), extremely rare inland.

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Ithaca 14 Aug (AM).  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 MNWR 8 Jun (JA); 1 FLNF 27 Jun (CW, TL); 1 Farley's Point (CAYU) 1, 7, 8 Aug (D&DSu).

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Mecklenburg (SCHU) 11 Aug (ND).  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** 1 MNWR 10 Jul (TJ, TL, NC, AL), rare in refuge and Seneca County; also present at other regular locations in Region.

### WARBLERS

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 1 Monkey Run South (TOMP) 17 Aug (CLW!).  
**Cape May Warbler:** 1 arr Monkey Run South (TOMP) 21 Aug (CLW).  
**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** 1 MNWR 16 Jul (CLW, JesB, TJ, MM!); 1 MNWR 31 Jul (TJ); two sightings in same location, probably involving a single bird.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**White-throated Sparrow:** 3 SHSF 5 Jul (SF).  
**Bobolink:** max 1000 MNWR 12 Aug (AGa).  
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** 1 MNWR 26 Aug (MY, AB).  
**Red Crossbill:** sightings at SHSF and HHSF in mid-August (eBird, MY).

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## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

**Spencer Hunt**

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Except for the first two weeks, Summer 2010 was generally warm and dry. Precipitation during the first two weeks of June was 4.00", which amounted to one-third of the precipitation for the 13-week period. It also exceeded the normal total of 3.80" for the entire month of June. If birds nesting in that period were able to successfully "weather the storm", then they were in the clear for most of the rest of the time. Precipitation totals for July and August were slightly below normal and above normal respectively. However, two-thirds of the total rainfall for the two months came on two days in July and a month later on two days in August, leaving the rest of the time in a deficit. The weather patterns were consistent with the usual Region 4 summer, with great variability in rainfall from one area to another. During an extended period of time the eastern part of the Region was reported to have 2-3", while at the same time the southwestern area only had 0.2-0.3" of rainfall.

A temperature of 92° in July was the highest recorded at the Binghamton Weather Station during the three-month period, with a total of five 90° days in July. June and August each had 18 days above normal in temperature, and July had 24 days above normal. A total of 23 days for the whole summer had below normal temperatures. The temperatures were warm but not exceptional.

The most significant birds reported during the period were **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Willet**, Great Black-backed Gull, **Cerulean Warbler**, and Clay-colored Sparrow. The shrike was spotted on 13 August by Dan Watkins on private property off Old Vestal Road in Broome County. The Naturalists' Club received permission to observe it over the next four days that it was there. Dan along with Dave Nicosia found the Willet at Boland Pond, Broome County, a hotspot for aquatic and wetland species near the intersection of Routes 12 and 12A. Dave reached a conclusion from replies he received on posting pictures that it probably was a western Willet. It did not stay in the area long enough for observers to confirm that. The first Great Black-backed Gull reported in the last eight years was seen over a week's time on Otsego Lake, Otsego County by Jeff Schmoyer from Kutztown, PA. Bob Donnelly replied to the posting that they are present in late summer and fall until it freezes up. The two Cerulean Warbler sightings could have been of the same birds since they were only a couple of miles apart. Becky Gretton's observation of a singing Clay-colored Sparrow was only 0.4 miles from where she observed one in 2008.

Marie Petuh reported an Osprey on 11 August in the Town of Vestal, Broome County, near the Susquehanna River, and Diane Apker reported the only other sighting in the Region on 27 August in Smithboro, Tioga County, which is also located on the Susquehanna River. Bald Eagles continue to be commonly reported throughout the Region. Northern Harriers were spotted on four occasions, all in Otsego County. The maximum number of American

Kestrels sighted was in northern Otsego County, but the number was down from previous years. However, there were sightings scattered throughout the Region.

Sandy Bright reported that **Merlins** were present but "more reclusive this summer" with only sporadic sightings. She said "there was only one incident that indicated that there may have been successful breeding this year; I observed a Merlin catching prey on Hickory Street. After sitting in a nearby conifer for a few minutes, it carried the prey toward Wilber Park." That was on 2 August. This makes the third year in a row that Merlins have been observed in Wilber Park, Oneonta, Otsego County. Tom and Jo Ann Salo found a begging fledgling with an adult in Cooperstown, Otsego County on 12 July. This was the second year for a confirmed nesting there. The only other area having a Merlin reported was at Marie Petuh's home in Johnson City, Broome County on 8 August, when one was being chased by two crows.

William Kuk observed a **Peregrine Falcon** on buildings in downtown Binghamton, Broome County on numerous occasions throughout the period. Only three times out of the 26 sightings were two present. No information was given on nesting.

Marsh and shorebird reports did not have the variety or numbers of past years. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper were the only species that had more than one sighting.

A Philadelphia Vireo was observed by the "Weed Walker" group from the Naturalists' Club of Broome County out on one of their regular Wednesday trips in the Region. There was no early season report from the Pharsalia area this year, but observations in the nearby New Michigan State Forest of Chenango County showed that northern species, such as Swainson's Thrush, exist in other areas in the Region.

Cliff Swallows formed a colony at an overhang on a new bank building in Owego, Tioga County. The new colony is only a short distance away from where a colony existed last year where reconstruction destroyed the suitability of the site for nesting.

Several warblers only had one or two sightings, while others had numerous reports, including Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler. As for last summer, no Mourning Warblers were sighted in the southern part of the Region; all sightings in June were at higher elevations in the eastern and northern parts of the Region.

Bobolinks were reported in several locations, but none in August when large flocks have been reported in the past.

Notable species unreported in the Region were several species of shorebirds, American Woodcock, and Northern Waterthrush. The American Black Duck barely moved from the multi-year missing category to the scarce category when Hugh Kingery saw one in August in Cherry Valley, Otsego County. Other scarce birds included the Purple Martin and Eastern Meadowlark. The maximum number of Purple Martins was seen 0.5 miles from where nesting has occurred for the past 40+ years. The Common Nighthawk continues to be reported infrequently in only low numbers. Sightings of Chimney Swifts were up this year, but only a few had double digit numbers, nothing like the triple

digit numbers observed in past years.

This year was the first year for use of reports from eBird. The total number of species reported was 157, up from last year but consistent with previous years.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Renee DePrato, Bob Donnelly, Brendan Fogarty, Shawna Fulkerson, Becky Gretton, Linda Hall, Spencer Hunt, Hugh Kingery, William Kuk, Andy Mason, Dave McCartt, Naturalist's Club of Broome County (NCBC), Nicholas Newberry, Dave Nicosia, Bob Pantle, Sandy Bright, Marie Petuh, Tom & Jo Ann Salo, Jeff Schmoyer, Tioga Bird Club (TBC), Dan Watkins, Don & Joanne Weber, John Workman, Matt Young.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Bing – Binghamton, BROO; BPd – Boland Pond, BROO; BSGMA – Bear Springs Game Management Area, DELA; CR – Chenango River; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP, BROO; DP – Dorchester Park, BROO; GH – German Hollow, CHEN; GLSP – Gilbert Lake SP, OTSE; JC – Johnson City, BROO; NMSF – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; SR – Susquehanna River; TC – Town of Chenango, BROO; TL – Town of Lisle, BROO; TR – Town of Richford, TIOG; TS – Town of Springfield, OTSE; TT – Town of Tioga, TIOG; TTr – Town of Triangle, BROO; TU – Town of Union, BROO; TV – Town of Vestal, BROO.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Am. Black Duck:** Cherry Valley OTSE 23 Aug, only report.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 12 CR T Dickinson BROO 21 Aug.

**Least Bittern:** T Spencer TIOG 10 Jun, only report.

**Great Egret:** max 25 TL BROO 14 Aug.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** TV BROO 11 Aug; Smithboro TIOG 27 Aug; only reports.

**Bald Eagle:** pr CO CVSP BROO 9 Jun; mob throughout Region; doing well.

**N. Harrier:** TS OTSE 10 Jul; GLSP OTSE 1 Aug; scarce.

**N. Goshawk:** TR TIOG 21 Jun; GLSP OTSE 1, 2 Aug; only reports.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 8 Cherry Valley OTSE 17 Aug; 6 GH CHEN 1 Aug; 5 n BROO 25 Aug.

**MERLIN:** 1 ad, 1 y Cooperstown OTSE 12 Jul; ad Oneonta OTSE 2 Aug; JC BROO 8 Aug.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Bing BROO thru.

**Virginia Rail:** 2 y TU BROO 1 Jul, only report.

**Sora:** BPd TC BROO 3 Jun, only report.

**Com. Moorhen:** pr 6y TL BROO 14 Jul.

**Black-bellied Plover:** TL BROO 18 Aug, only report

**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 TL BROO 9 Jun, only report.

**Killdeer:** max 10 DP TTr BROO 20 Aug.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 2 SR TV BROO 15 Aug.

**WILLET:** BPd TC BROO 14 Aug (DW, DN).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Lake Otsego OTSE 14-21 Aug.

**Caspian Tern:** DP TTr BROO 18 Aug, only report.

**Black Tern:** TU BROO 16 Aug, only report.

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Com. Nighthawk:** max 10 JC BROO 30 Aug; few reports.

**Chimney Swift:** max 20 T Greene CHEN 3 Jun (MP); numbers are still down.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** T Hancock DELA 15 Aug, only report.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** TV BROO 13-17 Aug (DW, DN).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** T Barker BROO 18 Aug (NCBC).

**Purple Martin:** max 4 TT TIOG 11 Jul; only 3 reports.

**Cliff Swallow:** CO 14 nests Owego TIOG thru Jun; 10 Walton DELA 23 Jun; 4 CR TC BROO 30 Jun.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 4 NMSF CHEN 1 Jul; TR TIOG 5 Aug.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 2 CVSP BROO 12 Jun; TT TIOG 27 Jul.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 9 NMSF CHEN 1 Jul; all other reports in DELA.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 2 TT TIOG 5 Jul.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** m JC BROO 14 Jun (MP).

**Tennessee Warbler:** T Colchester DELA 3 Jul, only report.

**Nashville Warbler:** TR TIOG 21 Jun; GH CHEN 1, 4 Aug; only reports.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 10 Bear Pen SF 15 Jun; mob, doing well.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 4 NMSF CHEN 1 Jul.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 3 BSGMA DELA 23 Jun.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 15 BSGMA DELA 23 Jun; 10 NMSF CHEN 1 Jul; doing well.

**CERULEAN WARBLER:** CVSP BROO 3 Jun (MP); 2 TC 6 Jun (LH).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 3 Smithboro TIOG 22 Aug.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** T Candor TIOG 10 Jun; T Colchester DELA 2 Jul; only reports

**Mourning Warbler:** T Burlington OTSE thru Jun, numerous; 4 BSGMA DELA 23 Jun; 2 GLSP OTSE 2 Aug.

**Hooded Warbler:** 3 BSGMA DELA 23 Jun, only report.

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** TS OTSE 30 Jun (SB); only report

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** T Milford OTSE 14 Jun (BG); TC BROO 30 Jun (MP); only reports

**Bobolink:** 20 T Solon CORT 29 Jun; max 22 TS OTSE 11 Jul.

**E. Meadowlark:** 2 TS OTSE 20 Jun; 2 NMSF CHEN; only 5 other reports, scarce.

**Red Crossbill:** 2 Smithboro TIOG 20-27 Jul..

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## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**Bill Purcell**

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Overall the season was warmer and wetter than normal. In June the temperature averaged 67.4° F, 1.6 ° above normal, and there was 6.57" of precipitation, 2.86" above normal. The average temperature for July was 74.5°, 3.6° above normal, with 4.28" of precipitation, 0.26" above normal. The average temperature for August was 71.4°, 2.2° above normal, with 6.36" of precipitation, 2.80" above normal.

Waterfowl breeding did not seem to be affected by the June rainfall, as wetlands and lakes were able to handle the water with little evidence of flooding. There was only one Snow Goose this season, and a late flock of Brant was seen in early June. Less common ducks for the summer were Northern Shoveler, Common Goldeneye, and Ruddy Duck. Common Loons apparently

had a good breeding season in the Adirondacks, and Pied-billed Grebes continue to have success on beaver ponds.

An American Bittern was seen several times at Nine Mile Swamp in Brookfield. They have not been reported at that location in some time. Great Egret was not very common this summer, and Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen at just two sites in June. A Glossy Ibis appeared on a flooded golf course in August after a torrential downpour but left the following day as the puddles dried.

Northbound raptors were moving well into June, and the August dispersal flight was observed at Derby Hill. The flights are dependent on south to southeast winds and do not occur otherwise. Only a few breeding locations for Merlin have been identified in the Region, but more are presumed based on the number of summer sightings. Peregrine Falcons successfully bred in Syracuse, but there was no success in Utica. Late-nesting American Kestrels fledged four young at a Dewitt industrial plant towards the end August.

An American Coot in Brewerton appeared to be a non-breeder. The only Sandhill Crane for the summer was a bird flying by Derby Hill, and there is still no evidence of breeding in Region 5. The four plus inches of rain on 22 August did create some short-lived shorebird habitat, but it also covered exposed shorelines on a longer term basis. There was high water on Lake Ontario, and it appears that the plan for Delta Lake is to maintain high water levels to at least Labor Day. A flooded field good for shorebirds in previous years is now overgrown, and our sod farm is going to corn to some degree. There was one Whimbrel plus a handful each of Ruddy Turnstone, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher, but no Red Knots or White-rumped Sandpipers.

A Forster's Tern in August was a little earlier than usual. No lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen this season, and only one jaeger, likely a Parasitic, was seen from Derby Hill in August.

With the lessening of the tent caterpillar irruption cuckoo numbers were down, with Yellow-billed reported more than Black-billed. There was a single N. Saw-whet Owl outside of the Adirondacks. Common Nighthawks remain scarce in the breeding season. Red-headed Woodpecker continues to hold on but is not expanding.

Added proof of Common Raven success was the large number leaving the Oswego County landfill on an August evening. Large numbers of Purple Martins and Barn Swallows were seen over the marsh at Three Mile Bay WMA in August, when they were roosting along with Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Bobolinks. Late, but not unusual migrants included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush which was heard during night migration, and Blackpoll Warbler. A Sedge Wren was in a likely breeding spot in the town of Manlius in July; the species is in decline but the less common field species are seldom searched for.

Tennessee Warbler, a species which can occur outside of the Adirondacks in summer, was found singing in an upland forest in Madison County. There were encouraging reports of Northern Parula and Black-throated Blue Warbler

at sites where they have not been for several years. A Prairie Warbler in southern Onondaga County was the only one reported, but there were very few bird reports from that area this summer. Clay-colored Sparrow was singing at three sites into mid June, but none seemed to persist. A Lincoln's Sparrow at the end of August was earlier than is typical. Dark-eyed Juncos were nesting in a hanging basket in an urban residential setting, while Orchard Oriole seems to be thriving in the Green Lakes State Park area and is likely prospering in other areas along the old Erie Canal corridor. Single sightings of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were fortunate in a year with few finches in our area and a poor outlook for the winter.

The cone crop was poor, with very little production for all species except red pine. Beech production was hampered by the late frost at higher elevations, but birch, hickory, oaks, cherries, and apples all had good crops. Among the ample seed and berry crop observers sited were common elderberry, viburnums, hawthorns, and crabapples.

For the season a total of 201 species was found, one more than the recent 10 year average. Highlights include Black-crowned Night-Heron, **Glossy Ibis**, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Forster's Tern, Tennessee Warbler, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** VB 11 Aug.

**Brant:** 300 DeRuyter L 3 Jun, late.

**Trumpeter Swan:** Volney thru, mate lost in spring.

**Wood Duck:** max 285 WM 30 Aug.

**Am. Black Duck:** 5 Dolgeville 22 Jul; max 8 Jamesville Res 13 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 5 SPd 30 Aug.

**N. Shoveler:** max 3 OnonL 20 Aug; Syr 27 Aug, unusual summer.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 6 OnonL 20 Aug.

**Com. Goldeneye:** OneIL 28 Aug, unusual summer.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 6 OnonL 30 Aug.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 LOL 29 Aug.  
**Ruddy Duck:** Beaver L 15 Aug (JB).  
**Com. Loon:** successful breeding most HERK lakes; max10 Fourth L 16 Aug.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** to 200 per day LOL in Aug.  
**Am. Bittern:** 2 Hubbardsville 31 Jul, uncommon there.  
**Least Bittern:** Weaver L 30 Jun; Volney 19 Aug, only reports.  
**Great Egret:** max 3 T Onondaga 27 Aug; 11 for season.  
**Green Heron:** max 48 Volney 19 Aug.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Jordan 23 Jul, only report.  
**GLOSSY IBIS:** Dewitt 25 Aug (TS, JB).

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Turkey Vulture:** max 88 DH 2 Jun.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 11 DH 2 Jun.  
**N. Goshawk:** 3 reports.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 24 DH 2 Jun; max 72 DH 14 Aug.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 15 DH 2 Jun; max 34 DH 14 Aug.  
**Am. Kestrel:** max 10 Salisbury 16 Aug; 4 y fledged Dewitt 28 Aug, late nesting.  
**Merlin:** DH 20 Jul; family Sangerfield 22 Jul; 5 Aug reports.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 5 Aug reports plus continuing birds Syr & Utica.  
**Am. Coot:** Brewerton 1 Jun, only report.  
**Sandhill Crane:** DH 22 Jul, only report.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 5 SPd 2 Jun; 4 SHF 16 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr & max 3 SHF 15 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 OnonL 6 Jun; arr Verona 16 Jul; max 11 SPd 30 Aug.  
**Killdeer:** max 117 SHF 13 Aug.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 15 OnonL 6 Jun.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Eaton 8 Jul; max 6 Verona 9 Jul.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 9 SPd 18 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr DH 29 Jun; max 15 SHF 23 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** last T Geddes 19 Aug.  
**Whimbrel:** FH 16 Aug (MS).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 4 OnonL 27 Aug; 2 SPd 30 Aug.  
**Sanderling:** max 7 SPd 18 Aug; SHF 23 Aug, unusual there.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 22 OnonL 6 Jun.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 115 SHF 23 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr Verona 16 Jul; max 4 SPd 18 Aug; SHF after 17 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 6 Weaver L, T Warren 1 Aug.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr OnonL 20 Aug; max 6 SHF 23 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr & max 8 Verona 10 Jul; 3 other singles.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 3 SPd 2 Jun; max 38 SVB 23 Aug.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 1450 SHF 23 Aug.  
**Herring Gull:** max 110 SPd 30 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 132 SPd 2 Jun.  
**Black Tern:** 4 SPd 2 Jun; 4 SPd 18 Aug.  
**Com. Tern:** max 329 OneIL 23 Aug.  
**Forster's Tern:** OneIL 31 Aug (DN).  
**jaeger sp.:** DH 23 Aug.

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 13 reports.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 8 reports.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** VB 30 Aug.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** WM 16 Aug; max 5 Palermo 19 Aug.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 9 DH 14 Aug, summer dispersal.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2 Vernon 17 Jun; Sandy Creek 5 July; 2 with y Lysander 22 Jul; FH 24 Aug.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Marcellus 10 Jun; Atwood 2 Aug; migrant calling SFNS 13 Aug.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 4 reports Adks.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** 5 reports WH thru June.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 6 Hastings 24 Aug.  
**Empidonax sp.:** migrants widespread late Aug.  
**Com. Raven:** 6 SVB 25 Jun; max 20 Volney 19 Aug.  
**Horned Lark:** max 12 SHF 23 Aug.  
**Purple Martin:** max 600 WM 12 Aug.  
**Bank Swallow:** max 65 Skaneateles 22 Aug.  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 6 per day.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 850 WM 12 Aug.  
**Sedge Wren:** T Manlius 15 Jul (BC).  
**Marsh Wren:** Volney 19 Aug, poss new site.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 5 Marcellus 10 Jun.  
**E. Bluebird:** 30 Thendara 17 Aug, good for Adks.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 2 Hastings 2 Jun, night flight.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr TR 21 Aug, early; SFNS 27 Aug.

### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** July 9 & 10 Lebanon SF (KC); arr Hastings & SFNS 27 Aug.



**Nashville Warbler:** arr Hastings 24 Aug.  
**N. Parula:** White L 27 Jun; arr SVB 20 Aug.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr SFNS 19 Aug.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 2 Hastings 25 Aug.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Hastings & SFNS  
20 Aug.  
**Prairie Warbler:** Pratt's Falls 26 Jun.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** DH 25 Jun.  
**Mourning Warbler:** SFNS 31 Aug.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Pulaski 17 Aug.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Marcellus 7 Jun;  
Hastings 13 Jun; TR 7-15 Jun.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Syr 28 Aug.  
**Bobolink:** max 240 WM 30 Aug.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 2800 WM 16  
Aug.  
**Com. Grackle:** max 2900 WM 30 Aug.  
**Orchard Oriole:** max 13 GLSP 26 Jun,  
increasing.  
**Pine Siskin:** Salisbury 7 Jul, only report.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** L Julia 27 Jun, only report.

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer was a little warmer and a lot wetter than average, with most of the precipitation coming during the first two months of the season. Watertown's mean June temperature of 65.9° was only 0.6° above normal, but July was a full 3° warmer than average, and August was 1.6° warmer than usual. The dry conditions that prevailed throughout the preceding six months did not extend into summer, however, as the 14.8" of rain that fell during the summer was 145% of normal. June was particularly wet, with 6.4" falling on Watertown, and July wasn't much drier, as another 5.7" fell that month.

The seemingly perpetual June rain resulted in high water throughout the Region, which was quite startling given the drought-like conditions that prevailed all spring. High water likely flooded at least some waterfowl nests as well as the nests of other ground-nesting birds, but I received little direct information to this effect. Certainly the numbers of Ring-necked Duck and Pied-billed Grebe broods at Upper and Lower Lakes seemed consistent with recent years, although the Common Loon nest on Lower Lake apparently failed. Several observers thought that waterfowl numbers later in the summer were low, but it is not clear that these observations reflect poor nest success.

Nick Leone saw two female Common Goldeneye on the St. Lawrence River near Clayton in late August. He saw no indication that these birds nested, but Picton Island, the only location in Jefferson County where nesting has been documented, is just a couple of miles from where Nick saw these birds. Two days later I saw a juvenile Red-necked Grebe on the river, presumably an early migrant. Although waterfowl were relatively scarce throughout much of the Region, good numbers of ducks gathered at Wilson Hill during August, including nearly 200 Wood Ducks and 62 Redhead.

Raptors were found in generally typical numbers with one notable exception. The local Merlin nesting population continues to explode, with two new nesting sites on Fort Drum and several other suspected locations from all areas of Region 6. Merlins have now become an almost daily sight in many areas. A juvenile Peregrine Falcon flew over Fort Drum on 24 August, where it briefly paused to give a female and immature Northern Harrier a little grief.

Water levels along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shorelines were relatively low in early June, but shorebirds were scarce. Summer rains quickly brought the water up, and by mid-July very little shoreline was exposed, and shorebirds were consequently scarce to absent. A few of the most common shorebird species were seen in small numbers at widely scattered locations, but I received no reports of any notable species or concentrations.

Sandhill Cranes summered in Ellisburg during 2008 and possibly 2009, and in Lisbon during 2009, but I heard no reports from either location this spring or summer. Finally, during September I heard that the Lisbon cranes had been present all summer and that cranes were observed during August in Ellisburg. None of these reports were from active birders, but if true, there is a reasonable possibility that Sandhill Cranes are nesting in Jefferson and/or St. Lawrence Counties, something that needs serious investigation during 2011.

Thanks in large part to Lee Harper's excellent work to enhance nest site quality and reduce predation at nest sites, the number of Common Tern nests on the St. Lawrence River reached a new high this year. Of the 1,001 nests found between Lake Ontario and Massena, 908 were on natural islands and especially artificial structures (mostly navigation cells) on the New York side of the river. The total for this stretch of river has risen steadily from just over 600 nests in 2000. After many years of explosive growth, the Caspian Tern colony on Little Galloo Island started declining in 2006 in response to botulism-induced mortality. Type E botulism is still present in eastern Lake Ontario, but the outbreak seems to have lessened in severity, and Caspian Tern nest numbers appear to have stabilized at slightly below 1,500 nests a year. Black Terns continue to decline, and the total found in Region 6 on this year's state-wide count represents a 17% decline compared to the last count conducted in 2007. Still, Jefferson County accounted for 58% of all Black Terns counted in the state, with the majority of birds occurring at Perch River WMA.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos continue to occur throughout the Region in numbers that were unprecedented prior to the mid-2000s tent caterpillar outbreak, but perhaps are finally starting to decline. Several observers noted that Yellow-billed and especially Black-billed Cuckoos were unusually vocal during a couple of weeks in early to mid-August. As usual, good numbers of Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk were reported in June and July, the latter primarily on Fort Drum, but relatively few migrating nighthawks were observed in August.

I heard about a few Upland Sandpipers in Jefferson County, but generally grassland birds were poorly documented away from Fort Drum. The only Henslow's Sparrows I'm aware of were those I found on Fort Drum and a group of at least six on Dog Hill Road in Orleans that several birders visiting from out

of the Region told me about. As far as I can tell, few observers looked elsewhere for this species. The same goes for Sedge Wren, with at least 18 territorial males on Fort Drum and none anywhere else. Sedge Wrens again showed a totally different pattern of arrival and territorial occupation this year than last. During 2009, wrens arrived in multiple waves between early June and August, with the majority arriving after the beginning of July. This year, virtually all of the males I found were present by the end of June, and there was no substantial arrival of new males during mid-summer. Given the paucity of grassland bird reports this year, it's not clear to me that anybody looked for these species in Region 6 except for a few birders visiting the Region from other parts of the state, and who inevitably went to the same couple of locations.

The status of Golden-winged Warblers in northern New York is somewhat clearer, as this species has been the focus of substantial survey efforts for several years. On Fort Drum, the situation is starting to look grim, as Blue-winged Warblers are now equally as common as Golden-winged Warblers, and numbers of hybrids are increasing as well. Blue-winged Warblers are much less common just north of Fort Drum and throughout most of the St. Lawrence Valley, although even there hybrids are increasing. Currently the largest numbers of Golden-winged Warblers appear to be in the Indian River Lakes region of eastern Jefferson and western St. Lawrence Counties. The most unusual warbler sighting of the year was of a Louisiana Waterthrush feeding a fledgling along the Grass River near the northern boundary of Adirondack Park.

The early passerine migration seemed more active than last year. Yellow Warblers and Bobolinks were conspicuously moving by the end of July, but the first truly obvious migrant was a Swainson's Thrush on Fort Drum 17 Aug. Migrants passed through in good diversity during the last week of the month, including Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on several dates, Philadelphia Vireos on Fort Drum 26 and 30 August, three Cape May Warblers and a Wilson's Warbler at Indian Creek Nature Center on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and Lincoln's Sparrows at different locations on the St. Lawrence River on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Boreal species were generally reported in typical numbers from southern St. Lawrence County, although Palm Warblers appear to be increasing, with reports coming from many bogs and fens in the southeastern corner of the county. The only Rusty Blackbirds were from the High Falls Trail area near Wanakena. I heard one White-winged Crossbill fly over the Leonard Pond area on 13 August, and a Pine Siskin over Fort Drum on 2 August, but by season's end no large finch flight was evident.

For the season I received reports of 191 species, which is a little on the low side of average. No great rarities were reported, so to me the highlights were increasing numbers of Common Tern nests along the St. Lawrence River and confirmed nesting for Louisiana Waterthrush in St. Lawrence County. The low point has to be the continued poor coverage of the Region by birders, as reflected by the general lack of grassland bird reports or the inability of any birders to determine whether the Sandhill Cranes that apparently summered in two locations actually nested.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CI – Carleton Island SLR; CV – T Cape Vincent; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; 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; SWG – St. Lawrence County Wetlands and Grasslands Management District, T Dekalb; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WS – Winthrop Swamp, T Stockholm.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Trumpeter Swan:** Wellesley Is 19 & 23 Jun; only report away from PRWMA.

**Wood Duck:** max 182 WHWMA 14 Aug.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 12 ULLWMA 22 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 8 ICNC 28 Aug & SGW 29 Aug.

**Redhead:** 3 arr WHWMA 7 Aug where 62 by 27 Aug.

**Ring-necked Duck:** up to 7 broods per day ULLWMA Jul & Aug.

**Com. Goldeneye:** 2 f SLR Clayton 25 Aug (NL).

**Com. Merganser:** brood 8 chicks Brasher SF 6 Jun.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** SLR Massena 17 Jul.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 63 ULLWMA 15 Aug.

**Red-necked Grebe:** juv SLR Massena 27 Aug.

**Least Bittern:** max 4 ULLWMA 25 Jun.

**Great Egret:** 54 at WS roost 31 Jul; 145 at same site 24 Aug.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 42 PRWMA 20 Jun.

### HAWKS—ALCIDS

**Merlin:** 2 new nesting locations FD; many reports throughout.

**Peregrine Falcon:** FD 24 Aug.

**Com. Moorhen:** at least 2 pr SGW new nesting location in created wetland; numbers improved at 2 sites since 2008.

**Sandhill Crane:** late reports from Ellisburg and Lisbon in areas where summered during 2009 and 2010 respectively; few details.

**Black-bellied Plover:** ED 2 Jun; only report.

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 7 SWG 4 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** last spring migrant Pamela 2 Jun; arr Dekalb 14 Jul.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 2 territories FD Jun; 4 Chaumont 18 Jun; few other breeding season reports; max 13 FD 11 Aug; last FD 25 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** scattered reports of 1-2 per day early Jun & Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** max 7 SWG 11 Aug.

**Com. Tern:** 908 nests NYS side SLR between CV & Massena (LH).

**Caspian Tern:** 1472 nests LGI (IM).

**Black Tern:** max 65 pr PRWMA; 40 pr at 4 additional sites JEFF; 19 pr ULLWMA (NYSDEC survey).

### PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** fewer FD than previous 5 years; Dekalb 5 Jul.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** many heard calling throughout Region 12-19 Aug.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 2 Carleton Is 28 Aug.

**Com. Nighthawk:** up to 12 per day FD Jun; several reports 12-20 migrants 18-24 Aug.

**Whip-poor-will:** total 117 on 6 10-stop survey routes FD.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 8-10 pairs FD.

### FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** migrant FD 1 Jun; several reports of decreased numbers at traditional Adirondack nesting sites.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** FD 24 & 25 Aug; CI 28 Aug.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** FD 26 & 30 Aug.

**Carolina Wren:** Canton 7 Aug.

**Sedge Wren:** 18 singing m FD where all arr by late Jun; no other reports.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Massena 7 Aug; FD 11 Aug; CI 28 Aug.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr FD 17 Aug.

**N. Mockingbird:** 2 locations FD Jun & Jul.

### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** numbers virtually equal to Golden-winged Warbler FD; much less abundant N JEFF and STLA.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** highest numbers Indian River Lakes N JEFF & W STLA.

**Hybrid Golden-winged/Blue-winged**

**Warbler:** increasing throughout.

**Tennessee Warbler:** last spring migrant FD 4 Jun; FD 24 & 31 Aug.

**Yellow Warbler:** flock 45+ Barnhart Is. 31 Jul.

**Cape May Warbler:** 3 ICNC 28 Aug.

**Prairie Warbler:** CI 28 Aug.

**Palm Warbler:** probable or confirmed nesting MM, Fox Marsh T Colton; near LPd; High Falls Trail T Fine; Horseshoe Bog T Piercefield.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** FD 31 Aug.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** FD 24 & 31 Aug.

**Cerulean Warbler:** several reports Dekalb.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** ad feeding y Donnerville SF T Russell 9 Jul (JB).

**Wilson's Warbler:** ICNC 28 Aug.

### TANAGERS—WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** one-day max 23 singing males FD 2 Jun; possible migrant CI 28 Aug.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 18-23 terr males FD Jun & Jul; 6 Dog Hill Road T Orleans 14 Jul.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Massena 27 Aug; 2 Carleton Is 28 Aug.

**Rusty Blackbird:** High Falls Trail T Fine 25 Jul.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Lpd 13 Aug.

**Pine Siskin:** FD 2 Aug.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 Brasher SF 6 Jun; only report away from Adirondacks.

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## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Weather for the summer in the Adirondacks and Champlain Valley was hotter and wetter than normal. Over half of the nights were rainy and windy, with over four inches of rain during each month in Inlet, Saranac Lake, and Plattsburgh, except during July in Plattsburgh. A super storm hit the upper end of the North Branch of the Chazy River, which flooded two campgrounds and the villages of Ellenburg and Altona the morning of 5 August. No frosts were reported during the summer months, but many days reached over 80° degrees, 45 days in Plattsburgh and 21 in Saranac Lake and Inlet. Plattsburgh had 10 days over 90° and Inlet and Saranac Lake had three days over 90°. The Lake Champlain water level started at 96.80' on 1 June, went down only a foot to 95.80' on 2 August, back up with the heavy rains to 96.40' on 6-10 August, then steadily down to the low of 95.75' at the end of the summer.

There were very few lingering shorebirds except a single Dunlin on 8 June

and Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers on 4 and 8 June, all seen at Chazy Riverlands. An American Golden-Plover was seen at Cumberland Head on 6 June. Brant were seen at Lake Placid on 13 June. A Bonaparte's Gull was at Chazy Riverlands on 2 July and then 141 were at Noblewood Park 17 August. A single Pine Grosbeak was seen at Cumberland Head 11 July.

Sifting through over 6,000 bird reports I realized that many birders were looking for boreal birds, and in their quest, they saw and heard many other interesting birds. No Spruce Grouse or American Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported. Many Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, Palm Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrows, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen. Both Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers were reported in early June, when they could still have been traveling north. A single Tennessee Warbler was seen 24 June at Good Luck Lake. Rusty Blackbirds were located in three areas and confirmed breeding near Chazy Lake, a first for Clinton County. There was only one Red Crossbill report, from the Inlet BBC on 30 June, and two White-winged Crossbills, one from the Inlet BBC 30 June and one in Bloomingdale Bog 1 August. Pine Siskins visited feeders until the end on June, some with young. Only one juvenile was banded at Inlet on 13 June. 65 Purple Finches were banded at Inlet during June and July, then they left to nest. Two Ring-necked Ducks and one Common Goldeneye were reported for the summer. The Common Loons that I watched during the summer were very successful, as twelve of the twenty pairs I was monitoring had young and only one of those pairs lost their young.

It may be another one of those no bird winters, as there are very few wild foods for our feathered friends. Cones are nearly non-existent, there are no beechnuts, and the berry trees have already been picked clean by the southbound birds in the western Adirondacks. There is an abundance of acorns and berries on trees in the Champlain Valley. This may push lingering birds to feeders, so it may be another American Goldfinch winter.

Rarities would be topped by the four Sandhill Cranes that spent all of the summer just west of Rouses Point. These were sub-adults, so we'll be looking for them to return and nest next year. These birds were first seen in late June and stayed the entire summer. A Great Egret paid them a visit on 15 August. Egrets have nested on Four Brothers islands, but I received no reports from there this year. A Clay-colored Sparrow was heard and seen 4 July on Montana Road in Plattsburgh and not after that. Three early southbound arrivals in Clinton County, all at Chazy Riverlands, were White-rumped Sandpiper on 14 August, Stilt Sandpiper on 15 & 17 August, and American Pipit on 17 August.

A total of eight active Peregrine Falcon nests fledging 20 young were recorded and watched by the DEC Non-Game Unit. Only 176 species were reported, a little below the previous summer's 182 and well below the record of 192 in 2004.

**Addendum—Spring reports:** Birds of interest reported by Carrie Osborne from the DEC Non-Game Unit doing Black Tern and marsh surveys on Lake Champlain in early May.

These were my two sites in DEC Region 5 this year. Whitehall around East Bay: several pairs of American Bitterns, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Moorhen, and Virginia Rail. Along the river we spotted Bald Eagle, Osprey, Raven, Kingfisher, and Green and Great Blue Heron. On the Ward Marsh WMA, VT side of the river, there were several more pairs of American Bitterns plus Sora and Common Moorhens. One night while packing up I could hear Whip-poor-well loud and clear on the VT side as well. Across the bridge on East Bay Road is a dirt road, which is a popular fishing spot. The road runs along the river so it's nice for walking and biking, or you can paddle along the river, which is flat and peaceful. Regardless of what you do, if it's early May the background noise in that area will be a lot of American Bitterns calling back and forth.

On the southern end of Lake Champlain south of Chubb's Dock and north of South Bay we found Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Common Moorhen in large numbers, more than ten pairs. American Bitterns and Pied-billed Grebe were less abundant but still common. Other species observed at this location included one Black Tern, several pairs of Osprey, Green Heron, and lots of Marsh Wrens!

I did one survey at Putt's Creek WMA and found one pair of Virginia Rails and one pair of Pied-billed Grebes and also observed nesting Osprey in this area.

DEC Region 5 staff surveyed these two sites:

King's Bay WMA, where they found Sora, Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, Common Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, and **King Rail**. There were no Black Terns at this site during the survey period.

Monty's Bay Black Tern survey: Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, and American Bittern were recorded. They also observed Common Tern and Common Moorhen at this site but no Black Terns.

I thank Carrie for this report of some neat birds in our Region.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AM – Ausable Marsh; AP – Ausable Pt; BP – Belmont Property; BR – Bigelow Road; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BML – Blue Mountain Lake; BTS – Browns Tract Stream; CRF – Cedar River Flow; CRL – Chazy Riverlands; CRLoop – Clark Road Loop; CH – Cumberland Head; CSR – Cold Spring Road, FRAN; DC – Dickinson Center; FB – Ferd’s Bog; EL – Elk Lake; FR – Floodwood Road; GLL – Good Luck Lake; IL – Intervale Lowlands; KM – Keese Mills; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Limekiln Lake; MRA – Moose River Area; NP – Noblewood Park; OP – Oregon Plains; PLa – Paradox Lake; PSVIC – Paul Smith’s VIC; PL – Plattsburgh; PtauR – Point au Roche; PP – Powley Place; RPt – Rouses Point; SaL – Sacandaga Lake; SC – Scotion Creek; SRF – St. Regis Falls; TLMP – Tupper Lake Municipal Park; WMt – Whiteface Mountain; WM – Wickham Marsh; WP – Willsboro Point; Wi – Witherbee.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Brant:** LP 13 Jun (A&JM, LM), only report.

**Canada Goose:** max 75 WP 19 Jun (MM) & TLMP 12 Aug (DS).

**Wood Duck:** 11 AM 24 Jun (BP); max 20 Cold Spring Rd FRAN 2 Jul (BJ).

**Am. Black Duck:** 8 PL 2 Jun (LH); max 36 Fish Creek Campground 3 Aug (NN).

**Green-winged Teal:** 4 CRL 20 Aug (MM); CRL 23 Jul (BK), confirmed-FL

**Ring-necked Duck:** PSVIC 5 Jun (NR); EL 5 Jul & 26 Aug (SB), only reports.

**Greater Scaup:** RP 26 Jun (BP), only report.

**Hooded Merganser:** IL 5 Jun (LM); CRL 23 Jul (BK), pair with 8 juv.

**Com. Merganser:** max 45 NP 17 Aug (MM).

**Wild Turkey:** max 31 SRF 28 Aug (H&MV).

**Com. Loon:** max 13 LL 11 Aug (GL), good nesting season.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** CRF 22 Jun (GL); AM 24 Jun (BP); CRL 30 Jun (BK).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 200 NP 13 Jul (C&TW).

**Am. Bittern:** IL 5 Jun (LM); BB 10 Jun (R&NH); BTS 5 Jul (GL).

**Least Bittern:** SC 19 Jun (NO); AM 24 Jun (BP); AP 10 Jul (TA).

**Great Blue Heron:** Mtn. View 18 Jul (NO); max 4 DC 7 Aug (WT).

**Great Egret:** RP 15 Aug (T&DG), great find.

**Green Heron:** RP 24 Jun (BP); 4 DC 7 Aug (WT), many other reports.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 7 SC 19 Jun (NO); CRL 31 Jul (BK); 5 Dead Creek Flow WMA 7 Aug (WT).

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Turkey Vulture:** 6 NP 8 Aug (C&TW); 6 SPF 17 Aug (HV, NN).

**Osprey:** max 13 AM 21 Jul (BJ), population growing.

**Bald Eagle:** several reports around the Region, no nests reported.

**N. Harrier:** Route 22 8 Jun (DN); CR Loop 13 Jul (C&TW); CRL 20 Aug (MM).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Clinton Mills 23 Jun (BP); SL 31 Jul (JS); BB 18 Aug (MMc); Inlet thru (GL).

**Cooper’s Hawk:** PL 25 Jul (LP); MRA 30 Jul (GL); Dannemora 16 Aug (NO); CH 24 Aug (SJ, BK).

**N. Goshawk:** Inlet 15 Aug (SE); Long Lake 15 Aug (BL); BML 17 Aug (KC).

**Am. Kestrel:** IL 2 Jul (LM); BB 5 Jul (WK); Keene 10 Jul (J&PT); Clinton 11 Jul (JH); SRF 17 Aug (H&MV), growing population.

**Merlin:** CRL 14 Jul (BK); BB 18 Aug (MMc); Inlet 31 Aug (GL), also growing population.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 Poko 29 Jun (NO, MS); nest Knob Pond 10 Jul (DL); 8 active nests produced 20 young (JS)-DEC.

**Virginia Rail:** CRL 4 Jun (BK); CRF 15 Jun (BM); Pt. Au Fer 22 Jun (BK, CM).

**Com. Moorhen:** Clinton 22 Jun (JH); AM 24 Jun (BP); CRL 14 Jul (BK); 3 CRL 17 Aug (BK, NO); CRL 20 Aug (MM).

**SANDHILL CRANE:** 4 Rouses Point end of Jun thru (WF, BK, DR, GL), neat find, sub adults.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** CH 6 Jun (BK), only report.

**Semiplumated Plover:** 5 NP 11 Jul (MM); max 7 CRL 28 Aug (BK).

**Killdeer:** max 37 CRL 8 Jul (BK); NP 11 Jul (MM); SC 9 Aug (NO).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 3 NP 15 Aug (MM).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** NP 8 Aug (T&CW); 2 Keene 16 Aug (J&PT); CRL 20 Aug (BK,



MMc).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 2 CRL 13 Jul (BK); NP 13 Jul (MM); CRL 17 Aug (BK, NO).  
**WILLET:** 2 CRL 15 Jul (NO), only report.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 10 CRL 14 Jul (BK); NP 8 Aug (C&TW); SC 9 Aug (NO).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** CRL 20 Aug (MMc); max 17 CRL 16 Aug (BK).  
**Least Sandpiper:** 2 CRL 4 Jun (BK); max 10 CRL 20 Aug (BK); 4 NP 16 Aug (MM).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** CRL 14 Jul (BK), early CLIN; max 2 CRL 21 Aug (BK).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** NP 11 Aug (J&PT), only report.  
**Dunlin:** CRL 8 Jun (BK), only report.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** CRL 15 Jul (BK), early CLIN; CRL 17 Jul (BK).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** CRL 17 Aug (BK), only report.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** CH 1 Jul (NO, MS); CRF 6 Jul (GL).  
**Am. Woodcock:** PP 28 Jul (LH); MRA 7 Jun (GL).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** CRL 2 Jul (BK); max 141 NP 17 Aug (MM).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** Fort Ti 14 Aug (AB); NP 17 Aug (MM).  
**Caspian Tern:** Port Henry 25 Jul (EJ, CAW); 16 NP 3 Aug (SP); Fort Ti 14 Aug (AB); max 31 NP 31 Jul (MM).  
**Com. Tern:** PL 10 Jul (TA); NP 15 Aug (MM).

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** NP 11 Jul (MM); Wi 15 Jul (CAW), only reports.  
**Barred Owl:** PL 25 Jul (LP); Middle Pond 24 Aug (DS); Johns Brook Lodge 29 Aug (J&PT); Inlet thru (GL).  
**Com. Night Hawk:** SRF 28 Aug (HV); max 12 CH 15 Jul (NO, MS).  
**Whip-poor-will:** max 8 CH 1 Jul (NO, MS).  
**Chimney Swift:** max 11 Brown House Antiques 31 Jul (MM); 4 Sagamore Lake 11 Jun (GL); RP 23 Jun (BP); SRF 17 Aug (H&MV).  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 2 BB 31 Jul (JS); 2 OP 6 Jul (WK); 2 FB 6 Jun (GL), other reports normal places.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 2 KM 19 Jun (SB); 2 FB 5 Jun (MP, LK); max 4 Marion River 24 Jul (GL), many other encouraging reports.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 2 WMt 13 Jun (J&PT); 2 FB 6 Jun (GL); max 4 OP 13 Jun (GLa).  
**Willow Flycatcher:** PP19 Jun (LH); DC 12 Jul (MM), great finds.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Long Pond-Fran.14 Jul (NR); Silver Lake Bog 27 Aug (NO), great new places.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Hulls Falls 11 Jun (DN); Chazy Lake Road 13 Jun (BK, CM), nice finds.

**Gray Jay:** max 10 OP 10 Jun (A&JM); 3 FB 11 Jun (GL); 3 Sabattis Circle Road 10 Jul (C&TW); 5 BB 12 Jul (A&DB); 8 OP 6 Aug (WK), good showing, some young.

**Horned Lark:** N. Farm Road-Chazy 4 Jun (BK), only report.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 3 NP 11 Jul (MM); 2 CRF 27 Jul (GL), only reports.

**Bank Swallow:** 7 NP 31 Jul (MM); CRF 27 Jul (GL); max 12 Clinton Mills 26 Jun (BP).

**Cliff Swallow:** 3 WP 30 Jun (SP); NP 16 Aug (MM); max 6 SRF 17 Aug (HV&RS).

**Boreal Chickadee:** BB 12 Jul (A&DB); FR 6 Aug (NN); max 4 BB 18 Aug (MM) & Upper Wolf Jaw 28 Aug (J&PT).

**Tufted Titmouse:** 2 Sacandaga River Walkway 3 Jul (JD) & NP 3 Aug (SP); max 3 Spring Pond 12 Jun (BV, GLa, RM).

**Carolina Wren:** max 3 Westport 13 Jul (C&TW); Peru 28 Jul (LF); NP 31 Jul (MM), spreading out.

**Marsh Wren:** SC 15 Jun (NO), , 20+ nests; AM 14 Jul 9 (Co&TW).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** MRA Jun 3 (MMc); 3 BB 17 Jun (BF); 3 Inlet BBS 30 Jun (CW); Fish Pond 4 Jul (KB); max 14 BB 18 Aug (MMc).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 3 WMt 13 Jun (BV, GLa); OP 7 Jul (WK); EL 26 Aug (SB).

**Veery:** 4 Marcy Field 6 Jun (LM); DC 23 Jun (ANM); max 8 IL 2 Jul (LM).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** max 7 WMt 13 Jun (BV, GLa); Blue Mtn 26 Jun (AD); Mt. Marcy 4 Aug (JS).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Fish Pond 4 Jul (KB); EL 5 Jul (SB); Piseco Lake-Fall stream 6 Jul (AA).

**N. Mockingbird:** Willsboro Townhall 10 Jul (MM); Farrell Road Willsboro 10 Jul (MM).

**Brown Thrasher:** max 3 IL 6 Jun (LM); Lake Everest 12 Jul (J&PT); BP 21 Jul (NR).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 19 PL 25 Jul (LP); max 47 BB 5 Aug (NN).

#### WARBLERS

**Tennessee Warbler:** GLL 24 Jun (ND), only report.

**Cape May Warbler:** Shallow Lake 5 Jun (LK, MP), only report.

**Pine Warbler:** 2 Inlet Park 11 Jun (GL); PSVIC 12 Jun (A&JM); Clintonville 24 Jun (BP); max 3 NP 7 Jul (WK); 2 FR 6 Aug (NN), growing population.

**Palm Warbler:** MRA 3 Jun (MMc); SL 5 Jun (LK, MP); 2 PSVIC 12 Jun (JM); 2 FB 18 Jun (CC); max 12 BB 18 Aug (MMc), spreading out.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 9 WMt 13 Jun (GLa, BV), other reports.

**Black-&-white Warbler:** Noonmark 11 Jun (J&SI); MRA 19 Jun (BT); EL 5 Jul (SB); max 3 BP 31 Jul (NR).

**N. Waterthrush:** MRA 3 Jun (MMc); 2 BB 13 Jun (JM); max 6 IL 2 Jul (LM); 2 BTS 19 Jul (GL).

**Mourning Warbler:** Sabattis Bog 19 Jun (J&PT); Keene 24 Jun (J&PT); Inlet BBS 30 Jun (CW); max 6 IL 2 Jul (LM).

**Canada Warbler:** max 3 MRA 3 Jun (MMc); 2 IL 6 Jun (LM); WMt 2 Aug (JS); BB 5 Aug (NN); FR 6 Aug (NN).

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** WP 24 Jun (BP); MRA 17 Jul (NC), only reports.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Montana Road PL 4 Jul (KF), great find, observer both heard and saw the bird just that one day.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 6 WP 24 Jun (BP), many other reports.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** MRA 3 Jun (MMc); 2 IL 6 Jun (LM); 2 FB 18 Jun (CC); max 3 IL 2 Jul (LM).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Clarojast 22 Jun (JH); WP 29 Jun (SP); Inlet thru (GL).

**N. Cardinal:** WP 27 Jun (SP); Wi all season (CAW); max 3 Pt auR 31 Jul (BL); 2 Clinton 11 Jul (JH).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 4 Clarojast 22 Jun (JH); Keene 10 Jul (J&PT), with young; BP 31 Jul (NR).

**Indigo Bunting:** 2 WM 24 Jun (BP); 2 GLL 24 Jun (ND); DC 12 Jul (AN).

**Bobolink:** 2 AM 24 Jun (BP); 3 WP 24 Jun (BP); CRL 13 Jul (C&TW); CRL 20 Aug (MM); CH nesting 1 Jun-20 Jul (NO).

**E. Meadowlark:** Essex 14 Jun (DN); max 4 WP 24 Jun (BP).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Chazy Lake Road 9 Jun (NO), confirmed – FL, first CLIN; KM 19 Jun (SB); PP 22 Jun (ND), nice finds.

**Pine Grosbeak:** CH 11 Jul (NO), one that forgot to go north.

**Purple Finch:** 65 banded Inlet Jun-Jul (GL); 13 Km 19 Jun (SB); 6 Clarojast 22 Jun (JH).

**House Finch:** PSVIC 12 Jun (A&JM); WP 27 Jun (SP).

**Red Crossbill:** Inlet BBC 30 Jun (CW), nice find.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Inlet BBC 30 Jun (CW); BB 1 Aug (JS), also nice finds.

**Pine Siskin:** SL 4 Jun (PF); 6 LP 6 Jun (PF); max 20 IL 12 Jun (LM); banded juv. Inlet 13 Jun (GL); max 20 IL 12 Jun (A&JM).

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 12 IL 8 Jun (LM); SRF 17 Aug (HV), many reports.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Elizabethtown 21, 22 Jun (J&PT); DC 25 Jun (AN); Inlet BBS 30 Jun (CW).

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## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Will Yandik**

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Summer 2010 ended hotter and drier than average. June concluded with temperatures 1.3° F above average and an inch less rain than average. July produced eight days above 90° and ended 3.8° above average with 0.60 fewer inches of rain than average. August continued the trend, ending 3.0° above average with 2 fewer inches of rain than average. By summer's end, many waterways, reservoirs, and streams dropped to drought levels, and area residents reported wells drying up. Few puddles meant fewer breeding opportunities for mosquitoes, and forests hosted fewer arthropods. Many oaks began shedding

acorns early, and by the end of the season near-drought-like conditions caused early leaf fall in water-stressed trees.

An unusually early and pronounced Great Egret invasion occurred this summer, with reports beginning in early July and continuing through the fall. These conspicuous white vagrants are spotted, usually by passing motorists, in many of the Region's small waterways each summer. This summer is unusual for its many large single location maxima, including 24 at Crescent in Albany and 39 at Vischer's Ferry, Saratoga County. Two **Snowy Egrets** were found in the Region as well as two **Little Blue Herons**, an adult in Cohoes, Albany County, and an immature in nearby Rensselaerville.

Tim O'Conner located nests of Virginia Rail and Least Bittern near North Bay, Greenport, Columbia County, in a contiguous patch of cattail. Although both species were recorded in that stretch of the river in previous years, they were not confirmed as breeders during the 2000 Breeding Bird Atlas.

After much anticipation, and many hours of searching, Rich Guthrie observed and video recorded **Mississippi Kites** feeding fledglings in the town of Root, Montgomery County, representing the first confirmed breeding record for this species in New York State and one of only a handful in the Northeast. Rich and others observed three adult birds tending to the nest, one bird likely a sub-adult joining in on the parenting behavior of the mated pair. The existence of a sub-adult this year suggests that the adult pair may have produced a chick in 2009, since it seems extraordinarily unlikely that a third vagrant bird would have located this nest and joined the pair this far north of the kite's typical breeding range.

Region 8 only observes good shorebird migrations in years of drought, when a few exposed mudflats occur on lakes and reservoirs. Many thousands of birds fly over the Region each year, but few land. This summer, David Harrison found an interesting pocket of shorebirds on Stony Creek Reservoir in Albany County, including the locally large maximum of 200 Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Plover. Other birders in the Region found **Baird's Sandpiper** at Cohoes, Albany County, and there were scattered reports of Short-billed Dowitchers and White-rumped Sandpiper.

Passerine reports yielded few surprises this summer, except for an interesting report of Golden-Winged Warbler in Germantown, Columbia County, and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Vischer's Ferry, Saratoga County. The latter species has gone unreported in Region 8 for many years. Finally, although Montgomery County hosts Clay-colored Sparrows nearly every summer, an unusual report of one in Albany County by T. Lloyd Williams was unexpected so far from suitable grassland habitat.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Blue-winged Teal:** COX grasslands 8 Jul; 6 Stony Creek Res ALBA 21 Aug.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 2 Partridge Run ALBA 23 Jun; 6 VF 21 Aug.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** L George WARR 8 Jul.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Queensbury SARA 7 Jul.  
**Horned Grebe:** L George WARR 2 Jun.  
**Least Bittern:** Greenport COLU 1 Jul, nesting; 2 BMC 3 July; Niskayuna SCHE 3 Aug.  
**Great Egret:** 5 Cohoes ALBA 19 Jul; 6 Niskayuna SCHE 21 Jul; 24 Crescent ALBA 3 Aug; max 39 VF 20 Aug, numerous reports.  
**Snowy Egret:** Cohoes 19-31 Jul; Ferry Drive SARA 30 Jul.  
**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** imm Cohoes ALBA 8 Aug; Myosotis L ALBA 17-19 Aug.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Cohoes ALBA 28 Jul.  
**Black Vulture:** Albany 24 Jun.

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 2 Root MONT Jun-thru, first nesting record for NYS, *intro*.  
**N. Goshawk:** max 4 Partridge Run ALBA 1 Jun-11 July; max 4 Burnt-Rossman Hills SF SCHO 19 Jun – 5 Jul, with fledglings.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Rensselaer Forest Tract RENS 8 Jun; Clermont COLU 18 Jun.  
**Com. Moorhen:** 2 Rural Grove MONT 3 Jul; 2 Glen MONT 3-18 Jul.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** Stony Creek Res ALBA 21 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** Schoharie Creek GREE 4 Jul.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** COX grasslands 2 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 Cohoes ALBA 15 Jul.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 3 Ames MONT 2 Jun thru.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** L George WARR 1 Jun.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 4 Stony Creek Res ALBA 21 Aug; Crescent ALBA 21 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 10 COX grasslands 8 Jul; COX 30 Jul-3 Aug; Cohoes Flats 31 Jul; max 200 Stony Creek Res ALBA 21 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Myosotis L ALBA 2-9 Aug.  
**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** Myosotis L ALBA 19-22 Aug; Crescent 20 Aug; Cohoes ALBA 21 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 2 VF 21 Aug; 5 Stony Creek ALBA 21 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Rensselaerville ALBA 25 Jul; Crescent ALBA 21 Aug.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 2 4-mile Pt GREE 27 Jul; New Baltimore GREE 1 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** Cohoes Flats ALBA 10 Jul; 2 Coeymans ALBA 11 Jul.  
**Black Tern:** 2 Saratoga L SARA 6 Jun; Myosotis L ALBA 14-15 Aug.  
**Com. Tern:** Rensselaerville ALBA 23 Jul.

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Long-eared Owl:** Rensselaerville ALBA 1-28 Jun.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Rensselaerville ALBA 11 Jul.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 50 Colonie ALBA 25 Aug.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Blackhead Mt GREE 12 Jun; Hunter Mt GREE 21 Jun.  
**Purple Martin:** Saratoga L SARA 5 Jul; L Lonely SARA 10 Jul.

**Cliff Swallow:** 10 Chism Farm Ancram COLU 3 Jun, Jewett GREE 26 Jun; Wilton SARA, Jul-thru, previously unreported colony; Glen MONT 18 Jul.

**Sedge Wren:** 2 Plum Rd FtE 25 Jun (BP).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** 2 Blackhead Mt GREE 12 Jun.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Germantown COLU 14-22 Jun.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Partridge Run ALBA 20 Aug; Dutton Ridge SF SCHO 26 Aug.

**N. Parula:** Sprakers MONT 3 Jul.

**Cape May Warbler:** 2 Dutton Ridge SF SCHO 26 Aug.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Partridge Run ALBA 20 Aug.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** max 3 Coeymans ALBA 13 Jun.

**Mourning Warbler:** Petersburg RENS 8 Jun; 2 Burnt-Rossman SF SCHO 19 Jun; Hunter Mt GREE 21 Jun.

**Hooded Warbler:** New Salem RENS 15 Jun.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Partridge Run ALBA 20 Aug; Brunswick RENS 21 Aug; Dutton Ridge SF SCHO 26 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** 2 Sand L RENS 8 Jun; Hunter Mt GREE 21 Jun; Brunswick RENS 21 Aug.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** VF 5 Jun (SA).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

##### CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:

Rensselaerville ALBA 25 Jul (TLW).

**Vesper Sparrow:** FtE 25-6 Jun.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 2 Saratoga Airport SARA 6 Jun; 2 Minden MONT 20 Jun.

**E. Meadowlark:** max 5 Claverack COLU 15 Aug.

**Red Crossbill:** Partridge Run ALBA 24 Jul.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Chatham 15-16 Jun; Glen MONT 4 Jul.

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## REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

### Michael Bochnik

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The summer season was very warm and very dry. Poughkeepsie had twenty-five days with a high of 90° F or more; sixteen of them were in July. That month contained two brutal heat waves. In early July, a large ridge of high pressure forced air to slowly descend across the Northeast, preventing clouds from forming and creating a record breaking heat wave for the area from 4-8 July. Yonkers reached 103° on 6 July, Poughkeepsie 102°. The second heat wave occurred 15-19 July with temperatures in the low and mid nineties. Overall, June came in 3° above, July 4° above, and August 1° above average. Following a wet spring, June and July were very dry. Only 1.9" fell in June; the normal is 3.7", and July saw 1.4" with the norm being 4.7". August was wet, mainly due to 3.7" of rain falling on Poughkeepsie on 22 August. The month finished with a total of 7" of rain.

A young male King Eider was found off Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye on 8 June. It remained in the area until 11 June to make it to the count period for the Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count. Nearby, on Playland Lake, a female Common Eider was discovered along with a Lesser and a Greater Scaup;

all three remained for the count, held on 12 and 13 June. These are the first summer records for both species of eider for Westchester County. Other highlights from the count from Westchester County included 18 Red Knot and a Western Sandpiper off Rye on Scotch Cap Island.

The Queens County Bird Club found a **MISSISSIPPI KITE** during a field trip to Ward Pound Ridge in northern Westchester County on 6 June. Discovered late in the day on Michigan Road, the bird flew over them coming from the east and heading west. If submitted and accepted by NYSARC this would be the second record for Westchester County. The first was in Rye in May 1986. There were two other reports, not submitted to NYSARC, in May and August 1995. Steve Bauer counted six Broad-winged Hawks, two Ospreys, two Am. Kestrels, a Cooper's Hawk, a Bald Eagle, and a Northern Harrier for an early start to the hawk migration season atop Hook Mountain on 22 August.

Common Moorhens were very successful breeders in the Bashakill this season. John Haas observed sixteen from Haven Road on 18 August; ten of them grown chicks. A Sandhill Crane, discovered by John Haas and Arlene Borko, made a brief overnight stop at Bashakill the evening of 1 June. It was seen by a number of birders the next morning before flying off. Possible the same bird was seen the next day on 3 June at Blue Chip Farm in Ulster County by Amy Simmons. Later in the month one was seen in Ellenville on 19 June, followed by a sighting the next day three miles away in the Village of Wawarsing.

A breeding plumaged Black-bellied Plover was found in Morningside Park, Sullivan County on 18 August and was joined by a second individual on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the same period a Black-bellied Plover visited Piermont Pier.

Reports of adult Forster's Terns feeding juveniles off Westchester County in Long Island Sound have continued since first noted in 2003, and pairs have been seen courting as early as 2007, but nesting has yet to be confirmed. Terns are noted to disperse quite far and still feed young. This year brings an even more intriguing sighting. While crabbing from his boat, Drew Ciganek found an adult feeding a juvenile in the Hudson River, on a buoy near a line of pilings far out south of Piermont Pier on 25 July.

In mid-July, the local newspaper reported a story of a Great-horned Owl that was entangled in the huge net that protects the area from a driving range at the Dellwood Country Club in New City. The bird was upside down in the 60-foot-high net, dangling from a claw and a leg. It was carefully disentangled by two club employees wearing masks, leather jackets, and gloves. The owl was taken to the Raptor Trust in New Jersey for care and observation and was expected to be released at Dellwood a week later. Frank Bonanno was fortunate to see a Chimney Swift up close on 12 July when a fledgling perched on his front steps. They've been nesting in the chimney in the house across the street, located in Congers, for the past few years.

John Haas found an unexpected Orange-crowned Warbler on 21 August at Morningside Park.

A singing Dickcissel was discovered west of Florida at the end of Indiana Road on 12 June by Jim Vellozzi. Two Northern Harriers were also in the area and nesting was suspected. A few Grasshopper Sparrows were in the area

grasslands as well. An Upland Sandpiper was also noted nearby on Big Island Road. That same day, Vellozzi found a Kentucky Warbler at Pochuck State Forest. A few days later on 15 June, Ken McDermott the found a pair of Blue Grosbeaks near the Dickcissel location. They were seen sporadically into the first half of July. Some excellent photos were submitted. This is the second pair found in Orange County. A pair carrying food for young was noted in Port Jervis in southwest Orange County in summer 1984 for NY's second confirmed breeding record. At least one individual was reported sporadically until 23 July.

While searching for shorebirds, Tom and Hal Smith found and photographed a Yellow-headed Blackbird on Skinners Lane just north of Pine Island on 21 Aug. It was refound by a few birders the next day. Another surprising summer find was that of a Red Crossbill during a 20 June summer count covering the Pawling Christmas Bird Count circle. Angela Dimmitt's group discovered the bird along Quaker Lake Road south of Quaker Lake, Dutchess County. This is the first June record for the county.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; GSSBC – Greenwich-Stamford Summer bird Count; IES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Brant:** 10 Piermont Pier 1 Jun; 80 MC 1 Jun;  
10 EGR 9 Jun; 1 Piermont Pier 23 Jun, 10 Jul.  
**Godwall:** 3 Piermont Pier 8 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 2 Walkkill River NWR,  
Liberty Marsh 26 Aug.

**Greater Scaup:** MC 12 Jun; EGR 9-13, 15,  
24, 30 Jun.

**Lesser Scaup:** EGR 11-13, 15, 24, 30 Jun.  
**King Eider:** EGR 8-11 Jun (TB).  
**Com. Eider:** EGR 11-13 Jun (TB).  
**Bufflehead:** Tarrytown L 12 Aug (EE).  
**Hooded Merganser:** Callicoon River Rd 16 Jun; 25 Pawling area 20 Jun; 2 IES 20 Jun.  
**Com. Merganser:** 2 Moonbeams Nature Preserve, Wallkill 8 Jun; 2 IES 13 Jun; 1 Piermont Pier 23 Jun; Bower P 30 Jul.  
**Ruddy Duck:** MC 12 Jun (TB).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Pawling 20 Jun; IES 2, 9 Jun, 15 Aug.  
**N. Bobwhite:** Bashakill 3, 5 Jun.  
**Com. Loon:** EGR 4 Jun.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** Bashakill 7, 12 Aug; Saugerties Lighthouse 21 Aug; Wappinger L 22 Aug.  
**Am. Bittern:** 3 Bashakill 1, 5, 12 Jun; Callicoon 14 Jun; Pawling 20 Jun; Stewart Airport 10 Jul.  
**Great Egret:** 14 EGR 16 Jun; 14 Kingston 29 Aug; 20 Port Ewen 30 Jul.  
**Snowy Egret:** 10 EGR 14 Jun; 7 MC 2 Aug.  
**Little Blue Heron:** Wethersfield 9 Jun (DG).  
**Tricolored Heron:** Tarrytown L 29 Aug (LL,MLo).  
**Glossy Ibis:** 3 Bashakill 5 Jun (ABa).  
**Black Vulture:** nested successfully in White Plains on a radio tower (JV).

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Ward Pound Ridge 6 Jun (GD, AGi, JL, EM, IR, LW).  
**Northern Harrier:** 2 Florida 12 Jun; Pine I 5, 7 Jul.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Armonk 13 Jun; Ward Pound Ridge 19 Jun, now uncommon in Westchester in summer.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 6 Hook Mt 22 Aug.  
**Clapper Rail:** 3 MC 1, 7, 12 Jun, 26 Aug.  
**Com. Moorhen:** 3 Bashakill 1Jun; 1 ad & 6 juv Bashakill 7 Aug; 16 Bashakill 18 Aug.  
**Sandhill Crane:** Bashakill 1,2 Jun (ABo,JHaa,ScB,LV,JC); Blue Chip Farms 3 Jun (AS); Ellenville 19 Jun (G&PF); Village of Wawarsing 20 Jun (DoB).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** MC & Jun; Morningside Park 18-21 Aug (ScB,ABo,LV,JHaa); Piermont Pier 18-21 Aug (LP,EE); 2 MC 20 Aug; 2 Morningside Park 22 Aug (JHaa); Pine I 28 Aug (DeP).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** Morningside 15 Aug; few Piermont Pier 18 Aug (LP).  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** 2 MC 1 Jun; 4 EGR 6 Jun; 4 MC 10 Jul; 6 MC 2 Aug.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** MC 1 Jun.  
**Willet:** MC 4 Jun; Hen Island 12, 13 Jun (GSSBC); 2 MC 10 Jul(DH); 3 EGR 8 Aug;

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MC 8 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 11 Morningside Park 22 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** Blue Chip Farm 6 Jun; Florida 12 Jun; 4 Blue Chip Farm 13 Jun; 3 ad, 1 chick Blue Chip Farm 19 Jun.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 2 MC 2 Aug; 3 EGR 15 Aug; 3 Piermont Pier 26 Aug (KiH,AWe); 2 Piermont Pier 29 Aug (LP).  
**Red Knot:** 18 Scotch Cap I 11 Jun.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 4 Scotch Cap I 12, 13 Jun; 140 MC 8 Aug.  
**Western Sandpiper:** Scotch Cap I 12,13 Jun (GSSBC).  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** - Morningside Park 15 Aug (JHaa,ABo,ScB); Apollo Plaza 18,22 Aug (JHaa); 6 Skinner Ln, Warwick 29 Aug (DiB,BR).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 2 Morningside Park 18-21 Aug.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Wallkill River NWR-Liberty Marsh 11 Jul; 3 Morningside Park 15, 18 Aug; MC 20 Aug; 2 Piermont Pier 21 Aug.  
**Laughing Gull:** Piermont Pier 8 July (CW); was once much more common on the Hudson; MC 10 Jul (DH).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** Ulster Landing Park 31 Jul (FM).  
**Com. Tern:** 80 EGR 8 Jun; 40 MC 10 Jul.  
**Forster's Tern:** 2 pair Scotch Cap I 12, 13 Jun (GSSBC); ad feeding juv Hudson River, south of Piermont pier 25 July (DC); 6 Piermont Pier 1, 8 Aug; ad w/ begging juv MC 2 Aug (BV).  
**Least Tern:** MC 2 Aug.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** EGR 10, 11 Jun.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** MC 10 Jul.  
**Great Horned Owl:** *intro*.  
**Barred Owl:** 4 Mianus River Gorge 12 Jun.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 19 Chestnut Ridge 17 Aug; 69 Chestnut Ridge 25 Aug; 150 Northern Saugerties Township 25 Aug; 183 Chestnut Ridge 26 Aug; 48 Eastchester 29 Aug; 30 Mount Vernon 29 Aug.  
**Whip-poor-will:** 3 Bashakill 4 Jun; 8 Bear Mt SP 18 Jun; 2 Putnam Valley 20 Jun.  
**Chimney Swift:** *intro*.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 10 Wurtsboro 15 Aug.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 13 Pawling area 20 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Wolf Brook MUA 10 Jun; Scudiere Preserve, Pawling 20 Jun; 2 Pawling 21 Jun.

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**Acadian Flycatcher:** none were found at Mianus River Gorge (GSSBC); 2 Clarence Fahnestock SP 2 Jun; Wassaic 3 Jun; 4 Bashakill 5 Jun; 4 Peekamoose Rd, West Shokan and Sundown 15 Jun; Doodletown 19 Jun; Nuclear L 21 Jun.

**Least Flycatcher:** 7 Peekamoose Rd, West Shokan and Sundown 15 Jun.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** scattered rep all counties except PUTM & WEST.

**Horned Lark:** 4 Florida 23 Jun.

**Purple Martin:** 6 EGR 2 Jun.

**Cliff Swallow:** 120 Cross River Dam early Jun; 30 Livingston Manor 19 Jun.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 3 Nannahagan Rd, Armonk 13 Jun; 2 Hook Mt 30 Aug; moderate movement south last week of Aug.

**Brown Creeper:** 5 Nannahagan Rd, Armonk 13 Jun.

**Winter Wren:** 5 Peekamoose Rd, West Shokan and Sundown 15 Jun.

**Marsh Wren:** 8 MC 14 Jun.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** IES 2 Jun (BH).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** 2 Slide Mt 20 Jun.

**Hermit Thrush:** Mianus River Gorge 13 Jun.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Wurtsboro 7 Jun; Doodletown 11 Jun; 2 Mine Rd 12 Jun; 3 Sterling Forest 19 Jun; Doodletown 9, 10 Jun; D & H Canal Linear Park 23 Jun.

**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** IES 25 Jun.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Morningside Park 21 Aug (JHaa).

**Nashville Warbler:** Armonk 12, 13 Jun (MW).

**N. Parula:** 2 Dennings Pt 4 Jun; 2 Sterling Forest 19 Jun.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 5 Peekamoose Rd, West Shokan and Sundown 15 Jun; 3 Nellie Hill Preserve, Dover 16 Jun; Hickok Brook WMA 18 Jun; Sterling Forest 26 Jun; Livingston Manor 5 Jul; Fir Brook 28 Jul.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Hickok Brook WMA 18 Jun; Pawling 20 Jun; 10 Kerhonkson 20 Jun.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Hickok Brook WMA 18 Jun; Wurtsboro 23 Jul, 10, 15 Aug.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 6 Turkey Hollow, Amenia 30 Jun.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Wurtsboro 7 Jun; 8 Peekamoose Rd, West Shokan and Sundown

15 Jun; Hickok Brook WMA 18 Jun; Pawling area 20 Jun; 2 Turkey Hollow, Amenia 30 Jun.

**Prairie Warbler:** sev Nellie Hill Preserve, Dover 16 Jun.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Bashakill 10 Jun.

**Cerulean Warbler:** 7 Doodletown 2 Jun.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 10 Ward Pound Ridge 12 Jun.

**Kentucky Warbler:** Rockefeller SP 1, 3 Jun; Doodletown 4, 6 Jun (JR); Burden Preserve, North Castle 6 Jun (BV); Pochuck State Forest 12 Jun (JV).

**Hooded Warbler:** Burden Preserve, North Castle 6, 10, 12 Jun; 16 Doodletown 10 Jun; Bashakill 10 Jun; 14 Peekamoose 15 Jun; Nellie Hill Preserve, Dover 16 Jun; 3 Pawling area 20 Jun.

**Canada Warbler:** IES 12 Jun; 14 Peekamoose Rd, West Shokan and Sundown 15 Jun; 6 Kerhonkson 20 Jun; Callicoon Center 28 Jul; Fir Brook 28 Jul; 2 Bashakill 14 Aug.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Vesper Sparrow:** Shawangunk 22 Jun (ES); Stony Kill Farm 24 Jul (KeH).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 3 pr Florida 12 Jun (JV).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** MC 1 Jun (TB).

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** 2 MC 10 Jul.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 3 Fir Brook 26 Jun.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 2 Beaverkill 5 Jun; Cape Pond 20 Jun, later w/ young, the first nesting known here (VF); 10 Kerhonkson 20 Jun (FM, DF).

**Blue Grosbeak:** pr Indiana Rd, Florida 15, 19, 23 Jun, 1, 5, 9, 11, 15 23 July (KM, SM, GM, ScB).

**Indigo Bunting:** 20 Black Dirt region, Florida 9 Jul.

**Dickcissel:** Florida 12-23 Jun (JV, KM, ScB, SM).

**Bobolink:** 50 Skinners Lane, Pine Island 21 Aug.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Skinners Lane, Pine Island 21, 22 Aug ph (TS, HS).

**Orchard Oriole:** 5 Tarrytown L 8 Jun; 19 Black Dirt region, Florida 9 Jul.

**Purple Finch:** Nellie Hill Preserve, Dover 16 Jun; a few at feeders in SULL thru.

**Red Crossbill:** Quaker Lake Rd 20 Jun (AD), 1<sup>st</sup> Jun record for DUTC.

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## REGION 10—MARINE

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June was very dry and warm. The mean temperature was 3.4° higher than normal at 71.9° and precipitation totaled 2", 1.71" lower than normal. For three consecutive days, 27-29 Jun, we saw temperatures in the low 90s. July was the second hottest on record. We reached a high of 103° at Central Park (101° at Islip) on 6 Jul, helping to boost the mean temperature to 81.3°, 4.8° warmer than normal. Precipitation for July was about normal at Islip at 3.36" but 2.02" below normal at Central Park at 2.60". Continuing the warmer and drier trend, August's mean temperature of 74.3° was +2.6° and precipitation totaled 2.31", 2.17" less than normal.

The **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** found by Anne Lazarus and Isabel Conte at Jamaica Bay on 31 July occurred in the context of this year's phenomenal northward incursion, which had already yielded NYS records in Regions 5 (on 31 May) and 1 (see the Region 1 Report and Highlights of the Season, elsewhere in this issue). A female King Eider found by Richard Kaskan at Jones Beach on 13 July was the most notable in the Region's usual long list of lingering seafowl. John Shemilt continued to revise our understanding of the Region's pelagic bird life with a series of trips south-southeast of Shinnecock, yielding **Audubon's Shearwater**, **White-faced** and many **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, **Bridled Terns**, and **Long-tailed Jaeger**. Curiously, he found very few of the common shearwaters offshore, whereas shore-bound observers enjoyed another productive year. Two distinguishable American White Pelicans at Jamaica Bay were consistent with the recent trend toward increasing occurrence in the Region, and a smattering of Brown Pelican reports was typical for recent summers.

Bald Eagle continued its trend of increasingly regular occurrence throughout the Region at all seasons, and Northern Harrier continued to hang by a thread as a summer resident. Whereas Region 10's breeding American Kestrels are now concentrated in New York City, there was a hint that the Region might add a third breeding *Falco* soon, in the form of a juvenile Merlin that lingered around Joe Viglietta's Nassau County yard for five days, beginning 15 August. This is at least ten days earlier than typical southbound arrival and suggests that it fledged relatively close to Long Island.

This summer we again found multiple shorebirds afflicted with tumor-like growths on the head and throat, including Red Knots and Semipalmated Sandpipers at Cupsogue. It is worth noting that a similarly troubled White-rumped Sandpiper was photographed in Rhode Island in mid June as well, and that this phenomenon was also observed in our Region during summer 2006 and discussed in somewhat greater detail in that season's Region 10 report.

Interesting reports of Long-billed Dowitcher included an early adult at Cupsogue on 29 June, a very high early tally of nine at Jamaica Bay on 23 July, and an exceptionally early juvenile photographed at Jamaica Bay on 16 August. Until recently, *Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*, the prairie-breeding subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher, was thought to be just a scarce southbound migrant on Long Island during July-August, and genuinely rare even a little to the north. Over the last few years, close attention to flocks of non-breeding shorebirds has yielded a series of June records, such as the one in full alternate plumage photographed by John Gluth at Cupsogue on 13 June that shone among a few dozen drab, mostly yearling, *L. g. griseus*.

Shorebird migration was conspicuous on 22 August, with high counts of various species all along the ocean shore, from Shawn and Mary Beth Billerman's observations at Jones Inlet to Andy Guthrie's and Angus Wilson's at Mecox Bay. Among the many reports that day were several ample flocks of Lesser Yellowlegs in active migration and a flock of **12** Hudsonian Godwits that paused briefly to commune with **10** long-staying Marbled Godwits at Cupsogue. The dedicated efforts of Doug Gochfeld and others in carefully counting shorebirds throughout the season yielded a number of notable maxima, for instance for Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were numerous and widespread throughout the summer, with 15 or more individuals reported. A considerable amount of effort yielded three **Arctic Terns** (plus one at the end of the spring season) and two **Sandwich Terns**. It is a testament to our short memories that these totals were deemed disappointing by some observers!

Reports of breeding landbirds were pretty mundane overall. Perhaps the most interesting was a singing Alder Flycatcher found by Ken Feustel in suitable habitat in Calverton. This record is yet another indication of the biological value of this uniquely intact, undeveloped part of Long Island. The tempo and mode of southbound migration was captured in terrific detail by Deb Allen and an army of observers at Central Park. Especially noteworthy were Anita Randolfi's Prothonotary Warbler, unseasonal Blackpoll Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and good numbers of Philadelphia Vireos; but all of the data below are worth spending some time over, as they include many interesting patterns.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CCP—Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CLP—Clove Lakes P, RICH; CP—Central P, NEWY; CRSP—Connetquot R SP Pres, SUFF; DP—Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF—Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FINS—Fire I National Seashore, SUFF; GKP—Great Kills P, RICH; Jam Bay—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, KING & QUEE; JBWE—Jones Beach West End, NASS; MB—Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI—Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA—Mount Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MP—Montauk Pt, SUFF; OMNSA—Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; PP—Prospect P; RMSP—Robert Moses SP, SUFF; Shinn—Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

#### **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:**

Jam Bay 31 Jul (Anne Lazarus, Isabel Conte, mob!) & 2 Aug (Andrew Baksh ph).

**Brant:** reported RICH, KING, & SUFF; max 6 GKP 11 Jun.

**Mute Swan:** 230 Jam Bay 26 Jul (DG et al.).

**Wood Duck:** Jam Bay 20 Jun.

**Gadwall:** 2 CCP 26 Jun, away from trad breeding sites.

**American Black Duck:** hen & 4 yng Saw Mill Cr, RICH 6 Jun (Catherine Barron).

**Blue-winged Teal:** m Jam Bay 3-20 Jun; m CCP 24 Jun (SSM); southbound arr mid Aug: 20 Jam Bay 12 Aug (Andrew Block) & 3 CCP 18 Aug (Byron Young).

**Northern Shoveler:** CP 12 Aug; 34 there 18 Aug.

**Green-winged Teal:** m MLUA 19 Jun (Ben Cacace); 4 Jam Bay 4 Jul.

**Greater Scaup:** m Jam Bay from spring thru 16 Jul, when joined by another; 1-2 south shore RICH 11 Jun-8 Jul.

**King Eider:** f JBWE 13 Jul (Richard Kaskan), rare in summer.

**Common Eider:** small numbers RICH, Fire I Inlet, MI, Shinn, Plum I, MP on many dates thru season.

**Surf Scoter:** m RMSP 13 Jun; 4 Riis P 15 Jul (Tom Fiore).

**White-winged Scoter:** m Moriches Bay 26 Jun.

**Black Scoter:** 2 CCP 16 Jul (DG).

**Long-tailed Duck:** f L Montauk Inlet 13 Jun (Angus Wilson); Hobart Beach, Northport 15 Jul.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** JBWE 3 Jun.

**Ruddy Duck:** a few Jam Bay thru.

**Northern Bobwhite:** rep Head of Harbor, Calverton, Cutchogue, all SUFF.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** JBWE 13 Jul (Richard Kaskan).

**Wild Turkey:** 10 East Hampton 29 Aug.

**Red-throated Loon:** no reports.

**Common Loon:** a few Fire I Inlet, MI, Shinn, etc.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** calling CRSP 20 Jun (John Gluth), v rare breeder in Region; arr Corona P, QUEE 30 Aug (C. Finger).

**Horned Grebe:** alt GKP 5 Jun (Ben Cacace) & 11 Jun.

**Cory's Shearwater:** many reports of modest numbers from ocean shore, Fire I Inlet to Montauk, through; highest counts 70 Shinn 15 Jul (SA) & 87 in one hour CCP 15 Aug (mob).

**Greater Shearwater:** many reports in single digits from ocean shore, MI to Montauk, through; max 50 Shinn 15 Jul (SA).

**Sooty Shearwater:** several reports of 1-2 from ocean shore, Shinn to Montauk, through Jun & Jul; max 5 Shinn 10 Jun (DF), scarcer than usual.

**Manx Shearwater:** 5 reports of singles 5 Jun-15 Aug, RMSP, CCP, & Shinn.

**AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER:** Block Canyon 24 Jul (JSh ph).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** many reports of modest numbers from ocean shore, Fire I Inlet to Montauk, through; max 80 Shinn 15 Jul (SA); max away from ocean 9 Block I Sound from Culloden Pt, Montauk 12 Jun (AnW).

**WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** ca. 100 nm sse Shinn 12 Jun (JSh ph).

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** 53 sse Shinn 12 Jun (JSh ph), over 500-1500 fathoms; 28 sse Shinn 26 Jun (JSh ph), a few over 100 fathoms, most over 400-600 fathoms; 3 Block Canyon 24 Jul (JSh ph).

**Northern Gannet:** 100s from ocean shore 5-6 Jun, most notable 375 Tobay, NASS 6 Jun (BBE); smaller number through, e.g., 8 CCP 15 Aug (JQ et al.).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10):** Jam Bay 14 Jul (Julia Clebsch et al.) through 23 Jul, ind with injured eye; 2<sup>nd</sup> ind Jam Bay 25 Jul (Keith Michael) thru.

**Brown Pelican:** 2 DP 17 Jul (A. Poldino); CCP 24 Jul (SA et al.); W Rockaway Inlet 3 Aug (TF); CCP 15 Aug (A. Guthrie, AnW).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** nests with yng Plum I, SUFF 24 Jun (Jody Levin); 400 Jam Bay 6 Aug (DG).

**Least Bittern:** Jam Bay 16 Jul (DG); ad & juv Jam Bay 24 Jul (PJL et al.) to 25 Jul.

**Great Egret:** max 50 Jam Bay 15 Jul (RJK).

**Snowy Egret:** max 80 Jam Bay 15 Jul (RJK).

**Little Blue Heron:** APP 22 Aug thru (J. Loscalzo, E. Miller) & migr MB 22 Aug (A. Guthrie, AnW), scarce inland and east.

**Tricolored Heron:** Dune Rd w Shinn 5 Jul (A. Graves), easternmost; max 6 ads Jam Bay 13 Aug (SA).

**Cattle Egret:** Jam Bay 3 Jun (A. Baksh) & 20 Jun (SA).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 63 Jam Bay 11 Jul (A. Baksh).

**Black Vulture:** 2 Moses Mt, RICH 8 Jul (SWo); 2 Latourette golf course, RICH 20 Aug (M. Shanley); Greenbelt, RICH 27 Aug (HF).

**Turkey Vulture:** many reports Roslyn to Napeague and Plum I; max 9 Westhampton 17 Jun (SWa), inc immes.

## HAWKS-ALCIDS

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Jam Bay 2 Aug (R. Kelly, Fritz Brock).

**Bald Eagle:** at least 8 reports spanning season, RICH to Montauk.

**Northern Harrier:** ad f Northville, SUFF 30 Jun (MLL); m Dune Rd 21 Aug (Dianne Taggart).

**Cooper's Hawk:** nest again SSNC.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Plum I 8 Jul (Jody Levin), molting.

**American Kestrel:** ca. 25 prs NEWY (D. Allen, R. DeCandido); pr Kew Gardens, QUEE 19-20 Jun (SA).

**Merlin:** juv Island Park, NASS 15-20 Aug (Joe Viglietta), early; arr RMSP 28 Aug.

**Clapper Rail:** ad E Pd, Jam Bay 26 Jul (DG et al.), unus freshwater location.

**Virginia Rail:** call Captree I 25 Jun (RJK), breeding unon on barrier beach.

**Common Moorhen:** juv Jam Bay 26-29 Aug (K&SF, mob).

**American Coot:** Jam Bay thru (A. Baksh, RJK).

**Black-bellied Plover:** counts at Jam Bay 26 Jul (1), 6 Aug (48), 11 Aug (177), 17 Aug (224); counts at CCP 19 Jun (17), 5 Jul (25), 15 Aug (85).

**Semipalmated Plover:** 3 GKP 11 Jun; 3 CCP 25 Jun & 3 Jul; arr 23 Jul, 30 Jam Bay & 9 JBWE; max **2,100** Jam Bay 6 Aug (DG); other notable counts 300 JBWE 16 Aug & 427 FBF 23 Aug (DG).

**Piping Plover:** 40+ BP 21 Jul; 18 JBWE 22 Jul; 20 CCP 24 Jul; color-b birds from Bahamas project BP 2 Jul (A. Baksh) & Southold 23 Jul (RBA).

**Killdeer:** max 53 Eastport 5 Jul & 59 RSF 15 Aug.

**American Oystercatcher:** chick raised Jam Bay E Pd again this yr; counts at Jones Inlet 23 Jul (90), 12 Aug (275), 27 Aug (475).

**American Avocet:** 3 Jam Bay 14 Jul (A. Baksh et al.); Jam Bay 6 Aug (RJK); OMNSA 18-29 Aug (M. Farina, mob).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** successful breeding Alley Pd Environmental Center, QUEE (S. Walter) & Edgewood Pres, SUFF (PJL); declining breeder; max 12 Jam Bay 11 Jul (RJK).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Goethals Bridge Pd 11 Jun; 7 CCP 25 Jun, southbound arr; 33 CCP 22 Aug; 65 OMNSA 28 Aug.

**‘E.’ Willet:** max 90 CCP 11 Jul (SSM), all ads; mass withdrawal & first juv CCP 24 Jul (SSM), mostly single-digit counts thereafter; 19 juvs Moriches In 5 Aug (SSM), first decent counts of juvs—probably not local.

**‘W.’ Willet:** arr CCP 30 Jun, 4 there 4 Jul, & 10 there 15 Aug (SSM); 25 JBWE 30 Jul (SSc); 44 JBWE 22 Aug (S&MB).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Jam Bay 27 Jun; max 291 Jam Bay 22 Jul (DG) & 300 Jam Bay 31 Jul (SSM); conspicuous migr 22 Aug; 40 Pikes Beach (A. Guthrie et al.) & 17 MB (A. Guthrie, AnW).

**Upland Sandpiper:** JBWE 23 Jun (Norm Skliar).

**Whimbrel:** arr RMSP 5 Jul; six reports week of 24 Jul; small numbers thru.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** arr CCP 10 Jul (PJJ, SSM), thru 16 Jul; Jam Bay 15 Jul (TF) thru 13 Aug; 12 CCP 22 Aug (A. Guthrie, PJJ, SSM).

**Marbled Godwit:** arr 3 CCP 5 Aug (J. Cullen, PJJ, SSM) & 3 Jam Bay 6 Aug (RJK); max 10 CCP 22 Aug (A. Guthrie, PJJ, SSM).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 950 MI 2 Jun (PJJ, SSM), northbound; 15 CCP 25 Jun, summering; 30 CCP 15 Aug, largest southbound report.

**Red Knot:** 291 MI 2 Jun (PJJ, SSM), northbound; 25 CCP thru Jun, inc two with tumors, *intro.*; 52 Pikes Beach 4 Aug (C. Starace, R. Belanger); 75 JBWE 22 Aug (S&MB).

**Sanderling:** 350 Pikes Beach 6 Jun, northbound; max 2000 BP 6 Aug (P. Post).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 20 Goethals Bridge Pd 11 Jun; 4 GKP 11 Jun; max 4,441 Jam Bay 30 Jul (DG), all ads.

**Western Sandpiper:** arr 2 Jam Bay 14 Jul (A. Baksh); 2 Plum Beach 22 Jul (DG); small numbers widely reported thru.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Jam Bay 27 Jun; 60 CCP 4 Jul; first juvs 2 Jam Bay 28 Jul.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 10 Jam Bay 10 Jun & 12 CCP 12 Jun northbound; 4 CCP 25 Jun and later moot; southbound arr 2 Jam Bay 22 Jul (DG); max 35 Jam Bay 17-18 Aug (DG) & 29 MB 22 Aug (A. Guthrie, AnW).

**Baird’s Sandpiper:** arr FBF 26 Aug; 2 Jam Bay 28 Aug; 6 JBWE 30 Aug (SWa) & 7 there 31 Aug (PJJ); all juvs.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 7 Jam Bay 30 Jul (DG).

**Dunlin:** 2 bas CCP thru Jun & Jul (PJJ, SSM); joined by 2 alt 19-25 Jun; *intro.*

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 3 Jam Bay 11 Jul (RJK et al.); max 40 Jam Bay 20 Aug (TF); 5 MB 22 Aug (A. Guthrie, AnW), max e LI.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr JBWE 21 Aug (DG); 3 more reports of 1-2 sw LI.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 50 CCP 13 Jun, inc 1 *hendersoni* (JGI ph); southbound arr 15 CCP 25 Jun (SSM), visually distinguishable from summering birds; max 4,009 Jam Bay 30 Jul (DG), all ads; first juvs 8 Jam Bay 6 Aug.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** alt CCP 29 Jun (DK, R. Rossetti), unus date & loc; 9 Jam Bay 23 Jul (DG); many later reports of 1-2; ad & juv Jam Bay 16 Aug (SSM ph), notable because v early for juv in Region.

**Wilson’s Snipe:** Jam Bay 17 Jam Bay 17 Aug (Anne Lazarus et al.), only report.

**Wilson’s Phalarope:** 2 f Jam Bay 3 Jun (ABK), 1 each pd; last Jam Bay 13 Jun; southbound arr 16 Jul Jam Bay & CCP; max 3 Jam Bay 1 Aug (SA), ad & 2 juvs.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 8 mi s Montauk 31 Jul (A. Collerton); juv Jam Bay 11 Aug (R. Campos et al.); Jam Bay 20 Aug (J. Borker).

**Laughing Gull:** 150 RMSP 28 Aug fd emerging ants.

**Ring-billed Gull:** first juv CCP 10 Jul, early; summering flock of ca. 30 CCP incr abruptly to 92 on 15 Aug.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 3S Nickerson Beach 5 Jun (David Krauss); 2 1S DP 11 Jun (SSM); 3S Montauk 12 Jun (AnW); ad & 2 1S Pikes Beach 13 Jun (PJJ, SSM); 3 RMSP 20 Jun (KF); 2S CCP 5 Jul (PJJ, SSM); 1S MB 10 & 17 Jul; 3S RMSP 11 Jul (PJJ); 2-4 immes JBWE 23 Jul thru (mob).

**Glaucous Gull:** 1S Orient Pt 12 Jun (HM) thru period (mob, ph).

**BRIDLED TERN:** 2 90 mi ese Shinn 24 Jul (JSh ph), possibly RI waters.

**Least Tern:** 1S arr 12 Jun MB & Cedar Pt, East Hampton; 2 2S at latter site that day also.

**Gull-billed Tern:** 1-3 Jam Bay many dates thru 29 Jul; 1-3 JBWE several dates thru 22 Aug; ad CCP 18 Jul (DG), see recent summer reports describing incr occurrence MI to Shinn; **Caspian Tern:** ad & juv RMSP 25 Aug (PJJ) & 29 Aug (SSM); ad & juv CCP 29 Aug (SSM).

**Black Tern:** several reports of 1-2 Jam Bay to East Hampton, Jun-Jul; juv Jam Bay 20 Jul & later (DG), v early for juv in Region; max 160 Napeague Harbor 21 Aug (A. Guthrie, AnW).

**Roseate Tern:** small numbers Fire I Inlet & MI thru; reported from many locations farther e; 2 Nickerson Beach, NASS 12 Aug (V. Nichnadowicz) & ad JBWE 17 Aug (BF) unus so far west.

**Common Tern:** 1S arr CCP 6 Jun (PJJ, SSM ph); 80+ juvs CCP 24 Jul (mob).

**ARCTIC TERN:** 1S & 2S CCP 6 Jun (PJJ, SSM ph); ad CCP 10 Jul (SSM!).

**Forster's Tern:** 1S CCP 19 Jun; fresh juv CCP 5 Aug, prob from sw LI breeding pop, as no ads observed CCP earlier this summer; 20 MB 22 Aug, first double-digit tally e LI.

**Royal Tern:** RMSP & Amagansett 13 Jun; arr MI 19 Jun (GB, TWB), regular there thereafter; Jam Bay 18 Jul (ABk), unus location; max 58 Pikes Beach 13 Aug (C. Starace, R. Belanger).

**SANDWICH TERN:** CCP 6 Jun (PJJ, SSM ph); CCP 18 Jul (DG et al. ph).

**Black Skimmer:** 400+ Nickerson Beach 30 Jul (SSc); 11 CCP 12 Jun & 40 there 29 Aug; 10 MB 22 Aug.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** RMSP 5 Jun (GB, TWB); CCP 12 Jun (PJJ).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 90 nm sse Shinn 12 Jun (JSh ph).

### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** Cow Meadow, NASS 21-22 Aug, e of main range; nested Manhattan again this year (fide DA).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** prob migr 19 Aug RICH & CP 24 Aug (TF).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Riverside P 15 Jun, not a breeding site; arr CP 18 Aug (TF).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 2 Cutchogue 11 Jul (Jamie Farley), bathing in bird bath at 2:00 am during heat wave.

**Common Nighthawk:** small # early Aug; 15 CP 16 Aug (TF); 15 Wading River, SUFF 26 Aug (JC Sr); 12 Wagner Coll, RICH 28 Aug (HF).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** on terr E. Quogue, Sag Harbor.

**Chimney Swift:** 100+ using chimney Manor Rd, RICH 27 Aug (Catherine Barron); 100 Wagner Coll, RICH 28 Aug; "very low numbers" CP this year, 7 on 2 Jul highest count (DA).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** migr arr 27 Jul OMNSA 27 Jul (SSc) & CP 30 Jul (DA, R. DeCandido); max 22 Talisman, FINS, SUFF 26 Aug (MLL), migr w over 4 hrs.

**Belted Kingfisher:** arr CP 13 Aug (fide DA).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** no reports.

### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** last northbound CP 13 Jun (DA); first southbound 7 Aug (DA).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** CP 2 Jun (S. Sapphir et al.); arr PP 24 Aug & CP 31 Aug.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** CP 2-3 Jun; Manhasset 3 Jun (SSM); Brookhaven Natl Lab 27 Jun (R. Kaskan).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Calverton Pd Pres 27 Jun (KF), v rare breeder in Region.

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr CP 7 Aug (Dan Weaver).  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** possibly nested CP (DA); arr RMSP 28 Aug.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** poss breeders CLP 12-19 Jun & Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 12 Jun; arr CP 19 Aug.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr CP 27 Aug (TF), v early.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr CP 23 Aug; 7 more reports, inc RICH, BRON, & SUFF.

**American Crow:** v few reports, all of v small numbers; this species deserves attention.

**Fish Crow:** widespread and numerous, e.g., 21 Bay Shore 30 Jul.

**COMMON RAVEN (R10):** juv Kew Gardens, QUEE 15 Jun & nearby 26 Jun (KM); 4 reports Roslyn, NASS 6 Jun-18 Aug, inc juv 6 Jun and max of 6 on 22 Jun (PM); APP 22 Aug (J. Loscalzo, E. Miller).

**Purple Martin:** max 40 Calverton 11 Jun (SSc et al.).

**Tree Swallow:** arr CP 18 Aug; max 3,000 RMSP 28 Aug (PJJ, SSM).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** CP 18 Aug.

**Bank Swallow:** modest numbers of breeders reported from traditional sites, such as GKP and LI's North Shore & East End; arr CP 26 Aug; 50 migr RMSP 28 Aug.

**Cliff Swallow:** Jam Bay 30 Jul (C. Finger), early; arr JBWE 27 Aug & 2 RMSP 28 Aug.

**Barn Swallow:** max 4,000 migr RMSP 28 Aug (PJJ, SSM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** prob breeders Edgewood Pres, SUFF 20 Jun (VP) and Brookhaven Natl Lab, SUFF 27 Jun & 11 Jul (R. Kaskan); arr CP 16 Aug (Isaiah Wender); 13 JBWE 27 Aug (KF).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr CP 27 Aug (TF), early.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr CP 19 Aug.

**Veery:** arr 4 CP 19 Aug (TF); max 24 PP 28 Aug (R. Jett et al.).

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** CP 2 Jun (S.

Sapphir, mob), singing.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr CP 28 Aug (DA).

**Hermit Thrush:** 2 m Hunters Garden 3 Jul, singing.

### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** CP 30 Jul (TF), early.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** APP 22 Aug (J. Loscalzo, E. Miller), only report.

**"Brewster's Warbler":** CP 11 Aug; Rocky Pt DEC 31 Aug.

**Tennessee Warbler:** CP 31 Jul (TF), worn ad; *intro*.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr CP 27 Aug.  
**Northern Parula:** CP thru 17 Jun, from spring; Plum I, SUFF 24 Jun (J. Levin); CP 2 Jul (A. Bondi, A. Deutsch), unus date.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr CP 13 Aug (DA et al.).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr CP 18 Aug (TF).  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr CP 28 Aug (Sam Stuart).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr CP 21 Aug.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr CP 27 Aug (TF).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr CP 8 Aug (TF).  
**Pine Warbler:** max 21 Edgewood Pres, SUFF 20 Jun (VP).  
**Prairie Warbler:** max 19 Edgewood Pres, SUFF 20 Jun (VP); arr CP 21 Aug (TF).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr CP 27 Aug (DA).  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** 2 Bryant p, NEWY 19 Jun, m thru **9 Jul** (BC); CP **26 Jun**; arr CP 23 Aug.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** Cunningham P, QUEE 19 Jun (SA); fl yng CRSPP 20 Jun (JGl); arr Jam Bay 26 Jul.  
**American Redstart:** last CP 1 Jun; present FT & Jam Bay during Jun; CP 30 Jun, post-breeding.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** f CP 30 Jul (Anita Randolfi, DA ph).  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** 2 Rocky Pt DEC 3 Jun, 1 to 21 Jun (RKA); Northville, SUFF 1 Jul (MLL); FT 20 Jul (TF); arr CP 11 Aug; *intro*.  
**Ovenbird:** arr CP 7 Aug.  
**Northern Waterthrush:** arr CP 23 Jul (Judy Rabi); max 18 Jam Bay 11 Aug (DG).  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr CP 14 Jul.  
**Mourning Warbler:** CP 2 Jun; Bryant P, NEWY 16 Jun (BC); arr 2 CP 6 Aug (DA et al.).  
**Common Yellowthroat:** arr CP 18 Aug.  
**Hooded Warbler:** Rocky Pt DEC 3 Jun (RKA), from spring; arr 2 CP 7 Aug (Junco Suzuki, DA).  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr CP 23 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr 3 CP 6 Aug (DA et al.); 4 Rocky Pt DEC 25 Aug (RKA).  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Jam Bay 10 Jul (R. Campos).

## TOWHEES-WEAVERS

**Eastern Towhee:** max 33 Edgewood Pres, SUFF 20 Jun (VP).  
**Field Sparrow:** on terr FT during Jun, away from central-eastern LI breeding range.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** on terr Gabreski Airport.  
**Lark Sparrow:** arr 20 Aug FBF (DG) & FT (TF).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** nested Northville (MLL), scarce breeder in Region.  
**“Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow:**  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** present at trad breeding sites Calverton & Gabreski Airport.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr CP 26 Aug (TF).  
**Swamp Sparrow:** CP 2 Jul, unus date.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** CP 1 & 25 Jun & 6 Jul; Bryant P 2 Jun (BC); Riverside P 27 Jun (Jeff Nulle); all unus dates.  
**Summer Tanager:** CP 2 Jun (Starr Sapphir et al.); Wagner Coll, RICH 12 & 15 Aug (HF).  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr CP 27 Aug.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr CP 19 Aug.  
**Blue Grosbeak:** likely breeders MLUA & Eastport (from spring); PP 26 Aug (Rafael Campos).  
**Indigo Bunting:** present thru Jun CP (several) & Riverside P (Jeff Nulle); unus locs.  
**Bobolink:** 12 CP 15 Jul; 12 FBF 29 Jul; 20 Broad Channel, QUEE 20 Aug; 11 Decker Farm, RICH 26 Aug (Anne Purcell).  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** present at trad breeding sites Calverton.  
**Boat-tailed Grackle:** **107** Jam Bay 23 Jul (DG), many.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 5 m MLUA 5 Jun (HF); 2 prs nested CP, fledged yng 20 Jul.  
**American Goldfinch:** arr CP 20 Aug.

## ADDENDA

**Cattle Egret:** Northville, SUFF 5 Apr (MLL).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Northville, SUFF 8 Apr (MLL).  
**Barn Owl:** Northville, SUFF 8 Apr (MLL).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** Northville, SUFF 5 Apr (MLL).





## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Res - Reservoir; Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;  
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19  
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64  
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21  
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

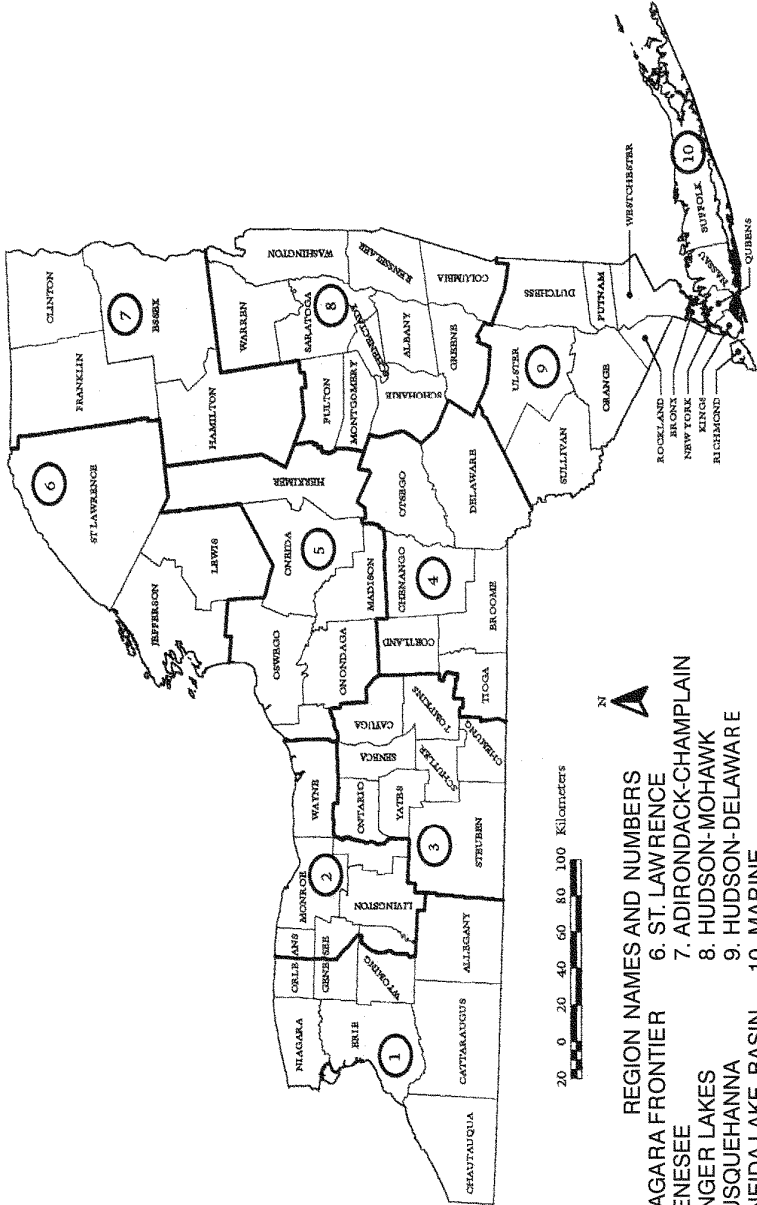
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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