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Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Albany,
21 Jun 2014, © Scott Stoner.

Back Cover – Eastern x Western Kingbird hybrid, Northville, Suffolk, 16 May 2014, ©
Steve Lacker. See note, page 304.

SURVIVAL, LONGEVITY, AND BREEDING DISPERSAL BY EASTERN KINGBIRDS IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

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Abstract.—Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) are Nearctic-Neotropic migrants that breed in trees in open savannah-like habitats across New York. Preliminary study of survival and dispersal behavior of male and female Eastern Kingbirds suggested relatively high return rates (~annual survival), infrequent dispersal, but no information on maximum lifespan was reported. Here I report the results of a 13 year study of banded Eastern Kingbirds from Delaware and Otsego Counties, New York, and show that most individuals bred for only 1 or 2 years before dying, but roughly 20% of birds lived ≥ 4 years. Average and maximum number of years lived was 2.2 and 8 years for females, and 2.7 and 10 years for males. Comparative analyses with other passerines suggest that maximum lifespan was close to that predicted based on body mass. Females dispersed more than males, but both sexes were more likely to disperse over their lifetime when they experienced low average annual reproductive success. Site fidelity of Eastern Kingbirds is high and possible reasons are discussed.

The greater longevity of birds compared to mammals of similar body size is generally attributed to the flight ability of birds (Pomeroy 1990). Bats (*Chiroptera*) are the exception that proves the rule (Wilkinson and South 2002). Flight reduces the probability of capture by predators, makes possible long distance migration to either escape physically stressful conditions or exploit abundant resources, and within the same landscape, increases access to a much wider array of habitats in which to find food. Birds are not known to experience menopause (Ricklefs 2000), and the capacity for long productive reproductive life in some bird species is remarkable, highlighted in 2014 by the successful incubation and hatching of an egg by a wild female Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) that was at least 63 years of age (<http://www.livescience.com/43288-oldest-bird-hatches-new-chick.html>).

However, the difference between maximum longevity and the ages achieved by most individuals is often dramatic. Most individuals have limited time in which to reproduce and decisions must be made that maximize the probability of producing young (Williams 1966). Amongst annual breeders, this often involves the decision over where to breed. Breeding dispersal is defined as movement by an adult that has bred previously at one site to a new location, and the general rule among birds is that females exhibit less breeding site fidelity than males (Greenwood 1989, Greenwood and Harvey 1982, Clarke et al. 1997, Serrano et al. 2001). Social monogamy and biparental care are characteristic of

most avian species (~81%; Cockburn 2006), as is territorial defense of resources for breeding. Typically, males establish territories, and failure to do so precludes a male from breeding. Prior ownership of a territory often enables males to not only hold but also repossess territories from other males (e.g., Krebs 1982, Jakobsson 1988, Cooper et al. 2009), and this presumably underlies the lower dispersal probability of male birds compared to females. By contrast, females are freer to move and they presumably use a combination of territory and male characteristics to choose where to settle. In many species, breeding dispersal is often associated with reproductive failure at a previous breeding site (Hoover 2003, Catlin et al. 2005; but see Bernard et al. 2011), and by moving to “greener pastures” females have the potential to improve reproductive success.

The Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is a regular inhabitant of New York’s open spaces and is known for its pugnacious attitude towards nest predators, and as some have claimed, belligerence towards other birds (Davis 1941). They migrate long distances to South America (Jahn et al. 2013) where breeding season insectivory and territoriality are replaced by frugivory and flocking (Morton 1971). Although not abundant, kingbirds are often conspicuous because of their behavior and penchant for nesting near homes and farms. Indeed, numerous authors have commented on their continual presence year-after-year in the same locations (see Bent 1942), but how long do they live and are those individuals seen year-after-year the same individuals? To answer these questions, in the present paper I report on a population study of Eastern Kingbirds that I conducted in central New York over a 13 year period.

METHODS

Field procedures.—I conducted my research between 1989 and 2001 in Delaware and Otsego Counties. My 1996 publication included data from between 1989 and 1993 and thus the present manuscript expands considerably the data available for analysis. Kingbirds regularly nest near bodies of water, but are also strongly associated with abandoned orchards and otherwise open habitats with scattered trees (Murphy et al. 1997). I therefore centered my principal study site in Delaware County along Charlotte Creek and surrounding floodplain and upland habitats near Davenport and West Davenport. In Otsego County I surveyed the roads and fields bordering the town of Oneonta.

I began searching for returning birds and nests beginning in mid to late May in all years. The majority (>75%) of nests were found before incubation, and once found, nests were checked every 2-4 days to determine breeding date (= date of 1st egg), clutch size (number of eggs/nest), hatching success (proportion of eggs to hatch), and number of young to fledge (young alive 13 days after hatching). Kingbirds raise only a single brood per year, but regularly replace failed nests, and therefore, I located replacement nests for failed attempts and collected identical data to allow me to determine seasonal productivity for all pairs. I captured parents at the nest (with mist nets) mainly during the latter half of the nestling period as they made flights to feed their young. I individually

marked adult birds with one numbered federal band and three plastic colored leg bands (Murphy 2000, 2001). Young were banded as the adults when 13-14 days of age.

Return rates of birds between years were based on sightings and recaptures of individually color-banded birds. Eastern Kingbirds exhibit high site fidelity and high detection probability (Murphy 1996) and therefore return rate (i.e., the proportion of birds to return) provides a reliable estimate of apparent survival (Murphy 1996, Redmond and Murphy 2012). Nonetheless, birds do occasionally disappear for one or (rarely) two years only to reappear. However, in my study no bird ever reappeared after an absence of two years and thus a two year absence almost certainly represented death. The last adults were banded in 1999, and of those seven, three were detected in 2001.

Every bird that I observed on a territory attempted to breed. I thus assumed undetected birds that reappeared in a later year made an attempt to breed at an unknown location in the year they went undetected. Because dispersal occurs more often after nest failure than success in kingbirds (Murphy 1996), I assumed that failure of the bird at the unknown site prompted it to disperse back to its known site of capture. In the very few cases in which a bird was missing for two years and then reappeared, I assumed that it was successful in the first year away, but unsuccessful in the second. I assigned the average number of young fledged in that year by successful pairs to the bird in the assumed year of success.

I revisited the same sites every year over the course of the 13 year study, and as others have found (see Bent 1942), kingbirds repeatedly used the same sites. On the basis of site fidelity I identified over 100 traditionally used sites that I refer to as “territories” (Murphy 2004). I used these territories to determine when a dispersal event occurred, which I defined as a move from one traditionally used site to another. The only uncertainty involved birds that disappeared for two year before returning. In these few cases I assumed that the birds were site faithful in the first year they were missing. Hence, two dispersal events occurred for every bird that disappeared for either 1 or 2 years (i.e., it dispersed away to go missing, and then dispersed back to be resighted).

Data analyses.—For every individual I determined the number of years it was present in the population. I refrain from referring to this as “age” because aging techniques are not known for kingbirds (Pyle 1997), and some were undoubtedly not breeding for the first time when I first banded them. I instead refer to years present in the population as “years lived”. I was also able to quantify the number of times every individual dispersed over the period of study, and for most birds I was also able to measure average annual reproductive success. The latter was calculated as the total number of young fledged over their known life divided by the number of years they were known to have lived.

I previously reported apparent annual survival for the first four years of this study (Murphy 1996). Here I compared the number of years lived between the sexes across 11 years using a median test and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for

differences in distribution. Unlike my earlier study, where I compared dispersal behavior to the past year's breeding success, I now compared the number of instances of site fidelity or dispersal over a lifetime between males and females using a 2 x 2 table and X^2 test. Dispersal tendencies were also compared between the sexes by analysis of covariance (ANCOVA). For the latter, number of years lived was included as a covariate to account for the possibility that number of dispersal events and years lived were correlated.

In an attempt to account for variation in dispersal behavior among individuals within each sex, I used multiple regression to evaluate whether the likelihood of dispersal changed with years lived and with average annual reproductive success. To place kingbird survival in context, I also compared their maximum longevity to that of other species of North American breeding passerine birds obtained from the Bird Banding Laboratory and reported in Blumstein and Møller (2008). Lifespan is expected to vary positively with body mass, and maximum longevity records are probably affected by number of band recoveries; exceptionally old individuals are more likely to be recorded as number of recoveries increases. I therefore used multiple regression analysis to examine maximum longevity for 107 species of passerine birds (including kingbirds) in relation to body mass and number of band recoveries for all species. Body mass and number of recoveries were both \log_{10} transformed. I used STATISTIX (Analytical Software 2008) for all statistical tests, and a $P \leq 0.05$ to establish statistical significance. Sample sizes sometimes vary among tests because I lacked full information on reproductive success in a few individuals.

RESULTS

Most of the 143 male and 158 female kingbirds that I banded lived for just one (male = 40.6%; females = 46.2%) or two years (males = 22.4%; females = 26.6%). However, if they lived beyond two years, lifespans extended to as many as 8 (females) or 10 (males) years (Fig. 1). On the basis of comparison of medians, there was no difference between the sexes in the years lived, (Table 1), but a comparison of the distribution of ages lived between the sexes (Fig. 1) suggested that females tended to be represented in the youngest age class more often than males (one-tailed Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, $P = 0.032$).

Most individuals of both sexes that returned from migration used the previous year's territory. Only 39 of the 211 possible transitions from one year to the next by males that returned for at least a second year was dispersal to a new territory (18.4%). Females were more likely to disperse as 64 of 189 possible year-to-year transitions (33.9%) involved dispersal to a new territory ($X^2 = 12.33$, $df = 1$, $P < 0.001$). Over the course of their lives, number of dispersal events was 60% higher in females than males (Table 1); nearly 90% of males returned to use former territories from one year to the next compared to 80% of females. Number of dispersal events increased with years lived in both

sexes ($F = 34.2$, $df = 1, 166$, $P < 0.001$), but at any given age, female dispersed more than males (ANCOVA: $F = 6.91$, $df = 1, 166$, $P = 0.009$).

Considering only individuals for whom dispersal was possible (i.e., individuals that returned from migration at least once), nearly half the females (41 of 85) and a quarter of males (21 of 85) dispersed at least once in their known life. In males, regression of number of known dispersal events (DE) against number of years lived and average annual reproductive success (AARS) indicated that dispersal varied with years lived (YL: $t = 3.12$, $P = 0.003$) and average annual reproductive success (AARS: $t = 2.23$, $P = 0.028$); dispersal was more likely to occur the longer an individual lived and as AARS declined, and together they accounted for 20% of variation in number of dispersal events in an individual's lifetime (DE = $0.398 + 0.164$ [SE = 0.052]YL – 0.237 [SE = 0.106]AARS; $R^2 = 0.202$, $n = 81$, $P < 0.001$). Likewise, number of dispersal events increased as females aged ($t = 4.58$, $P < 0.001$) and as average annual reproductive success declined ($t = 2.39$, $P = 0.019$; DE = $0.402 + 0.261$ [SE = 0.057]YL – 0.258 [SE = 0.108]AARS), and in this case, a quarter of individual variation in dispersal was accounted for by the two variables ($R^2 = 0.248$, $n = 83$, $P < 0.001$).

Interspecific comparison of maximum longevity.— Maximum age increased with body mass for the North American breeding passerines (Fig. 2), and mass accounted for about a third of the variation in maximum life span (maximum life span = $2.97 + 5.105[\log_{10}\text{Body mass}]$; $r^2 = 0.346$, $n = 107$ species, $P < 0.001$). Explained variation in maximum lifespan increased to 55% with the addition of number of band recoveries to the regression (maximum lifespan = $1.111 + 3.740[\log_{10}\text{Body mass}] + 1.540[\log_{10}\text{Number of band recoveries}]$; $r^2 = 0.548$, $n = 107$, $P < 0.001$). Body mass of Eastern Kingbirds (40 g) predicted maximum lifespan of 11.1 years (95% confidence interval [CI] = 5.7 to 16.6 years). Combining body mass with the number to survive beyond the year of capture (i.e., equivalent to band recoveries [$n = 170$]), predicted maximum lifespan for Charlotte Valley/Oneonta kingbirds was 10.5 years (95% CI = 6.0 to 15.1 years).

Table 1. Comparison of average number of years lived, and average number of dispersal events over the known life of male and female Eastern Kingbirds breeding in Delaware and Otsego Counties, New York (1989 to 2001). Some birds were more than one year old by the year of banding and therefore “Years alive” only approximates age.

Trait	Males	Females	Test (P) ^a
	Mean (SE; range; median)	Mean (SE; range; median)	
Years lived ^b	2.5 (0.15; 1 – 10; 2)	2.2 (0.13; 1 – 8; 2)	2.65 (0.104)
Dispersal events ^c	0.46 (0.095; 0 – 4; 0)	0.74 (0.102; 0 – 4; 0)	7.32 (0.006)

^a Sexes compared using Median test for Years lived, and Kruskal-Wallis test for number of dispersal events.

^b Sample size for males and females 143 and 158, respectively.

^c Sample size for males and females 84 and 85, respectively.

Fig. 1. A comparison of the percentage of male (n = 143) and female (158) Eastern Kingbirds banded in Delaware and Otsego Counties, New York, and known to have lived for between 1 and at least 10 years.

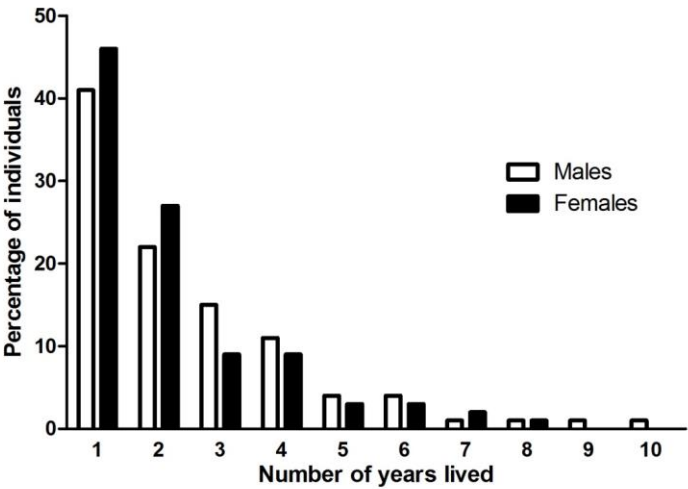
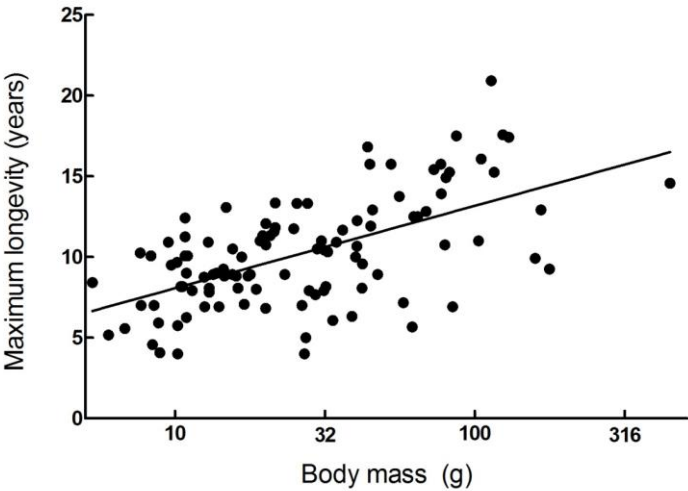


Fig. 2. The maximum number of years lived for 107 North American breeding passerine species plotted against body mass (\log_{10} transformed). Longevity data are based on Breeding Bird Survey records as reported by Blumstein and Møller (2008).



DISCUSSION

Natal philopatry, the return of an individual to its birth place, is extremely low for Eastern Kingbirds breeding in the Charlotte Valley/Oneonta region, making it difficult to establish true lifespans for birds in this population. Annual survival rates (S) for males and females estimated from Cormack-Jolly-Seber methods of mark-and-recapture are 0.690 and 0.625, respectively (Murphy 2000). Given mortality rate, M , where $M = 1 - S$, average life expectancy can be estimated as $(2 - M)/2M$ (Botkin and Miller 1974). This yields values of 2.7 and 2.2 years for males and females, respectively, which are not statistically different from the observed average number of years lived (Table 1). This suggests most individuals were probably in their first or second year of life when first captured. The slighter lower estimate of number of years lived by females compared to males (Table 1) possibly represents higher female mortality associated with greater investment in parental care (Woodard and Murphy 1999, Murphy 2000). However, it seems equally plausible that more frequent female dispersal (Murphy 1996; present study) led to more permanent emigration by females, which cannot be distinguished from mortality.

Ideally, demographic studies end only when all marked individuals are dead. This was not possible, and the abrupt termination of my study possibly led to at least a moderate underestimate of years lived by birds in the middle to older age groups. Contrary to former views (Deevey 1947), birds experience senescence (Ricklefs and Scheuerlein 2001). If this was not the case, and given annual survival rates of 0.69 and 0.625 and the marked populations of 143 males and 158 females, steady attrition should have yielded maximum ages of 15 years for males and 12 years for females. With only a 13 year study it was not possible to detect 15 year old birds, but with so few birds older than seven years (Fig. 1) it seems likely that senescence claimed an accelerating number of individuals as kingbirds aged.

Nevertheless, the ages to which wild birds live can be surprising. For instance, maximum reported ages of American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) from the data plotted in Figure 2 are 13.9, 15.8, 16.8, and 20.9 years, respectively. The numbers of band recoveries that yielded these age estimates were large (i.e., 11,053, 14,490, 14,458, and 37,065 respectively), which greatly increase the probability of detecting very old individuals. Might maximum kingbird lifespan have been much greater had I had many more recoveries? The multiple regression equation relating maximum lifespan to body mass and number of recoveries predicted maximum age of 11.0 years when I doubled the number of recoveries. Predicted maximum lifespan increased to 13.3 years when the number of recoveries increased to 10,000 (the same order of magnitude as the four aforementioned species). My extrapolations suggest that it would be an exceedingly rare kingbird to live beyond 10 or 11 years.

One of the clearest patterns to emerge from the present study was the much higher probability of female dispersal (see also Murphy 1996). Female-biased dispersal in birds is considered typical (Greenwood 1980, Greenwood and Harvey 1982, Clarke et al. 1997), and like most other birds, female Eastern Kingbirds are not only more likely to disperse, they disperse greater distances than males (Murphy 1996). Indeed, many of the dispersal movements by males were between adjacent territories. For example, the male that lived 10 years dispersed four times, but all occurred between two adjacent territories, the centers of which were only ~300 m apart. Because of its brevity I was unable in my earlier study to evaluate whether the likelihood of dispersal varied over an individual's life. My expanded data set indicates that dispersal did not appear restricted to early life (contra Serrano et al. 2001, Bernard et al. 2007) because older individuals, especially females, continued to disperse as they aged. By contrast, some 7 and 8 year old individuals of both sexes used the same territory for their entire history.

Whether an individual dispersed over the course of its life was affected by average annual reproductive success. As with other species (Martin 1993), nest predation is the main cause of nest failure for Eastern Kingbirds (Blancher and Robertson 1985, Murphy 2000). Selection presumably favors individuals that respond adaptively to nest predators and nest loss, and assuming past nest fate at a site is the best predictor of potential future success at that site, individuals that experience the lowest reproductive success would be expected to disperse the most (Hoover 2003). The statistical evidence indicated that, indeed, less successful kingbirds of both sexes were more likely to disperse. However, the combination of years lived and average annual reproductive success accounted for only small amounts (20% in males and 25% in females) of among individual variation in dispersal behavior. Undoubtedly the decision to disperse is influenced by numerous factors beyond simple reproductive success. For males, selection may favor strong attachment to a site if reuse of a former site yields advantages in contests over territory ownership (Krebs 1982, Cooper et al. 2009). For females, an important additional influence on the decision to disperse or remain site faithful may be the reproductive success of neighbors (i.e., "conspecific reproductive success"; Boulinier and Danchin 1997, Serrano et al. 2001). Individuals that integrate the success of neighboring conspecifics with personal success may better evaluate the potential benefits of staying or dispersing. As shown in another Eastern Kingbird population, reproductive success of conspecifics affects dispersal decisions (Redmond et al. 2009).

The picture that emerges from my study of the Charlotte Valley Eastern Kingbird population is that, while the potential for a relatively long reproductive life exists (8 to 10 years), few individuals achieve those lofty ages. Most have only 1 or 2 opportunities to breed, and it appears that the production of a relatively few individuals contribute most of the young to the population (Murphy 2007). Male Eastern Kingbirds are faithful to breeding sites, and for most, the same territory is the destination each spring as males return from

migration. Lower site fidelity of females, and greater distances dispersed compared to males (Murphy 1996), make estimation of survival using females somewhat more difficult, but the majority of females likewise exhibit lifelong fidelity to one breeding site.

Older literature accounts of Eastern Kingbirds regularly reported yearly reuse of particular sites and even specific nest trees (see Bent 1942). The orchards of older farms were repeatedly used by Eastern Kingbirds from one summer to the next, often times even after surrounding habitats changed. An unanswered question was always whether it was the same pair or simply a traditional site used year-after-year by a revolving door of different kingbirds. My study suggests it is both. Many kingbird territories in the Charlotte Valley were occupied in all 13 years of my study, and given that an 8 or 9 year old bird was rare, the only explanation possible is continual use by different individuals. However, 20% or more of birds lived at least 4 years and most were site faithful. Hence, it is indeed often the same bird occupying that same tree in that same field from one year to the next. Why such high site fidelity exists remains only partially answered (reproductive success), and my suggestion is to look towards the benefits of stable social networks. For instance, does reestablishment of territories amongst known neighbors reduce agonistic interactions and promote earlier onset of breeding? Or does proximity to known opposite sex individuals facilitate choice of extra-pair mating partners (Rowe et al. 2001, Dolan et al. 2007)? The eventual explanation may elude us, but the journey to answering the question will no doubt continue to provide fascinating glimpses into the lives of birds that continue to amaze us.

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BEHAVIOR AND HABITAT USE OF A KIRTLAND'S WARBLER ON FORT DRUM, NY

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

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On 4 June 2014, while conducting bird surveys on Fort Drum, I found a singing male Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) in a young red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) plantation on sandy soil. This discovery was just three days after Andy Guthrie found New York State's first fully documented Kirtland's Warbler at Hamlin Beach State Park in western New York. The Hamlin Beach bird was a migrant seen one day only, but based on the Fort Drum bird's behavior, combined with the habitat it was in, I immediately thought it might be occupying a breeding territory. This male remained on territory for two weeks, finally departing sometime between 18 and 20 June.

When I first discovered the Kirtland's Warbler he was moving around the pine plantation singing persistently, sometimes while foraging and other times during extended bouts from treetop perches. While foraging he spent most of the time in the lower third of trees and on the ground, moving almost constantly while continuously pumping his tail. At times he approached me very closely, sometimes close enough that I was unable to focus on him with my binoculars, and seemed unconcerned by my presence. He moved around his territory in a somewhat deliberate manner, for instance he rarely flew straight to the top of a tree to sing, instead working his way up from the lower portion of one or more trees, gradually to the top where he would then sing for up to ten minutes at a time.

I checked on the Kirtland's Warbler every 1-3 days, and through 14 June I never saw him leave the pine plantation, nor engage in any behavior different from what I saw on 4 June. However, on 17 June while attempting to record his song I saw him fly up and out of the pine stand and into a nearby oak stand; something about this flight made me wonder if he was going to come back. On 18 June the warbler's behavior was quite different, as he made repeated flights of 200-300 meters out of the pine plantation in several directions, singing short bouts of song from widely scattered trees before returning to the pine plantation and then making another flight in a different direction. I took this behavior to indicate that he was soon to abandon his territory and try his luck at attracting a female elsewhere. I was unable to find the Kirtland's Warbler when next I visited this spot on 20 June, nor on any of several subsequent visits over the following two weeks.

Kirtland's Warblers have among the most stringent nesting habitat requirements of any North American songbird, requiring young, dense jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) stands on sandy soils. Specifically, Kirtland's Warblers prefer large (preferably >80 ha but as low as 12 ha) stands of nearly pure jack pine that are 8 to 15 years old and 1.7 to 5 meters tall, with at least 2000 trees/ha and with

the highest densities of breeding warblers occurring in stands with greater than 7500 trees/ha (Radtke and Byelich 1963, Bocetti et al 2014). Although Kirtland's Warbler is generally considered to require jack pine for breeding, they occasionally nest in red pine plantations (Mayfield 1960, Anich et al 2011).

Aside from tree species, the plantation where the Fort Drum bird occurred differs from typical breeding habitat in several ways. This stand is only about 5-6 ha, far smaller than most stands where Kirtland's Warblers nest, and the trees in the stand are 18-20 years old, a few years older than the age at which stands normally lose their suitability for nesting. Although a few trees are taller, most are within the preferred range of 1.7 to 5 meters tall, so perhaps tree size and structure is more important than age. Tree density in the Fort Drum stand is only 750-1000 trees/ha, also much lower than at most nesting sites. A summary of red pine plantations in Wisconsin where Kirtland's Warblers have recently nested found that compared to jack pine, occupied red pine stands average slightly older and are less dense, with an average of 1876 trees/ha (Anich et al. 2011), but this density is still higher than that in the Fort Drum stand.

The Kirtland's Warbler is among the rarest bird species that breeds in North America, with breeding in the 20th century restricted to 13 counties in northern Lower Michigan (Bocetti et al. 2014). Prior to the early 1960s the nesting population was thought to be stable at about 1000 individuals, but declined to less than half that number by 1970, with the lowest documented abundance of 167 singing males (not quite 350 total individuals) in 1987. Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism and habitat loss were the main reasons for these declines. Aggressive cowbird trapping and habitat management reversed these population declines, leading to rapid increases in Kirtland's Warbler abundance during the 1990s, with numbers peaking in 2012 at 2090 singing males, or about 4180 individuals. As the population increased, Kirtland's Warblers expanded to Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin (Probst et al. 2003), and in 2007 nesting was confirmed in Wisconsin (Anich et al. 2011) and Ontario (Richard 2008). Kirtland's Warblers have successfully nested in jack pine woodlands at Garrison Petawawa in Ontario during 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012 (Richard 2013), a site that is about 185 miles north of Rochester, NY and nearly 400 miles east of the core Kirtland's Warbler nesting range.

Although the Hamlin Beach and Fort Drum Kirtland's Warblers represent the first and second well-documented records for New York State, several sight records together form a pattern of scarce occurrence that correlates broadly with changes in abundance in the overall population. Five sight reports from the Rochester area prior to 1960 (Taylor 1985) and one from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in 1952 (Sherony 2014) somehow were excluded from most accounts of the state's avifauna, but probably reflect what was the actual status of this species as a very rare migrant through at least western New York prior to the mid-century population crash. No Kirtland's Warblers were reported from New York again until after the nesting population recovered, starting with a bird seen by Betsy Potter in western New York in May of 2010 that NYSARC could

not formally accept on technical grounds, but which the committee felt was certainly legitimate (NYSARC 2012). With the Hamlin Beach and Fort Drum birds there are now three reports in a five year period, and given the healthy and expanding nesting population it seems reasonable to expect additional migrating Kirtland's Warblers to occur in New York in the future.

Given the great rarity of Kirtland's Warblers in the state, and the distance from the core breeding grounds, nesting in New York State certainly seems unlikely, although the presence of the territorial male on Fort Drum for a couple of weeks perhaps indicates that nesting is possible. As with many species that rely on ephemeral habitats, Kirtland's Warblers have high dispersal potential, with territorial males often appearing far from known breeding sites, and New York is no farther from Michigan than is the nesting site at Petawawa, Ontario. However, jack pine barely makes it into New York, primarily occurring in widely scattered, isolated stands in northern New York, and with the largest stands on sandstone pavement barrens in Clinton County. These barrens would seem the most likely area in New York for nesting Kirtland's Warblers to occur, if and where stands of suitable age and habitat structure are present, such as would occur following a fire. Elsewhere, territorial males could appear in jack or red pine plantations such as the one on Fort Drum, but it seems doubtful that many suitably large plantations with the appropriate age and stand structure occur anywhere statewide, and the prospect of a pair showing up at such marginal sites seems especially unlikely.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

East Meets West: a Hybrid Eastern x Western Kingbird on Long Island

It was an excellent spring birding day on May 16th, 2014 in the old farm fields of Hallockville Museum Farm and the new Hallock State Park just beyond those fields (Riverhead, N.Y.). The walk I was leading for 30+ bird enthusiasts was beginning to wind down. Some people were already going ahead to their cars when I spied an interesting bird perched on an old dried mullein stalk in a fallow field. The colors on the bird were striking and it was hard to believe we could have missed it if it had been there earlier in the day when we passed this exact spot. It was the shape and size of an Eastern Kingbird, two of which were perched nearby, hawking insects from their own dried mullein stalks. Those birds were quite vocal and we had seen them earlier in the day in the same spot.

The unknown bird was without doubt a kingbird or other flycatcher species. My first thought was Great-crested Flycatcher, which nests in the area every year. However, it didn't have the reddish brown tail of the Great-crested. Our bird also had a very light colored throat; Great-crested Flycatchers sport a darker gray throat. My second thought was, could it be an Ash-throated Flycatcher? I had seen this species before on Long Island in, of all places, my own backyard. But the bird we were looking at had a slightly darker yellow belly, not the paler yellow that Ash-throats exhibit. Again, there was no reddish brown color in the tail or on the outer wings, so it wasn't this species either. When the bird started to hawk insects we all could easily see it had no white outer tail feathers, thereby ruling out Western Kingbird, which some of us were thinking it might be. It did however have a creamy-whitish tipped tail, and it chased the Eastern Kingbirds nearby. Now completely confused, I really had no idea what it was.

The bird had a gray-colored head with a light throat, gray across the upper breast, then bright yellow extending down to its undertail. The bill was dark-colored. The back of the bird was darker gray as was the upper tail, which had that whitish tip. My old field guide that I carry didn't have Cassin's Kingbird (that's how old it is) but other folks had newer books with them. Looking at the field guides, we all decided it must be a Cassin's and when someone googled it on their fancy phone the description said Cassin's can have a whitish tip, not always cream-colored. With this information, we all decided that's what it was and calls went out almost instantly about the sighting.

Realizing that a bird this rare would need good write-ups, I asked the observers to write descriptions of all this to back me up. Many people agreed, and they did so within a day or two. One member of our group, Steve Lacker, took a good photograph of it (p. 331). Based on that photograph and our descriptions it was decided by the best birding experts in the State that the bird was a rare hybrid of an Eastern and Western Kingbird, and not a Cassin's! All I

can say is none of our books showed that hybrid, but the combination has been known to occur in nature. A form describing the sighting and a photograph were submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee for review also.

The bird did not stay in the area for any length of time. By that afternoon it couldn't be found. People looked for it for days afterward to no avail. How fortunate we all were to have seen this good looking but confusing bird at that one point in time!

MaryLaura Lamont, Northville, NY.

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First Nesting of Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) in Bronx County – Spring 2009

On 24 May 2009, we observed a lone Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) perched on a 10m high snag in the north woods of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx County. On a return visit three days later, we found two Turkey Vultures perched in the area. After we retreated to a nearby hidden location, one vulture made a short flight and entered a rock outcrop at the top of a small hill (Figure 1, p. 336). The outcrop was about 8m above ground level. On 31 May we returned again, and did not see any Turkey Vultures in the area. Climbing up to the top of the rock outcrop, we peered down inside and saw a large, single egg (Figure 2, p. 336). We concluded it was that of the Turkey Vultures we had seen here recently. We quickly left the area. On 2 June, on another visit, and after not seeing any Turkey Vultures in the area for more than an hour, RDC climbed to the top of the rock outcropping. Only egg fragments remained inside below. There was no sign of what might have happened at this nest site that resulted in the destruction of the egg. One year later, in May 2010, we returned to see if there was any activity at this nest site, but we only saw the artifacts of what we assumed to be a homeless person who might have taken up temporary residence there. This breeding record of Turkey Vulture is the first confirmed one for Bronx County.

In *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (McGowan, K. J. and Corwin, K. (eds.) 2008. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, NY), data are presented to show that Turkey Vultures bred in one block (#5649A) on northwestern Staten Island in 2000. If true, this would be the first record of Turkey Vulture breeding within New York City. In their account for the species, mention is made of a “fledgling” seen on Staten Island on 5 August 2000. However, McGowan and Corwin (2008) also write, “...unlike most other species covered in this Atlas, many of the blocks with Possible and Probable records might not have had breeding [Turkey] vultures. Many of the codes that result in a Probable ranking are not strictly applicable for this species, and

should probably have been downgraded to Possible.” The observation of a fledgling is sufficient to confirm breeding in an atlas block. However, if a fledgling is capable of sustained flight, though still being fed by its parents, it is possible that it was reared in a nest in another area. Similar cautions apply to other species like Barn Swallows that often feed fledged young some distance from the nest.

In July 2014, we had email exchanges with several birders familiar with the area where the Turkey Vulture was suspected of nesting in northwestern Richmond County in 2000 in Breeding Bird Block 5649A. All agree that there are numerous abandoned concrete shipyard ruins in that area near Mariners Marsh Park that would be suitable for a breeding pair (or the abandoned buildings nearby in central Richmond County within the Seaview Property). However, the shipyard ruins near Mariners Marsh Park are off-limits to birders and everyone else, and cannot be surveyed for breeding birds. Disagreement arises about the possibility of nesting Turkey Vultures, versus physical evidence to confirm that Turkey Vultures nested on Staten Island in 2000 or since. Some birders who visited Mariners Marsh Park in northwestern Richmond County often throughout 2000 recall seeing a fledgling Turkey Vulture there in August, but do not believe Turkey Vultures nested in that area. It is not unusual to see a fledgling Turkey Vulture in August atop buildings in parts of Richmond County, in association with other older vultures, such as atop the library of the College of Staten Island. There is also a large Turkey Vulture roost at the intersection of Rockland Avenue and Richmond Road. We recommend that until physical evidence of an occupied Turkey Vulture nest on Staten Island is provided, that the Turkey Vulture in Richmond County be listed as “Possible” or “Probable” breeder; and consideration be given to regarding the nesting Turkey Vultures in Bronx County in 2009 as the first pair that are definitely known to have nested in New York City.

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**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
67TH ANNUAL MEETING, ITHACA, NY
SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2014**

The 67th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held at the Ramada Ithaca Hotel and Conference Center in Ithaca, NY, on September 20, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 9:15am. Roll call of member clubs showed 27 delegates from 19 clubs in attendance and a quorum present. Kathy Schneider made a motion to approve the November 2, 2013, 66th Annual Meeting minutes as published in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 63, No. 4, and modified per corrigendum in Vol. 64, No. 1. Carena Pooth seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

President's Report by Kathy Schneider:

Last November NYSOA held its annual meeting in the New York City area for the first time in many years. Hosted by the Queens County Bird Club, roughly 200 people attended. To help host clubs continue this tradition, we have documented procedures and collected data on our most recent conferences as a planning tool for future meetings.

NYSOA continued to sponsor the New York State Young Birders Club, which supports budding ornithologists by taking them on monthly field trips. Our Lillian C. Stoner Award, with newly revised award guidelines this year, provides financial support for the most passionate among them to attend our annual meeting.

New officers, directors, and committee chairs have benefited from the continuing development of our organizational handbook, which documents various NYSOA jobs and procedures. We began to explore ways to raise money through our website. Our archivist created an online finding tool for our organizational records, which are housed at Cornell, and we now have cloud based backups for NYSOA membership, financial, and website data. About a third of our membership receives our newsletter electronically, which saves resources and money, and our website has become one of our most important communication tools.

One hundred twelve people submitted their bird lists for the county listing competition that was compiled and published in the April issue of *NY Birders*. We organized a field trip to the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area and next week we have a trip on Long Island. Birders from all over New York State attend these outings.

Our Conservation Committee wrote letters to support the restoration of West Pond at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, to oppose federal plans to issue 30-year take permits for Bald Eagles at wind farms, and to support the listing of Red Knot on the federal Endangered Species list. They also commented on the state's Mute Swan and Black Skimmer management plans

and a wind farm proposed for Amherst Island, Ontario. One of our most active committees, its members published thoroughly researched articles in *NY Birders* every quarter to help us stay on top of bird conservation issues.

Our Research Committee compiled and published waterfowl data from across New York State and has gathered historical records from past counts formerly held by the DEC. Our quarterly journal, *The Kingbird*, published scholarly papers and regional reports and the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) continued to review new records.

A thank you goes to the places that provided free meeting space for our quarterly board meetings: Hudson Valley Community College, Montezuma Audubon Center, Clarence Fahnestock State Park, and Beaver Lake Nature Center. Their generosity made it possible to move our meetings around the state and reduce our travel.

This year we lost some members who made huge commitments to NYSOA. Bill Reeves was our treasurer for 8 years, J.R. Siphron was a life member, Diana Teta and Jerry Lazarczyk were active county listers and Jerry served on the Conservation and Nominating committees. Ed Treacy was *Kingbird* editor for Region 9 and wrote 100 regional reports over 25 years, and Manny Levine was *Kingbird* editor for many years as well as editor for *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Manny left much of his extensive library to Colgate University where it will be available to all birders. We are grateful for their service to NYSOA and to the individuals and families who named NYSOA in their wills or as the beneficiary of memorial donations.

NYSOA needs more individual members to continue these activities and you are urged to join, to get someone else to join, or to renew at a higher level. In the next year we plan to begin laying the groundwork for the next New York State Breeding Bird Atlas and to engage the eBird team at a New York eBird summit. Be a part of NYSOA's future and work with us to support the birds and birders of New York State.

Treasurer's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy provided Balance Sheets, Statements of Fund Activity and Balances, and Detailed Statements of General Operating Fund Activity for December 31, 2013, and June 30, 2014. He reported a deficit at the end of 2013 of about \$2100, which was better than expected. The report ending June 30 shows the same trend. An audit report will be in *NY Birders*.

Vote to accept Audubon Society of the Capital Region as a member of NYSOA: Bill Lee made a motion to accept ASCR as a member of NYSOA. Andy Mason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Kathy Schneider gave the report. The NYSOA archives are in the Cornell Libraries and new documents will be deposited every two years in future. Archivist Linda Clark Benedict created an online finding tool for searching the archives and there are procedures on the NYSOA website for accessing them.

Awards: Bill Ostrander reported on certificates of appreciation to be awarded for those who hosted birders on their property to view unusual species, a municipality involved in habitat restoration, and for service to NYSOA. Kevin Griffith noted the revised guidelines developed for the Stoner Award and announced this year's recipient, Marc Katz. Shai Mitra announced the Elliott award winner, Kyle Wright, for his article in *The Kingbird* on Red-tailed Hawks.

Conservation: Andy Mason gave the report. The committee held a conference call with NYSDEC wildlife staff that included discussion on cormorant management and changes to the upland game bird hunting seasons. Andy submitted comments to the NYSDEC on a number of issues including the Mute Swan Management Plan (presently being revised), the Black Skimmer Management Plan, and the proposed China City project near the Bashakill in Sullivan County. He also submitted comments to the U.S. Interior Department opposing 30-year take permits for eagles at wind farms and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supporting threatened species status for the Red Knot subspecies "rufa."

The committee had continuing involvement in the Enterprise Park at Calverton (EPCAL) coalition monitoring development proposals for this large grassland habitat in eastern Long Island; continuing participation in the Plum Island coalition to ensure that Plum Island is protected rather than developed; and continued involvement in future management plans for the Gateway National Recreation Area. That involvement included a letter of support regarding restoration of Jamaica Bay NWR West Pond presented at a meeting with the Gateway NRA superintendent and comments submitted to the National Park Service supporting West Pond restoration. Comments were also submitted on environmental assessment for the Fire Island Stabilization Project. On a new issue, they have been approached by the potential developer of two golf courses in Queens about protecting birds in a buffer wetland around the courses.

Four *NY Birders* articles were developed by the committee on "Wind Development on Amherst Island, Ontario"; "Snowy Owls under the Gun"; "Jamaica Bay West Pond Restoration"; and a book review of *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*.

County Lists: Carena Pooth gave the report. 112 reports were submitted for 2013, up from 97 in 2012 and the highest ever since the project began in 1992. The online form was used for submission by 79% of listers, which makes compiling easier. Broken this year were five regional and 26 county records. Thirteen participants reported from all 62 counties with Jerry Lazarczyk reporting at least 75 species in every county. Eight people reported at least 100 species in all ten regions. Three listers were under 18 and active members of NYSOA's Young Birders Club. NYSOA state and county list reports are archived on the NYSOA website.

eBird: Kathy Schneider gave the report. Kathy, Bob Spahn, and Angus Wilson have been interacting with Chris Wood at the Cornell Lab to find better ways to use and get access to information in a form we need. An eBird summit is being planned for this winter to discuss uses and future developments, consider use of eBird in the upcoming Atlas, and plan pilot projects in New York to test usage of the system.

Finance: Kathy Schneider gave the report. There will be a dues increase effective January 2015. The \$28 individual membership will become \$30; the \$30 family membership will become \$35; and the \$15 student membership will become \$17. The supporting membership category is being eliminated. The cost of publications continues to be the biggest expense and is not fully covered by the current dues structure. The anticipated \$1000-\$1500 additional revenue will not completely offset the current deficit but will help, as will the move to an e-version of *NY Birders*. Kathy noted that there has not been a dues increase since 2008.

Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trips: Seth Ausubel gave the report. We need to increase revenue and are exploring possibilities such as putting advertising on our website or in the newsletter that would focus on things of interest to birders, such as optics. We need to increase membership and need to get the word out about the value of NYSOA as a statewide birding organization. A field trip is scheduled for the last weekend in September to Long Island birding hotspots.

Membership and Circulation: Barbara Butler gave the report. She noted that individual memberships have been trending downward since 2003 and that the annual membership is currently 497 members. The number of clubs is also declining, as smaller clubs can be harder to maintain. She asked delegates to encourage their club members to join NYSOA to be part of a statewide effort to support birds and that, as an example, they can get help from NYSOA on local conservation issues in their area.

Kathy Schneider thanked Barbara for her long and important service to NYSOA in membership and circulation. She announced that the new circulation manager would be Pat Aitken.

NYSARC: There was no report.

NYSYBC: Carena Pooth gave the report. NYSYBC marked its sixth anniversary this fall. Currently there are 43 youth members, 38 supporting adults, and 21 partner clubs, all up over the previous year. NYSYBC is getting more youth members as field trips are a big draw in which whole families can and do participate. Currently, 50% are under 15, 29% under 13, and 14% over 16 years old. Carena noted that it is harder to get good participation away from the New York metro area and that she would like to see more girls participate, currently only eight of 42 youth members. They sent one team to the World Series of Birding to do Cape May County only; they reported 140 species. NYSYBC received several large donations this year, one from Sullivan County Audubon and one from Praxair, a corporate sponsor. This year NYSYBC will award over \$3000 in scholarships to youth and have raised over \$13,000 over the six years since they began. Scholarships have been given to youth members to attend camps and birding events or take a home bird biology course from Cornell. There is a new presentation about NYSYBC that clubs can use to encourage participation.

Publications: Shai Mitra reported that the NYSARC Annual Report will be in the September issue of *The Kingbird*. He is also seeking content for future issues.

Richard and Cyndy Tkachuck are looking for a new editor for *NY Birders* as the October issue will be their last. Richard encouraged members to opt for the new e-version of the newsletter as it saves NYSOA money and allows for easier editing and for color photos.

Research: Bill Ostrander reported on the Waterfowl Count. Last winter's results are published in the June issue of *The Kingbird*. There was a four year gap in the data from NYSDEC. He has been able to get two years of back data and is working on getting the rest. Kathy Schneider urged members to get involved in citizen science projects.

DEC Report:

Dan Rosenblatt of NYSDEC gave the report. He provided a Bureau of Wildlife Summary Report covering bird conservation and management issues in the state. On Spruce Grouse recovery, there is a two-year pilot study. Birds from Ontario released in New York did not persist but in a separate release of birds from Maine, there was almost 100% survivorship. The Mute Swan management plan is being revised based on public comment and should come out in late November. It will likely include changes in the plan for downstate populations. The Black Skimmer management plan is also to be released in late November.

Dan reported that there is a big focus within the agency on habitat management for both game and non-game species. Landowner incentives for preservation of grasslands currently have enrolled 21 landowners with 2600 acres. They would like to do more. Monitoring of grasslands in the system has been able to document the presence of breeding grasslands birds, including Bobolinks, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, and Upland Sandpiper. A Young Forest Initiative has a goal of 10% of forested lands in the state to be young forest. Federal funding is available for this initiative because of the federal listing of the New England Cottontail under the Endangered Species Act; the habitat needs of the rabbit are the same as the desired "young forest."

The DEC is developing a 10-year statewide action plan for species of "greatest conservation need." The list is to be revised this year and there will be public meetings after that. Dan encouraged review and comment from NYSOA. He reported that there is funding available for the next Breeding Bird Atlas from state wildlife grants.

Election of Officers:

Mike DeSha gave the **Nominating Committee Report**. The committee nominated the following 2014-15 slate of officers and directors for election:

One Year Terms to 2015

Kathy Schneider – President

Carena Pooth – Vice President

Celeste Morien – Recording Secretary

Andy Mason – Treasurer

Director's Two Year Terms

Mike DeSha – Director

Kevin Griffith – Director

Greg Lawrence – Director

Bill Ostrander – Director

Derek Rogers – Director

Mike DeSha made a motion to accept the slate as nominated; the motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

Election of the Nominating Committee:

Kathy Schneider announced the following slate for the 2014-15 Nominating Committee: Seth Ausubel (chair), Joan Collins, Jeremy Kirchman. Robert Bate made a motion to accept the slate as nominated; Mary Beth Warburton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Election of the Auditing Committee:

Kathy Schneider announced the following slate for the 2014-15 Auditing Committee: John Cairns (chair), Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo. Joan Collins made a motion to accept the slate as nominated; Tim Baird seconded and it passed unanimously.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business presented.

New Business:

- Regarding planning for the next NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, Kathy Schneider reported that she had written a letter to Patricia Riexinger, Director of the DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife, to say that we want to participate as an organization and be part of the planning process. A chair is needed for the statewide atlas project to be held in 2020-25.
- The 2015 Annual Meeting will be sponsored by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. President Jory Langner reported that the meeting will be on the first weekend in October 2015 and will be held at the Holiday Inn (formerly the Old Turf Inn) in Albany.

Adjournment:

Mike Birmingham made a motion to adjourn; Robert Bate seconded and it passed unanimously at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Allison
Recording Secretary
11/11/14



In Memoriam: Jerry Lazarczyk

Jerry Lazarczyk was an active member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society and served as a former treasurer and council member of the society. He was also the long time "caretaker" of the Buffalo Ornithological Society Nature Sanctuary on Love Road in Grand Island. He also was active in the New York State Ornithological Association and served on their nominating committee.

Jerry enjoyed collecting things. Sometimes his collections were of material things, like his collection of license plates of the United States and around the world.

More often his collections were of memories. He would keep lists of the lighthouses, covered bridges and other geographical features he had seen, and would often drive hundreds of miles to add another bridge or lighthouse to his list.

In his later years, he most enjoyed listing birds. In 1996, the New York State Ornithological Association started publishing the number of birds that members had observed in the state and in the state's 62 counties. In 2004 Jerry joined in on the fun with his observations of 263 bird species in New York State and 165 birds in Erie County.

In the next decade, Jerry aggressively birded and drove all over the state. By 2013 he had amassed a list of 382 bird species in New York State and a total of 7,157 county birds across the state. His total of 7,157 total county birds is the state record, and it is an average of better than 115 species for every county. He was proud of this accomplishment, but never bragged or even mentioned it. When I would suggest that, since he has the most county birds in New York he must be the best birder in New York State, he would not say anything.

He would just smile. It was one of the few times Jerry was not talking.

Bill Watson, Tonawanda, NY



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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It was a warm and stormy June 2014. The mean temperature was 68.8° F, 2.5° above average, and the humidity brought regular thunderstorms. A total of 3.80" of rain fell at the Buffalo airport, 0.14" above average. July was cooler and wetter than normal, with an average temperature of 68.6°, 2.5° below normal. Rainfall at Buffalo was 5.45", 2.22" above average. August averaged out to normal, with the mean temperature at 69.0°, 0.6° below normal. There was 3.16" of rain, 0.10" below average. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service Monthly Weather Summary for Buffalo.

Conditions at West Ruddy Marsh at Tonawanda WMA were excellent to attract shorebirds this summer and birders frequently found excellent numbers and diversity. Among the more impressive counts were 27 Solitary Sandpipers, 417 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 51 Stilt Sandpipers. The rarest bird was a Ruff (Reeve) found by Alec Humann on 28 July which marked only the third Regional summer record. Other notable sightings at this location included the summer's lone Ruddy Turnstone, up to three Sanderlings (which occur less frequently away from Great Lakes shorelines), at least one Long-billed Dowitcher, and multiple Wilson's Phalaropes and Red-necked Phalaropes. Other summer shorebird highlights came mostly at various points along the Lake Erie shoreline. Gale VerHague found five American Avocets at Dunkirk Harbor on 8 July. One day, lone bird sightings were made of Willet at Silver Creek, Whimbrel at Buffalo Harbor, and Marbled Godwit at Woodlawn Beach SP. Unfortunately, the godwit was a brief sighting by John Thill on 31 August and the bird was not re-found. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were also found on 31 August at Oak Orchard WMA by Joe Mitchell and at Buffalo Harbor by Jim Pawlicki, the latter of which allowed close views for many birders.

Lingering waterfowl were slightly more prominent this summer, which raised the question if there was a connection to the harsh conditions from this past winter. A Canvasback at Buffalo Harbor SP appeared to some birders to be injured. Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup were both at multiple locations. A White-winged Scoter at Batavia WWTP in June was unprecedented for that month and three were sighted below Niagara Falls in July. Three locations for Red-necked Grebe was definitely unusual for summer. Single sightings of Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Red-throated Loon also occurred, and up to two Ring-necked Ducks were present at Batavia WWTP throughout the summer.

Great Egrets continue to thrive. Their first Regional nesting occurred just under 20 years ago at Motor Island, which is now one of three active and growing colonies in the area. Summer roosts at Tonawanda and Oak Orchard

WMAs are increasing in numbers, and it is no longer unusual to see them flying over or at small water bodies anywhere in northern Erie, Niagara, Genesee, or Orleans Counties. The only uncommon wader identified this season was a Glossy Ibis at Oak Orchard WMA in August.

Consistent with recent summers Little Gulls were found among immature Bonaparte's Gulls at Fort Niagara SP, including three on two dates in June, and five were counted at Lewiston on 3 August. There were up to seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Lewiston Reservoir in August as well as sightings at two locations along Lake Ontario. The only Forster's Tern was at Batavia WWTP on 13 July. A Black Tern at Times Beach Nature Preserve on 27 June was unusual for this date and location but likely was a post-breeding wanderer. The only breeding area in the Region remains at Iroquois NWR and the adjacent WMAs. Jim Pawlicki studied a distant jaeger at Fort Niagara SP that fortunately turned and headed to shore to check out some feeding cormorants and gulls. He snapped a number of photographs which helped confirm his identification as a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger. This is only the third Regional record and first for the summer season. As there are more reports along Lake Ontario to the west (Hamilton) and east (Hamlin/Rochester), the scarcity of records is influenced by the limited amount of summer/August lake watching in Region 1.

Fall migrant warblers and other songbirds were documented mostly over the last two weeks of August, with the highlight being a Golden-winged Warbler found by Richard Salembier at Amherst SP on 22 August. There were more Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings than usual for late summer.

As for breeding season notes, I'll start with the disappointing news first. Last year's exciting discovery of a Henslow's Sparrow colony at the Chautauqua County airport was followed by no reports this year amid early summer mowing. Also disappointing is the continued trend of zero Golden-winged Warbler sightings during the summer breeding season. Granted there may not be many birders specifically targeting this species in June, but the absence of reports in recent years does not bode well for this species.

On to the good news for breeding season success. Sandhill Cranes nested successfully near Stafford Pond at Oak Orchard WMA for the second straight year. The diligent efforts of New York State Purple Martin Project volunteers continue to help the local population expand. Red-headed Woodpecker sightings increased over the last few summers. Merlin reports in June and July have increased in recent years including new breeding locations. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from several locations, including several family groups at Krull Park.

Several uncommon and/or declining breeding species were found again in only one or two breeding locations including Upland Sandpipers, Common Nighthawk, Sedge Wren, and Prothonotary Warbler. A White-eyed Vireo banded at Allegany SP during the Nature Pilgrimage on 1 June provided a rare summer report, but there were no follow up reports to check on potential breeding status. David Junkin banded a Swainson's Thrush at Beaver Meadow

Audubon Center in late July, providing either evidence of a potential new breeding area or a very early migration report.

Two dove species rare for this Region showed up a few days apart in late August and neither was found after the initial discovery. Dennis Russell photographed a White-winged Dove visiting his feeder in Blasdell on 25 August. Betsy Potter heard a Eurasian Collared-Dove calling and then had a brief observation at Wilson-Tuscarora SP on 29 August. These both represented second Regional records and firsts for the summer season. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was photographed by Joe Swiatkowski at his feeder in Derby on the unusual date of 15 June. Surprisingly, this is the third Regional record this year following two spring reports.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; CHMUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area, GENE/WYOM; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; DLSP – Darien Lakes SP, GENE; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NR – Niagara Ri; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; RTPI – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach NP, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Mute Swan: Cuba ALLE 3 Jul; only report away from L Ontario.

Wood Duck: 90 Tift NP 25 Aug; max 119 INWR 22 Aug.

Gadwall: 2 INWR 6 Jun; 6, 12, 7 BWWTP 8, 28 Jun, 12 Jul, at least six young; Tift NP 5 Jul; 2 NF 10 Jul; TWMA 31 Jul.

Am. Wigeon: max 2 INWR 6 Jun; Tift NP 13 Jun; TWMA 28 Jul, 27 Aug; N Harmony CHAU 14 Aug; SPNS 28 Aug; only reports.

Blue-winged Teal: max 27, 29 TWMA 1, 15 Aug.
N. Shoveler: arr 5 TWMA 13 Aug; 5 BWWT 16 Aug; 3 Tift NP 21 Aug.
N. Pintail: 2, 3 TWMA 25 Jul, 27 Aug; max 6 BWWT 13 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 2 OOWMA 3 Jun; 4 BWWT 23 Jun; max 45 TWMA 19 Aug; 35 OOWMA 29 Aug.
Canvasback: BufH 29 Jun, 7 Jul (JoBa, JP, WW), rare in summer.
Redhead: 1-2 BWWT thru; Tift NP 14, 17 Aug; DH 22, 25 Aug; only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: BWWT 23 Jun thru, 2 on 16, 17 Aug; only reports.
Greater Scaup: 5, 9 NF 9, 12 Jun (WW); PB 9 Jul (WD); only reports.
Lesser Scaup: 2 NFSP 1 Jun; BWWT 6 Jun; 2 BufH 8 Jun; only reports.
White-winged Scoter: BWWT 6 Jun (WW); 3 NF 14, 21 Jul; only reports.
Bufflehead: BWWT 6 Jun (WW), only report.
Com. Goldeneye: Buffalo NR 14 Aug (AH), only report.
Ruddy Duck: 24, 25, 36 BWWT 3 Jun, 23 Jul, 16 Aug; regular in summer at this location.
Red-throated Loon: Wilson NIAG 7 Jun (WD), late.
Com. Loon: BWWT 23 Jun (WW); Olcott NIAG 3 Jul; AISP 7 Jul (TiL); 2 NFSP 9 Jul; good showing for season.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 23 TWMA 21 Aug.
Horned Grebe: UB North Campus ERIE 1 Jul (BM), only report, unusual for date.
Red-necked Grebe: FNPS 4 Jun (WW, JP); ChauL 11 Jun (DH); Barcelona CHAU 16, 24 Aug (GV, JG); high number of summer reports.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1700 BufH 26 Aug.
Am. Bittern: Alexander GENE 2-4 Jun; max 7, 5 INWR 16, 21 Jun (GL, CM, SB); TWMA 11, 21, 31 Jul; OOWMA 14 Jul, 24 Aug.
Least Bittern: Tift NP 6 Jun, 5 Jul, 3 Aug; max 5 INWR 16 Jun (GL); TWMA 20, 28 Jun, 23 Jul – 1 Aug; John White WMA GENE 26 Jul (CW, JeBa).
Great Blue Heron: 163 INWR 6 Jun; max 188 OOWMA 18 Jul.
Great Egret: 130 TWMA 21 Jul; max 226 OOWMA 25 Aug (WW), coming to roost.
GLOSSY IBIS (R1): OOWMA 24 – 29 Aug (AG, JP, PM, WD), rare.
Black Vulture: 2-8 Lewiston NIAG thru, continues to show year round affinity for this location.

HAWKS - TERNS

Osprey: increased sightings with increase in breeding pairs.
Bald Eagle: well reported from nesting areas and elsewhere.
N. Goshawk: ad Boutwell Hill SF CHAU 27 Jul (GV), only report.
Broad-winged Hawk: TWMA 17 Aug (WD), unusual location, likely fall migrant.
Virginia Rail: max 4 Tift NP 17 Aug; max 4 OOWMA 24 Aug.
Sora: BWWT 17 Aug, only report away from OOWMA.
Am. Coot: BWWT 6, 23 Jun; max 7, 26 INWR 14 Jun, 9 Aug; 2 OOWMA 14 Jul.
C. Gallinule: max 4 + 7 yg Tift NP 29 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 2, 2 INWR 6, 26 Jun (CM); 2 + 1 yg OOWMA 13 Jun (PL), 2nd consecutive year with confirmed breeding at this location; Alfred ALLE 16 Jul (EB); TWMA 29 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 3, 20, 12 TWMA 3, 12, 16 Aug; 4 BWWT 13 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 8, 1 TWMA 16, 19 Aug (J&AH, JoBa).
Semipalmated Plover: 11 N Harmony CHAU 2 Jun; last INWR 6 Jun; arr BWWT 15 Jul; max 40, 39 TWMA 24 Jul, 8 Aug.
Am. Avocet: 5, 1 DH 8, 9 Jul (GV); only reports.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 6 Ellicott CHAU 16 Jul (JBe); max 27, 13 TWMA 26 Jul, 27 Aug (WD), impressive counts.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2, 25 TWMA 11, 25 Jul.
Willet: Silver Creek CHAU 9 Aug (KR), only report.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr N Harmony CHAU 4 Jul (KV); max 300, 417 TWMA 20, 28 Jul (CM, WD); 129, 82 OOWMA 13, 29 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 2-3 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE thru 10 Jul, regular location.
Whimbrel: BufH 14 Jul (JP), only report.
MARBLED GODWIT: WoBSP 31 Aug (JT), brief sighting, rare.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr TWMA 23 Jul- only report.
RUFF (Reeve): TWMA 28 Jul (AH! mob), 3rd summer record.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 9, 19, 51, 40 TWMA 15, 20, Jul, 12, 15 Aug (GL, JM, JP, AH); impressive counts.
Sanderling: arr 3 TWMA, 4 DH 28 Jul; 1, 1 TWMA 5, 13 Aug (RS, CM), unusual inland; Woodlawn ERIE 22 Aug; 2 Lewiston Res NIAG 23 Aug.

Dunlin: arr ad TWMA 20, 26 Jul (CM, GL, AG); only reports.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Albion ORLE 3 Aug; 1, 2 TWMA 13, 16 Aug; DH 20 Aug; only reports.

Least Sandpiper: arr 70, 275, max 300 TWMA 11, 24 Jul, 8 Aug (GL, RS).

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1, 2, 1 TWMA 9, 16, 19 Aug; not reported from other locations.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: OOWMA 31 Aug (JM, CM); BufH 31 Aug (JP, mob), observed by many at close on short lawn at Buffalo Small Boat Harbor.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2, 73, 38 INWR 15, 28 Jul, 15 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 9 BWWT 5 Jun; last N Harmony CHAU 9 Jun; arr 2, 200, 100 TWMA 15, 29 Jul, 5 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2, 55, 45 TWMA 14, 20, 23 Jul; 5, 10 OOWMA 25, 29 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1, 1 TWMA 12, 16 Aug (JP!, WD!), distinguished from nearby Short-billeds.

Wilson's Snipe: max 22 TWMA 16 Aug (WD, RS).

Wilson's Phalarope: f UB North Campus ERIE 17 Jun (BM!), late or wandering; arr 2, 1 TWMA 24-25 Jul, 10-13 Aug (WD, JM, CM, RS).

Red-necked Phalarope: arr 1, 1, 1 TWMA 20, 24 Jul, 10-13 Aug (JM, WD, RS, mob); 2, 1 BWWT 10, 16 Aug (DB, JoBa, AH).

Bonaparte's Gull: 150, 45 FNSP 4, 29 Jun (WW, JP, AG), regular location for Jun reports; 2 Wilson NIAG, 10 Olcott NIAG 29 Jun.

Little Gull: 3, 3, 1 FNSP 4, 18, 29 Jun (JP), continued reports at this location in recent early summers; max 5 Lewiston NR 3 Aug (JP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Shadigee ORLE 10 Jun (RG); max 2, 2, 7, 4 Lewiston Res NIAG 29 Jun, 12 Jul, 11, 23 Aug (JP); PB 9 Jul (WD); only reports.

Great Black-backed Gull: 17 imm BufH 8 Jun (MM); 15 PB 10 Jun, slightly increasing numbers in summer.

Caspian Tern: max 105 PB 29 Jun; 27, 29 TWMA 31 Jul, 8 Aug.

Black Tern: 1, 4 FNSP 4 Jun, 24 Aug (WW, JP); TBNP 27 Jun (JP); 19, 15 INWR 11, 26 Jul (RS, AG); max 20 TWMA 24 Jul (PM); 4 BWWT 13 Aug (WW).

Com. Tern: max 430 BufH 7 Jul (WW).

Forster's Tern: BWWT 13 Jul (JM!)- only report.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: FNSP 24 Aug (JP! Photo NYSARC), third confirmed record and first summer report for Reg.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: WTSP 29 Aug (BP!), 2nd reg record, first in summer.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Blasdell ERIE 25 Aug (DR, photo), 2nd reg record, first in summer.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Red Jacket P Buffalo ERIE 25 Jun (JF), unexpected location.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Alexander GENE 5 Jun (KF), calling; likely breeder.

Com. Nighthawk: 3 Jamestown CHAU 6 Jun (JBe); Buffalo ERIE 23 Jul (DG); only locations with probable breeding; arr Tonawanda ERIE 17 Aug; max 21 E Amherst ERIE 30 Aug (MM); 11 other Aug reports of 1-3 each.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from 10 locations; better than recent summers.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: INWR 5, 6 Jun; at northern edge of local breeding distribution.

Merlin: CHMUA 1 Jun (SB); 1-2 Chautauqua Institution CHAU 22 Jun – 17 Jul (CH, BS); 2 Jamestown CHAU 23 Jun (TwL, AH); ad + 2 yg Alfred ALLE 20 Jul (EB), new breeding location; 3 AISP 25 Jul (WD, BP); Buffalo ERIE 4-23 Aug (PY); 12 other Aug reports; continued increase in breeding and overall sightings.

Peregrine Falcon: DH thru Jul; 2 BufH 2 Jun; 2 Amherst ERIE 14 Jul; arr 2 TWMA 25 Jul (AH); SPNS 20 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last PG 1 Jun (GV); arr RTP1 18 Aug (SK); Aurora ERIE 19 Aug (LH); Whalen Memorial SF CHAU 21 Aug; N Harmony CHAU 21 Aug; 1, 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 23, 24 Aug (GV); BeSP 28 Aug (DSh); good showing.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Tift NP, AmSP 18 Aug; Buffalo NR 24 Aug; BMAC 27 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: last N Harmony CHAU 21 Aug (TiL, KV).

Least Flycatcher: arr Wilson NIAG 20 Aug.

White-eyed Vireo: AISP 1 Jun (DSp; mob), banded at Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.

Com. Raven: 2 + 2 yg Tonawanda ERIE 31 Jul (JP), breeding evidence; 3 Lewiston Res NIAG 1 Aug.

Purple Martin: 185 Bethany GENE 22 Jun; 106 TWMA 25 Jun; 338 INWR 25 Jun; 86

OOWMA 30 Jun; 90 DLSP 8 Jul; continued success with nestbox program.
Tree Swallow: 400, 250 BWWT 18 Jul, 16 Aug; max 500 INWR 9 Aug;
Bank Swallow: max 300 BWWT 19 Jul; 140 N Tonawanda NIAG 12 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: max 195 Tonawanda I NIAG 14 Jul.
Sedge Wren: 2, 1 TWMA 17 Jun, 25 Jul – 4 Aug (GL, JM); only reports.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 1 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 10 Jun; AISP 4 Jul (PH); BMAC 26 Jul, banded (DJ), unexpected location; arr 2 Tonawanda ERIE 29 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr Buffalo NR 24 Aug.
Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from previously documented breeding locations.
N. Waterthrush: arr Lewiston NIAG 30 Aug, banded.
Golden-winged Warbler: no breeding reports; AmSP 22 Aug (RS), fall migrants rare.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr AmSP 18 Aug.
“Lawrence’s Warbler”: BMAC 24 Jul (TK), banded.
Black-and-white Warbler: Ward ALLE 9 Jun; arr INWR 17 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: OOWMA 3 Jun (GL); 2 TWMA 20 Jun, only regular recent breeding location.
Tennessee Warbler: last UB North Campus ERIE 12 Jun (BM!), late.
Nashville Warbler: Andover ALLE 4 Jun; Boutwell Hill SF 8 Jun; Alfred ALLE 25 Jun; Chautauqua Creek CHAU 2 Aug (TiL); arr AmSP 27 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: max 6 INWR 5 Jun; Aurora ERIE 5 Aug (LH), unusual location; last 2 INWR 9 Aug.

N. Parula: 13 AISP 7 Jun (TwL), throughout park but still high count.
Magnolia Warbler: arr AmSP 18 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr AmSP 24 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 18 Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 4 AmSP 18 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 2 CHMUA 1 Jun; arr BMAC 28 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 30 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 11 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: max 7 Yorkshire CATT 20 Jun.
Black-throated Green Warbler: TBNP 27 Jun (JP), unusual location for date; arr AmSP 27 Aug.
Canada Warbler: 3 Ward ALLE 1 Jun (EB); 2 WFWMA 20 Jun (JBe); arr 2 AmSP 18 Aug.
Wilson’s Warbler: last Tift NP 2 Jun; arr DH, AmSP 22 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1, 1, 2 Portland CHAU 11, 22 Jun, 14 Jul (CH); 1, 2, 12 Olcott NIAG 3, 6 Jul, 3 Aug (WW, BP, JP), multiple family groups.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 Ashford CATT 20 Jun, only report.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 6, 7 John White WMA 16 Jun, 7 Jul (GL); reported from six other locations.
White-throated Sparrow: Alfred ALLE 16, 21 Jun (EB); 3 Allenberg Bog CATT 4 Jul 9 (WD); only reports.
Bobolink: max 400 INWR 28 Aug (CM).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Derby ERIE 15 Jun (JS, photo), 1st June and 3rd summer record, and surprisingly 3rd record this year.
Orchard Oriole: continued increase.
Pine Siskin: Wilson NIAG 26 Jul (WD, BP), only report.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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This summer was one of those rare ones with temperatures exactly on normal, with only two days reaching $> 90^{\circ}$ F and with precipitation up a bit but with fewer thunderstorms than usual. June was a benign month, with all the weekends dry and comfortable. Temperatures averaged 68.8° F, 2.6° above normal, and precipitation at 2.06" was 1.28" below normal. July was a cool, wet month. Any signs of warmth were cut off quickly by the next wave of cooler air. Thunderstorms and torrential rain brought flooding, especially south of Rochester. It was the coolest July since 2009. Temperatures averaged 69.3° , 1.5° below normal, and precipitation totaled 7.70", 4.37" above normal. It was our fourth wettest July, and the 2.42" on the 28th was a one-day record total. All the rainfall was accompanying patterns from Hudson's Bay; none was tropical in origin. August brought a quiet end to the summer. It seemed cool but was actually near normal. There were no 90° days, and a high of 67° one day was the coolest August high temperature since 2009. Temperatures averaged 68.2° , 1.1° below normal, and precipitation was low at 2.27", 1.20" below normal. A rain-free period from the 17th to the 30th was the longest dry spell of the season. Generally it was good birding weather, and monthly species counts well above their respective 10-year averages reflect this.

Once again, I will use an approach of looking at the season in three parts, end of spring migration, summer "breeding" season, and start of fall migration, though they all overlap in dates. The end of spring migration may be the fuzziest, as the official hawk counting and passerine banding operations end very early in June and many birders stop searching as diligently as in May. Among the waterbirds we had a good number of lingering species, especially diving ducks, but no real surprises or rarities other than a Snow Goose in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), likely the June bird that was also seen in the Montezuma NWR then and for the rest of the summer. At the Braddock Bay hawkwatch some counting continued into June, and the usual Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Broad-winged Hawks were seen as well as a late Rough-legged Hawk there on 1 June, with another Rough-leg at Hamlin Beach SP on the same day. The usual set of later migrating shorebirds was reported well into June, with most at a continuing wet area in the NMWMA south of Carncross Road and with a late Red-necked Phalarope the most interesting. A Laughing Gull was an uncommon find for the date at Hamlin Beach SP on 1 June. Among the passerines, again most were the expected late migrants, many banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) including: Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Traill's Flycatchers; Philadelphia Vireo; Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes; Tennessee, Magnolia, Bay-

breasted, Blackpoll, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers; and lone White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows.

Moving on to the heart of the "breeding season," June and July for North American Birds reporting, it should have been a good season for nesting birds given the generally good weather conditions. But with no concerted breeding bird study efforts reported—little or nothing from the several local MAPS efforts—there are only the casual observations from many birders. Mute and Trumpeter Swans were found with young in most of their known breeding locations. For Trumpeter Swan, the Atlantic Avenue site was again empty but a swamp on Drury Road in Wayne County held a pair with five young. Canada Goose, Wood Duck, and Mallard were the only widespread breeding waterfowl noted in substantial numbers. There were no surprises among those reported in smaller numbers. Among the raptors, the usual breeding species were reported, though there were again no reports of nesting Northern Goshawk and few of Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks, likely mainly a search effort issue in the latter two cases.

A positive was a few more Common Gallinules reported from near the lakeshore west of Rochester than has been the case in recent years. Breeding shorebirds attract little attention in this Region, with Killdeer everywhere, Spotted Sandpiper decreasing, and the other few breeders secretive enough to be seldom reported after courtship flights cease. This year there were no reports on the local roof-top and parking-lot nesting colonies of Ring-billed Gull. Certainly the species was present in substantial numbers, and by late July juveniles were arriving on the local beaches from nearby breeding colonies. Caspian Terns with young also arrived in July but with peak counts down from 10-15 years ago. Moving along, we had no reports of the potentially breeding Eurasian Collared-Doves. Again Red-headed Woodpeckers did well at Hamlin Beach SP but were seldom reported from elsewhere in the Region. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons fledged four young, but there was only one report of a juvenile to suggest confirmed breeding for the local Merlin pairs. There were only a few reports of 1-2 Monk Parakeets in the 19-26 July period from the West Ridge Plaza area.

The large passerine order is very hard to assess without data from focused studies. Some positive observations include: Fish Crow numbers again strongly suggesting breeding in the Charlotte area of Rochester; Golden-winged Warbler hanging on in the North Wolcott area; "Lawrence's Warbler in the Town of Bristol, Ontario County; Prothonotary Warbler back in the Armitage road area in Wayne County; Clay-colored Sparrows at new locations in Oatka Creek Park and in the Town of Kent, Orleans County; and an intriguing female Yellow-headed Blackbird at a feeder in Irondequoit in late June not far from good cattail habitat. On the negative side were no Sedge Wren reports and no breeding reports for Blue-headed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Canada Warbler, all likely simply due to lack of searching or reporting rather than their actually not breeding locally.

There are always reports of summer birds hard to place, most likely just summer lingerers or wanderers. Some of these include: mid-June White-crowned Sparrow and 25 July White-throated Sparrow near Lake Ontario; adult Black-headed Gull at the end of July; lots of Lesser Black-backed Gulls all summer; Tennessee Warbler on 22 June at BBBO; and Ovenbird, Black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Black-throated Green, and Wilson's Warblers all banded in July at BBBO, where none are known to breed really close by yet at dates that really stretch the idea of first fall migrants.

Finally on to fall migration. There can be numbers of shorebirds moving in late June. This year there was no evidence of that other than a Solitary Sandpiper on 18 June at Conesus Lake inlet; coming or going? Sixteen Common Terns on 28 June are likely early dispersal birds. In July many of the shorebirds arrived as expected, and rarer species with them included American Avocet and three Willets. Red-breasted Merganser and both regular loons in July are hard to assign, but again Red-necked Grebe arrived passing Hamlin Beach SP in late July and was then reported at scattered dates through August. Moving on into August we had the first few waterfowl arriving, mostly at Hamlin Beach, and also migrating loons plus a Horned Grebe reported. There was no focused hawk watch, but some good counts were noted at Braddock Bay by Mike Tetlow. Shorebird arrivals and passage continued with good species variety though weak numbers in this Region and only a couple of Willets and Buff-breasted Sandpiper as scarcer records. The only early jaegers were birds not identified to species on 27 & 28 August. Gull and tern counts were not great. A couple of surprises were a young Northern Saw-whet Owl banded at BBBO on 9 August and a calling E. Whip-poor-will in Irondequoit on 18 August. Essentially all of the migrant passerines that usually arrive in August or near the August/September border were reported, and most banded, in August this year. Half a dozen were at what would have been record early fall arrival dates when the historical distributions were compiled in 1984, but all have been reported at even earlier dates during the period since that data summary; we need an update.

In addition to these regular seasonal reports, there were two special rarities. The Region's fourth White-winged Dove was found by Chris Wood on 31 August just west of Manitou Road. Unfortunately, it was not relocated after that. The bird of the season was the State's first fully documented and photographed Kirtland's Warbler found by Andy Guthrie early on 1 June near the entrance to Hamlin Beach SP. He was able to get the word out quickly and many were able to see and photograph or record the bird through dusk that evening. As reported by Dominic Sherony in an article in the October 2014 issue of *New York Birder*, there have been several other reports in Western New York over many years, though none fully verified and satisfactorily documented for a first State record.

The local effort and results summaries for the season are also interesting. There were about 36,668 eBird records plus additional data from geneseebirds posts, BBBO banding records, and other inputs. For all three months the species lists recorded significantly exceeded their recent 10-year averages. In June, the

total of 193 species exceeded the previous high of 191 from the years tracked since 1974, and yet a birder doing a Big June located 216 species, unfortunately with details not provided. July's 174 was ten above the average, and the 196 species in August was second only to the high of 211 recorded in 2009.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, BBBO (Betsy Brooks, et al.), John Ballou, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim & Liz Barry, Sue Barth, Doug & Sharon Beattie, Dick Beery, Don Bemont, Linda Clark-Benedict & Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Brenda Best, Richard Bishopp, John Boettcher, Phillip Bonn, Lynn Braband, Ken Burdick, Bruce Cady, Doug Cameron, Brad Carlson, Kelly Close, Richard Cohen, Andrew Consler, Dawn Crane, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Rich Downs, Crystal Doyle, Sarah Dzielski, Eaton Birding Society, Daena Ford, George Ford, Drew Fowler, Ozzarina Gall, Andy Garland, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Eric Gulson, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Anita Gwara, Helen & Chris Haller, Catherine Hamilton, Kristina Hannam, Kathy Hapgood, Kim Hartquist, George Haskins, Jim & Allison Healy, Dick Horsey, Alec Humann, IBA Monitoring, Carolyn Jacobs, Ryan Kayhart, Tom Kerr, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Mark Magistro, Mary Magistro, Bill Maier, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matthew Medler, Ferne Merrill, Glenn Miller, Joe Mitchell, Montezuma Audubon Center, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Dave Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Andrea Patterson, Emily Patterson, Jim Pawlicki, Norma Platt, Carena Pooth, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, David Prill, Thomas Pumilio, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Thomas Riley, Michelle Rosenbaum, Ken Rosenberg, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jennifer Rycenga, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Joe Stevenson, Kimberly Sucy, Paul Taillie, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Michael & Joann Tetlow, Herb Thompson, Luke Tiller, Andrew VanNorstrand, Jeanne Verhulst, Matthew Voelker, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, David Wheeler, Joe Wing, Chris Wood, Christine Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitow Beach Rd MONR; CLI – Conesus L Inlet, including WMA marshes, LIVI; Cuy – Cuylerville area, LIVI; G – Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; M – Manitow, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP –

Mendon Ponds P, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma WMA, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; OCP – Oatka Creek P, MONR; S-Savannah, WAYN; Spt – Sodus Point, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) thru 2 June, late, injured.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad, 5 yg Drury Rd WAYN Aug, new confirmed breeding site.

Wood Duck: 60 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 June; max 61 HANA 16 Aug.

Gadwall: last NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun; HB 7 Aug (AGu), scarce in summer.

Am. Wigeon: arr HB 26 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 9 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 12 Aug, low.

N. Shoveler: last 2 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun, late; 1 CL 2 Aug (KC), scarce in summer.

N. Pintail: arr 8 NMWMA 14 Aug (AGu), Reg record early.

Green-winged Teal: last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun; max 41 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 12 Aug.

Redhead: last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun, late; arr BB 31 Aug (CW), early.

Ring-necked Duck: last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun, late.

Greater Scaup: arr HB 24 Aug (AGu), very early.

Lesser Scaup: last 2 Geneseo 18 Jun (KC), late; last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun IBA Monitoring), late.

White-winged Scoter: arr HB 27 Aug (AGu), early.

Long-tailed Duck: last HB 14 Jun (AGu), Reg record late.

Red-breasted Merganser: last 5 HB 14 Jun (AGu); 5 HB 3 Jul (AGu), scarce in summer; arr HB 17 Aug (AGu), early.

Ruddy Duck: last 2 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun.

Red-throated Loon: 2 HB 24 Jul; HB 2 Aug; scarce in summer.

Com. Loon: last 3 Hemlock L 15 Jun (KC), late; 1-2 HB 13-27 Jul; HB 14 Aug; scarce in summer.

Horned Grebe: arr HB 29 Aug (JeB, CW), early.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 27 Aug (AGu, *et al.*), Reg record early; 2 HB 7 Aug (AGu), early.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 434 HB 28 Aug (AGu).

Great Blue Heron: max 200 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 9-27 Jun (IBA Monitoring).

Great Egret: 1 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 15 Jun (PB), unusual date; max 39 MAC 30 Aug (DNi).

Turkey Vulture: 164 BB 2 Jun; max 230 Perinton Center P 25 Aug (MT).

HAWKS – TERNS

Bald Eagle: max 20 BB 2 Jun; nest Twin Hills Golf Club 10 Jun (JBo), new site.

N. Goshawk: 1 BB 26 Aug (MT), only rep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 Manitou Beach 26 Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 195 BB 2 Jun (DaF); 58 HB 2 Jun.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 706 BB 26 Aug (MT).

Rough-legged Hawk: last 1 BB 1 Jun (DaF) & 1 HB 1 Jun (AGu, Bri&BroM, CS).

Com. Gallinule: 1 HANA 16-25 Jun; 3 singles BB area 30-31 Aug, few near lakeshore recent yrs.

Sandhill Crane: 1 MP 1 Jun (J&AH), interesting loc; 3-4 NMWMA thru (mob); 3 T Richmond ONTA 20 Aug (DCr).

AM. AVOCET (R2): Summerville Pier 14 Jul (BriM, J&AH)

Black-bellied Plover: last 7 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 6 Jun; arr & max 8 Perry Rd Flats LIVI 26 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Spt 25 Aug; max 12 SE of Cuylerville LIVI 26 Aug, low.

Semipalmated Plover: last MP 8 Jun; arr 10 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 15 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Conesus Lake Inlet 18 Jun (KC), coming or going?; arr HANA 17 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr HB 3 Jul (AGu).

Willet: 3 Spt 13 Jul (MT, JW, JPo, W&MR); 1 Summerville Pier 21 Aug (PaM); 1 OB 31 Aug (CW).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 7 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 4-5 Geneseo Airfield 21 Jul (JK).

Whimbrel: arr HB 25 Jul (R&SS); HB 24 Aug (AGu); HB 30 Aug (BriM).

Ruddy Turnstone: last HB 7 Jun; arr 1 Summerville Pier & 3 Spt 23 Jul.

Red Knot: arr 1 HB 25 Aug (AGu).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 27 Jul.

Sanderling: arr 4 Summerville Pier & 5 Spt 21 Jul; max 30 Spt 27 Aug (DWh).

Dunlin: last 5 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 7 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr OB 18 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 30 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) & 60 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 6 Jun (W&MR); arr 4 HB 12 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Summerville Pier 25 Jul (PaM, ph).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Perry Rd Flats LIVI 27 Aug (JK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr HB 31 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 70 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun (KB, TR); last 10 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 7 Jun; arr 2 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 15 Jul; max 160 MAC 30 Aug (TGK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr OB 7 Jul; max 38 MAC 30 Aug (DNu).

Short/Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 7 Jul (JTa, DWh).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MAC 27 Jul (BMc).

Red-necked Phalarope: 1 HB 21 Jun (KB, TR), Reg record late or record early.

jaeger sp: arr 1 HB 27, 28 Aug (AGu).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 115 BB 7 Jul, low.

Black-headed Gull: 1 ad HB 31 Jul (AGu), unusual date.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad HB 1 Jun (AGu, RG, JMc, LS, DWe).

Ring-billed Gull: max 2700 HB 10 Jul (PaM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 5 HB 14 Jun (AGu); 9 HB 20 Jun (AGu); 3-8 HB 3-18 Jul (AGu); max 10 HB 7 Jul (AGu); 2 Spt 24-25 Aug (MG, M&JT); 1 OB 31 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 45 OB 21 Jun (GF); max 135 Spt 24 Jul (MG); 110 Spt 18 Aug (JTa, DWh).

Black Tern: 1 G 3 Jun, scarce now along lakeshore; max 6 NMWMA 21 Jun.

Com. Tern: max 61 HB 27 Aug (AGu).

Forster's Tern: arr 2 Spt 13 Aug (JW).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Parma MONR 31 Aug (CW), 4th Reg record.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1B juv BBBO 9 Aug (AP, EP).

Com. Nighthawk: last BB 1 Jun; max 24 G 1 Jun; last Honeoye Lake 15 Jun; arr Genesee Valley P 18 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: Irondequoit 18 Aug (GH), calling, unusual date.

Chimney Swift: 48 Honeoye 22 Jul (KS); max 130 York Central School LIVI 23 Jul (JK); 60 Rochester 21 Aug (JBa).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 12 HB 27 Aug (RD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 32 Harriet Hollister Spencer SRA 12 Jul (R&SS), count.

Merlin: 3 rep Jun; 4 rep Jul; 6 rep Aug; 1 juv? Rochester 28 Jul (DP), known recent nesting area.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 4 yg Roch (falconcamb) thru.

Monk Parakeet: 1-2 West Ridge Plaza area Rochester 19-26 Jul (AGu, mob).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1B BBBO 10 Jun; 1 Fairport 12 Jun (DD); arr 1 Conesus L Inlet 15 Aug (MW); 1 Riverside Cemetery Rochester 18 Aug (AGa); 3 Riverside Cemetery Rochester 18 Aug (ST); 1 Conesus L Inlet 22 Aug (KC).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1B BBBO 13 Jun; arr 1B BBBO 11 Aug.

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: max 20B BBBO 1 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: last 5B BBBO 2 Jun; arr Greece 20 Aug (KG).

Red-eyed Vireo: total B 28 BBBO Aug.

Fish Crow: 1-8 areas near mouth of Genesee Ri thru, nesting likely; Beechwoods SP WAYN 21 Jun, 26 Jul (W&MR, JW); Wolcott 16 Jul (W&MR, DrF).

Com. Raven: 3 HANA 3 Jul (BCad), new loc; 2 ad, 2 yg Canadice L (S end trail) 14 Jun (R&SS).

Purple Martin: max 95 MAC 30 Aug.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1B BBBO 2 Jun; 1B BBBO 29 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: total B 14 BBBO 1-2 Jun; last Durand-Eastman P 14 Jun (KH); arr 1B BBBO 25 Aug.

Hermit Thrush: arr 1B BBBO 19 Aug, early.

Gray Catbird: total B 75 BBBO Aug, good number.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: 2B, 1B BBBO 16, 18 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for dates.

N. Waterthrush: 1B BBBO 1 Jun, unusual loc for date.

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 N Wolcott WAYN thru 22 Jun, 8 Jul (W&MR).

“Brewster’s” Warbler: 1B BBBO 9 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: 1 T Bristol ONTA 15 Jun (KK).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1B BBBO 16 Jun (AP), recap 22 Jun; 1B BBBO 4 Jul, recap 16,

18 Jul (AP, EP); 1B BBBO 17 Jul, recap 18 Jul, unusual loc for dates (AP, EP); arr T Gates MONR 17 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 S (Armitage Rd) Jun (mob), nesting.

Tennessee Warbler: last Beatty Pt, T Greece 5 Jun; 1 BBBO 22 Jun (AP), late; 1B, 2B, 1B BBBO 23, 25, 26 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr 1B M 10 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: last 1B BBBO 5 Jun; 5 singles B BBBO 6, 17, 23, 24, 26 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr 2B BBBO 28 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr 1B BBBO 9 Aug (AP, EP), very early.

Com. Yellowthroat: total B 20 M 1-31 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: max 25 Letchworth SP 14 Jun (PaM), count in prime breeding loc.

Am. Redstart: max 28 HB – west end 4 Jun, good count; total B 28 BBBO 1-31 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: last 1B BBBO 7 Jun; 1 Greece 23 Aug.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: HB 1 Jun (AGu, mob), 1st fully doc State record, ph, recordings. **N. Parula:** last 1B BBBO 7 Jun; 1 ph Webster P 26 Jun (BMa), unusual loc for date; arr 1B BBBO 9 Aug (AP, EP), early.

Magnolia Warbler: last 2B BBBO 13 Jun, late; arr 1 M-Owl Woods 15 Aug (KH), early; total B 49 19 Aug thru.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1B BBBO 1 Jun; arr 1B BBBO 19 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr U of Rochester 27 Aug (JBa).

Yellow Warbler: total B 141 BBBO 20-26 Jul; total B 36 1-24 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr HB 23 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 2 T Canadice ONTA 13 Jun (ST); arr 1B BBBO & 1 BB-East Spit 29 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1B BBBO & 1 M-Owl Woods 1 Jun; 1B BBBO 4 Jul (AP, EP); arr 2B BBBO & 1 ICW 29 Aug.

Palm Warbler: 1B BBBO 18 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 HB 11 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 1 Canadice Hill Rd ONTA 13 Jun (ST).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 1B BBBO 24 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr ICW 29 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last 1B BBBO 13 Jun, late; arr 1B BBBO 18 Aug, early.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1B BBBO 7 Jun; 1B BBBO 14 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr 1B BBBO 27 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 OCP thru 18 Jun (JAd, ph), new loc; 2 & 1 Cook Rd, Hamlin 29 Jul (AGu) & 4 Jul (BriM), known breeding loc; T Kent ORLE 13 Jul (AGu), new loc.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 17 Nations Rd IBA 2 Jun (GL); 1 Big Field, Webster 30 Jun-6 Jul (JBa, NP, mob), singing m, new loc.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr BBBO 26 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: 1 Hemlock Lake 13 Jun (KC), potential breeding loc; BBBO 19 Jun (AP), late; T Macedon WAYN 25 Jul (KG), unusual loc for date.

Bobolink: max 61 Nations Rd IBA 2 Jun (GL), good count.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 f Irondequoit 20-23 Jun (CY, ph), *intro*.

Com. Grackle: max 343 H 29 Aug (AGu).

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Weather-wise, summer 2014 was unremarkable in Region 3. June experienced several high temperature days including many days over 80° F, but average temperatures were similar to the long-term normal and precipitation slightly higher. July was completely average. August was cooler and rainier than usual, with 66% higher precipitation and an average temperature three degrees below normal. However, none of these conditions had particularly noticeable effects on birdlife.

In general, numbers of breeding birds seemed typical this year. Both species of cuckoos were reported in somewhat lower numbers than usual, although both were certainly present. Breeding warblers were present in the expected diversity and abundance. Grassland species in the area continue to decrease, with Grasshopper Sparrows and Vesper Sparrows reported in only a handful of locations. Upland Sandpipers continue at the fairgrounds near Seneca Falls but were not reported anywhere else in the Region, as has been typical in recent years. Prothonotary Warblers and Red-headed Woodpeckers, very uncommon breeders in the Region, both bred near Montezuma in the same areas as last year. Also at Montezuma, Northern Shovelers bred on the Main Pool and Least Bitterns were more numerous in July than for many years.

One of the most exceptional reports of the season was a well-described Nelson's Sparrow seen in the Town of Dryden on 1 June; almost unknown in the Region in spring or summer. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, both continuing from the spring period, one on Cornell Campus in Tompkins County and one near Summerhill in Cortland County. A Black Vulture was seen at the Cornell Compost facility in Tompkins County on 20 July, perhaps indicative of the upward trend we have been seeing for this species in recent years.

Several species of winter ducks lingered into the summer period, including Bufflehead at Mud Lock in Cayuga County on 17 June and Long-tailed Duck on 4 June. Another odd phenomenon was lingering Bonaparte's Gulls and Common Terns at Frontenac Marina on Cayuga Lake, the former from June through the end of July.

Although thought of as "fall migration," it is well known that southbound shorebird movement in the Region peaks during the summer period with some northbound birds still being seen into June. This year early July found high numbers of many species at Montezuma NWR, and, as always, August proved to be the month with highest shorebird diversity. Twenty-four species of migrant shorebirds were reported in the Region, including Hudsonian Godwit, Baird's Sandpiper, American Golden-Plover, both dowitcher species, and both Red-

PHOTO GALLERY
Summer 2014



Fea's Petrel, Hudson Canyon, 12 Aug 2014, © Sean Sime.



Kirtland's Warbler, Fort Drum, *Jefferson*, 7 Jun 2014, © Jeff Bolsinger. See article pp. 301-303.



Kirtland's Warbler, Hamlin Beach SP, *Monroe*, 1 Jun 2014, © Andy Guthrie.



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Morningside Park, *Sullivan*, 24 Jun 2014, © John Haas.



This apparent Eastern Kingbird x Western Kingbird hybrid was an exceptionally intriguing find at Northville, *Suffolk*, 16 May 2014, © Steve Lacker. See note pp. 304-305 this issue.





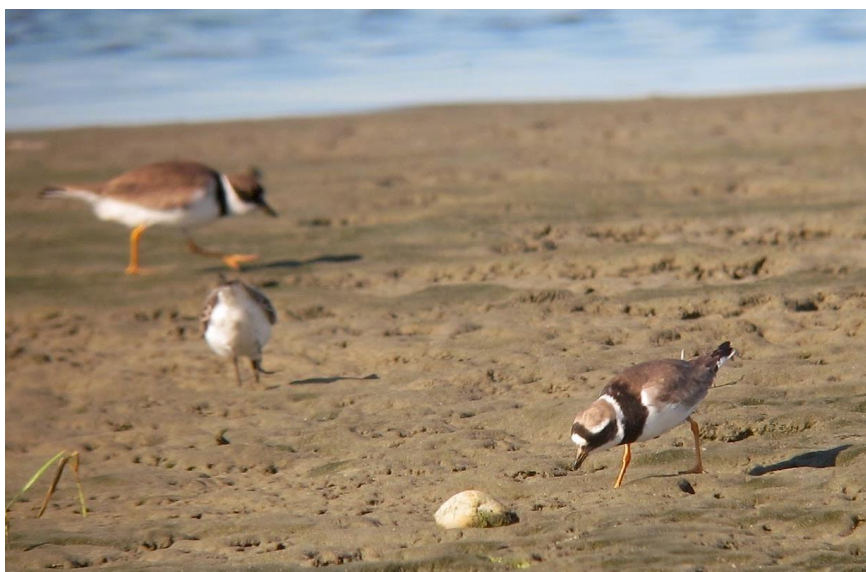
Birds recorded on the See Life Paulagics Hudson Canyon pelagic trip out of Freeport, 12 Aug 2014. Opposite: Fea's Petrel (top), Audubon's Shearwater (middle), and Bridled Tern (bottom), all © Doug Gochfeld. Top left: White-faced Storm-Petrel, © Doug Gochfeld; top right: Leach's Storm-Petrel, © Sean Sime; above: Band-rumped (center) and Wilson's Storm-Petrels, © Sean Sime.



Eurasian Collared-Dove, Manhattan, *New York*, 13 Jul 2014, © Corey Finger.



Not rare in NYS, but depicted very attractively here, this Cape May Warbler was photographed at Leeds Pond Preserve, *Nassau*, on 24 Aug 2014, © Mark Robinson.



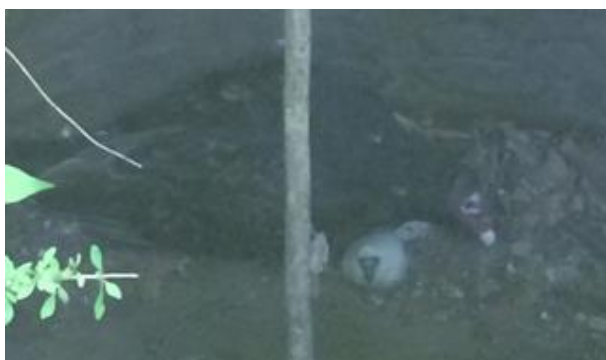
This Common Ringed-Plover was discovered on the falling tide by Andrew Baksh near Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, 24 Aug 2014. Potentially just the second record for New York State, pending NYSARC review, this subtly beautiful shorebird was flushed by clammers and could not be re-found until the tide began to rise again, at which point about eight additional observers were treated to close studies. Top photo © Andrew Baksh; bottom photo © S. S. Mitra.



Figure 1. Habitat surrounding the Turkey Vulture nest in Van Cortlandt Park, *Bronx*, on 2 Jun 2009. Photograph © Robert DeCandido, PhD. See pp. 305-306.



Figure 2. Single egg in the Turkey Vulture nest located in a rocky outcrop (cave), Van Cortlandt Park, *Bronx*, 31 May 2009, © Robert DeCandido, PhD. See pp. 305-306.



As described in the note by DeCandido and Allen (pp. 305-306), the nest sites of Turkey Vultures can be very difficult to find. This adult Turkey Vulture with downy young and an unhatched egg was found in the Northwest area of East Hampton, *Suffolk*, 21 Jun 2014. The image is © Will Courtney, with thanks to Richard Poveromo, Mike Bottini, and Eric Salzman for directing it to *The Kingbird*.

necked and Wilson's Phalaropes. Away from Montezuma, a Willet was found at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake on 23 August.

In addition to shorebirds, Montezuma NWR hosted a few other interesting birds this summer. An American White Pelican showed up at Knox-Marsellus Marsh on 25 July, the same location and only four days from the date that one arrived in 2013. On 13 August, two Sedge Wrens were found in the same area at Montezuma, and presumably a third was seen on the Wildlife Drive the next day. Singing Sedge Wrens were also reported at a location in Bath in Steuben County near the end of June.

An unexpected addition to the Region's summer avifauna was a pair of Monk Parakeets discovered in late June. The birds were found building a nest in the barn on a farm on the east shore of Seneca Lake in Schuyler County. The pair worked industriously on their creation for at least a week, affording great views to visiting birders, before disappearing and not being reported subsequently.

Finally, as fall passerine migration began, an early Tennessee Warbler was found at Hammond Hill State Forest on 29 July and a very rare Kentucky Warbler was seen in Caroline, Tompkins County on 26 August.

Birders totaled 215 species in the Region this summer.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Aurora – Aurora Bay, CAYU; Compost – Cornell University Compost Piles on Stevenson Rd., TOMP; Cornell—Cornell University Campus, TOMP; Durland – Durland Preserve, TOMP; Hammond—Hammond Hill SF, TOMP; Hog Hole – Alan H. Treman State Marina Park, TOMP; Knox-Mar – Knox-Marcellus Marsh area, Montezuma NWR, SENE (includes Towpath and East roads); LPBP—Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR, SENE (includes Visitor Center, Wildlife Drive, Tschache, and Mays Point); Myers – Myers Pt, Lansing, TOMP; Sapsucker – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; Unit II—Cornell Research Ponds Unit II, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 13 Emerson Park CAYU, flock present all summer; 1 MNWR wildlife drive all season.

Wood Duck: max 219 MNWR 3 Jul.

Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR 1-2 Jun; Knox-Mar 27-29 Jun; rare in summer.

N. Shoveler: MNWR Jun-Jul, females with chicks.

N. Pintail: max 8 Knox-Mar 13 Aug (AG); Canandaigua 10 Jul (KS) most notable, uncommon in midsummer.

Green-winged Teal: max 120 Knox-Mar 23 Aug (JM, LS).

Redhead: max 5 MNWR 14 Aug (CW, KR).

Ring-necked Duck: MNWR, scattered reports thru summer.

Long-tailed Duck: Taughannock SP TOMP 4 Jun (DG), very late.

Bufflehead: Mud Lock CAYU 17 Jun (DC), very late.

Com. Loon: max 11 Aurora 14 Jul (CW), high.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R3): Knox-Mar 25 Jul – 1 Aug (mob).

Least Bittern: max 12 MNWR 12 Jul (mob).

Great Egret: max 127 MNWR 15 Aug (DWh, JT), birds flying to roost.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 20 Knox-Mar 11 Jul.

BLACK VULTURE (R3): Compost 20 Jul (KM), only report, still very rare in Region.

HAWKS - TERNS

Com. Gallinule: max 130 MNWR 5 Aug (GK).

Sandhill Crane: max 12 Knox-Mar 20 Aug (TL); breeding in sev loc.

Black-bellied Plover: max 9 Knox-Mar 7 Jun (DS); last Knox-Mar 8 Jun; arr MNWR 6 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Knox-Mar 17 Aug; max 34 Knox-Mar 31 Aug (JM, LS).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 150 Knox-Mar 16 Jul (JM, LS).

WILLET (R3): Myers 23 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 480 Knox-Mar 13 Aug (AG).

Upland Sandpiper: fairgrounds Seneca Falls thru, only loc.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr Knox-Mar 29 Aug (DWh).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 65 Canandaigua ONTA 5 Jun (JA); last Knox-Mar 7 Jun; arr Knox-Mar 30 Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr Knox-Mar 10 Jul (MT, DS); max 122 Knox-Mar 13 Aug (AG).

Sanderling: arr Myers 23 Jul (JM, LS).

Dunlin: last Knox-Mar 8 Jun (DNi).

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Knox-Mar 30 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 55 Knox-Mar 31 Aug (JM).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max Knox-Mar 16 Jul (JM, LS).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Knox-Mar 9 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: first Knox-Mar 6 Jul (JM, LS).

Red-necked Phalarope: first Knox-Mar 1 Jun (KR, TL).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 12 Frontenac Marina CAYU 4 Jul (JM, LS), scarce in summer and high, group present for several weeks in varying numbers.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Seneca Falls SENE 4 Jul (JM, LS), only report.

Caspian Tern: max 103 Hog Hole TOMP 2 Aug (MI), high.

Black Tern: max 59 Knox-Mar 6 Jun (JM, LS), high but not unusual.

Com. Tern: max 21 Frontenac Marina CAYU 6 Jun (JM, LS), present on Cayuga Lake for several weeks, uncommon in summer.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Com. Nighthawk: max 28 Downtown Ithaca TOMP 25 Aug (TL); last spring Danby SF 1 Jun, arr fall Big Flats, CHEM 18 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 MNWR 6 Jul, breeding pair and offspring; Compost 1 Jun (CW); Sapsucker Woods 22 Jul; Cornell TOMP 25-31 Aug.

MONK PARAKEET: 2 Hector SCHU 18-26 Jun, pair building nest.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Durland 6 Jun (JM, LS), late; Unit II 6 Aug (JM, LS), early.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Hanshaw Rd. TOMP 1 Aug (TS), early.

E. Kingbird: max 60 LPBP 22 Aug (BFr, GMo), high.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Phelps ONTA 30 Aug, only report.

Purple Martin: max 600 MNWR 20 Aug (TL), high.

SEDGE WREN (R3): 2 Bath STEU 26&30 Jun (TPer); 2 Knox-Mar 13-14 Aug; 1 MNWR 14 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: last Northeast Ithaca TOMP 2 Jun (KR); arr Hawthorns 25 Aug (CW).

Northern Parula: last in spring Lansing TOMP 11 Jun (CTH); first in fall Cornell 29 Aug (JP).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Baker Hill Rd. TOMP 16 Aug (KM).

Prothonotary Warbler: Connecticut Hill WMA TOMP 7 Jun (SY); Armitage Rd. SENE, breeding pair at Region border most of summer.

Tennessee Warbler: Hammond 29 Jul (JM, BW, SB), early, rare in summer.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (R3): Caroline TOMP 26 Aug (SKe).

Cape May Warbler: arr Trumansburg TOMP 18 Aug (LF).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3): Lick St., Summerhill CAYU 29 Jun (mob), continuing from May; Cornell TOMP 17-20 Jul (GMo, KM), continuing from May.

NELSON’S SPARROW (R3): Unit II 1 Jun (TPeg), exceptional in spring/summer.

Red Crossbill: Summerhill SF CAYU 29 Jun (JM), 18 Jul (CW), 9 Aug (GK); Finger Lakes NF SENE 29 Jun (MMe).

Pine Siskin: Horseheads CHEM 23 Jul (MP).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received for Region 4 this season.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The Summer 2014 season was unremarkable in terms of temperatures and precipitation. It was also characterized by few damaging storms. June was the closest to being an outlier. The average temperature in Syracuse for June was 68.8° F, which is 2.1° above the norm. Rainfall was 0.5" below average for the month. A maximum wind speed of 41 mph was measured in Syracuse on 17 June. July's average temperature was 71.4°, which is approximately the norm. Rainfall for July was 5.18", about 1.5" more than average. A good portion of that precipitation fell in less than a 24 hour period on 28 July. Peak wind for July was out of the south and was metered at 41 mph on 8 July. August's average temperature of 69.2° was 0.6° cooler than normal and the rainfall for that month was 3.74", which is only slightly above average.

The season's lack of turbulent weather was welcome news and presumably resulted in breeding success in the wetlands and other habitats that were hard hit by flooding in summer of 2013. Since this was not a particularly wet season, birders hoped that Lake Delta would be drawn down by August and good shorebird habitat would emerge. The water at Delta remained high, so shorebirds and birders alike were forced to go elsewhere. Many species found haven in a flooded field at a turf farm near Canastota in Madison County, which for a few weeks in August was the Region's shorebird hotspot. A limited assessment of the Region's mast does not bode well for overwintering songbirds. As best can be determined, the amount of seed/fruit/nuts produced this summer was generally quite low. The hawthorn fruit and wild apples so abundant last year are conspicuously absent this year. Gray Dogwood, Wild Grape and some of the more reliable fruit producers like American Mountain Ash and buckthorn are plentiful, but other staples are missing. In some parts of the Region, Gray Birch did well and some spruce and pine species produced decent cone crops, but in other areas those same tree species are barren. It's likely that winter finches will be disappointed if they show up this winter.

A few Snow Geese were reported during the summer season, possibly injured birds. A pair of Trumpeter Swans was noted at the Route 6 wetland in Volney, where they've successfully bred in the past, but no young were seen. Single Gadwalls were reported from Onondaga and Oneida Lakes, but breeding was not suspected in either case. Five Northern Pintail flew over Derby Hill on 14 August, presumably early fall migrants. Hooded Merganser was noted breeding in Little Falls, Remsen, Richfield Springs, and Canastota—all but the last location are in Herkimer County. A few Common Loons lingered into June and July on Oneida Lake, but as expected, none were confirmed breeding outside of the Adirondacks. On 21 June, Sam Hough found and photographed a Horned Grebe in Eaton, Madison County. The grebe remained for four days at that location, after which it hopefully reached a more favorable destination.

Bird-of-the-season and a first Regional record came on 18 July when a **Great Shearwater** was discovered at DeRuyter Reservoir. This extraordinary seabird was identified by Gian Dodici who found the bird sitting in the woods along a small tributary at the north end of the lake. After photographing it and seeing no obvious injuries, he relocated it to the lake hoping it would resume normal activity, proper action given the circumstances. Numerous birders observed it throughout the day but none saw it fly and it appeared to be listing to one side on the water, showing clear signs of distress. Opportunity presented itself and immediate intervention was deemed appropriate since the bird was in jeopardy of being struck by boat traffic. The shearwater was netted and brought to Kindred Kingdoms Rehabilitation Center (KKRC) for medical assessment and rehabilitation. The stress of capture and transport were significant, and with it already in compromised condition, it unfortunately expired the next day. It now resides at Cornell University, not far from its last stop in DeRuyter. Capture

of birds should only be attempted in cases of clear distress—rehabilitators and experienced birders can provide assistance and guidance.

Great Shearwaters breed on islands in the Atlantic off the southern part of South America, between approximately November and April, thus during winter in the northern hemisphere. They begin a long “circular” migration in April that takes them up the South American coast, into the Caribbean and eastern seaboard of the U.S., through the Canadian Maritimes and Greenland, then to the northeast Atlantic and back south again to the southern hemisphere in November. They mostly feed far offshore, with storm-wrecked birds occasionally found on coastal beaches. Few of these survive even if they do reach rehabilitators, probably due to a combination of exhaustion, stress, starvation, and separation from saltwater. Most seabirds reaching inland as far as the Great Lakes region are carried by passing hurricanes, typically ones whose eye comes inland and eventually dissipates enough to allow birds trapped in the system to fall-out on inland lakes. Between 1-5 July, Hurricane Arthur followed the Atlantic coastline north from Florida, making landfall briefly in North Carolina, then tracking offshore through the mid-Atlantic and New England states and finally inland after reaching Nova Scotia. Though it had little influence on upstate NY weather, it seems likely this storm is implicated in displacing the shearwater. Was the DeRuyter Reservoir the bird's first inland stop? Previous records of inland Great Shearwaters include one on Alcove Reservoir, Albany County, NY on 23 Sept 1989 (fallout from Hurricane Hugo); one on the Hudson River near Albany, NY on 14 Jun 1976, then on Lake Champlain near Burlington, VT; one on Lake Ontario at Toronto, ON on 20 Aug 1997; and one on Lake Michigan near Platte Point, MI on 8 Sept 2012. Fate of the Alcove bird is unknown—the others were known to have perished.

Numbers for both American Bittern and Least Bittern were disappointing this season. There were only four reports of the latter species. However, a sighting of an immature Least Bittern at the Utica Marsh suggests a successful nesting at that traditional breeding site. Jean Soprano from KKRC reported that four Great Blue Herons brought to her facility from around the Region were diagnosed with West Nile Virus (WNV). This period WNV also was the suspected cause of death for individuals of the following species: Red-tailed Hawk, Common Tern, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, and American Kestrel. Relatively few migrant Great Egrets showed up in August. For the most part singles were found in traditional stopover habitat. Lake Delta sometimes attracts good numbers of egrets, but not when the water level remains high. Sightings of Black-crowned Night-Heron came from four separate locations. An adult and juvenile that frequented Onondaga Lake in August could indicate that the species has a local breeding presence. Bill Purcell counted 97 Green Herons flying to roost in West Monroe on 25 August.

After a poor late-spring showing by immature raptors, steady south winds at the Derby Hill hawk watch on 2 June facilitated a push of raptors including 89 Turkey Vultures, 42 Bald Eagles, and 198 (juvenile) Broad-winged Hawks.

Almost acting like a matching bookend on the summer, on 11 August south winds produced a good dispersal flight of young raptors at Derby. 46 Bald Eagles, 589 Broad-winged Hawks, and 90 Red-tailed Hawks were tallied by Bill Purcell, while on 26 August Purcell reported a Northern Goshawk and a Red-shouldered Hawk passing on an otherwise modest flight day. Both species are rarely observed there in August. Northern Goshawk numbers have been low for some years, and the editors of this report request that observers be diligent in documenting goshawks seen away from Derby Hill. Photographs and careful description of how other accipiters were eliminated is essential. One record from 22 June was accompanied by a picture, for which the editors are thankful. Sightings of Red-shouldered Hawks during the breeding season are also rare. Two encountered at the Rome Sand Plains in Oneida County on 15 June was encouraging, since formerly it was a known breeding site. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were also reported in Camden on 21 June. Rail numbers were generally poor this period, although Three Rivers WMA in Phoenix hosted a healthy number of Virginia Rails, and the wetland along Route 6 in Volney yielded a maximum of 19 Common Moorhen on 29 June. American Coot was reported only from Howland Island, and the sole record of Sora came from Three Rivers.

On 2 July, while canoeing at the mouth of the Salmon River at Port Ontario, Pat Burns found an **American Avocet**. The bird flew off as his canoe approached and it was not relocated. As mentioned earlier, the season offered few good destinations for those seeking shorebirds. For a while in August, the wet fields at the Sky High Turf Farm in Chittenango were a “must check” spot. Birded almost every day by Sam Hough, it hosted several hard-to-come-by species including American Golden-Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird’s Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and, best of all, one Buff-breasted Sandpiper. On the final day of August, a flock of 24 American Golden-Plovers was seen. They were spooked by a Merlin but returned to regroup. Upland Sandpipers were found only in two places this period. Referring to a site in Poland, Oneida County, Dave Cesari said that the less intensive cultivation of fields by Amish farmers has led to a proliferation of grassland birds. Reports coming in from that area seem to support his view. An encouraging maximum of four Upland Sandpipers was observed multiple times in that same complex of fields. On 3 June, two Whimbrel were found by David Wheeler on the rocky Oneida Lake islands as seen from Constantia, and on 6 August one was seen at Oswego by Jim Tarolli. During the first few days of June, three Ruddy Turnstone remained at Sylvan Beach, and on 17 August, six were found at Sandy Pond. On 13 August while conducting an early-season lakewatch at Derby Hill, Wheeler spotted a non-breeding adult Laughing Gull. A mid-summer stop at the Madison County Landfill by Wheeler and Tarolli found a surprising 1000 Ring-billed Gulls. There were five reports of Black Tern on Oneida Lake—all in the vicinity of the established Common Tern breeding colony near Constantia. On 11 July, Ruth Bennett estimated 100 pairs of Common Terns nesting there this season, and about 30 young birds were seen.

On 30-31 July an adult **Black Skimmer** was seen and photographed by John Germain at Lake Neatahwanta in Fulton. The Skimmer was seen perching on a concrete drainage pipe and skimming in shallow water along the shoreline. The bird was not relocated in the days following. While common on Long Island's south coast, the species is very rare inland with only three previous upstate NY records in eBird plus four historical records listed by Bull. Region 5's only previous records involved a juvenile bird found at Oswego Harbor following Hurricane Isabel on 20 Sept 2003, plus a bird collected near Utica in 1893. If not compromised by starvation or exhaustion it may have survived to find better fishing areas close by. Hurricane Arthur may be implicated in its wandering—see the discussion above for Great Shearwater.

An African Collard-Dove (domestic Ringed Turtle Dove) was photographed by Dana Lukowski. It was visiting her feeder in Madison County on 3 July. The bird had been present for about a week and was very tame, which supports the assumption of release/escape. Both cuckoo species were relatively hard to come by this summer, though (as was the case during the spring period) the Utica Peregrine Falcons did somehow manage to retrieve a few as prey. Eastern Screech-Owl was also elusive, but Jean Soprano reported that five came into her KKRC facility from around the Region. Of those, one was infected with WNV. A Great Horned Owl that came in also suffered from WNV. Soccer nets are an understandable hazard for Great Horned Owls as well. One bird had to be untangled from a net at a Cicero soccer field this summer. Soprano said that locally it was the third such case in the last two years. A **Snowy Owl** spent (at least) the second half of the summer period at a Clay shopping complex, where it became somewhat of a celebrity. The apparently healthy bird had no trouble providing for itself in that setting. This was probably a bird just shy of breeding age that arrived during the major invasion of Snowys during winter 2013-14. Another Snowy was reported just to the east, in Munnsville, but was seen only once. The Common Nighthawk migration was best in Phoenix, where Gregg Dashnau kept a running tally at the Three Rivers WMA. From 17 August thru the end of the period, Dashnau counted an impressive 342 nighthawks. On 23 August alone, 119 flew over. Dashnau proposed that they may be loosely following the Oswego/Oneida/Seneca River system and using the insect-rich 100-acre Marsh at Three Rivers as a convenient feeding waypoint.

Eastern Whip-poor-wills were reported from four locations, including two found by Wayne Fidler at a curious location near Lake Ontario in New Haven on 4 July. Wayne had heard them at the same spot in mid-May—possible breeders? On 29 June during the pre-dawn hour, four were heard calling at a sand and gravel pit north of Constantia by Mickey Scilingo. Jim Tarolli found Red-headed Woodpeckers breeding successfully at Fair Haven, and they were enjoyed by many birders. Linda Salter reported breeding in Sheds, Madison County. Single Red-headed Woodpecker accounts came from a few other expected areas, but the species was missed at Verona Beach State Park, where they have often bred in recent years. In an old cemetery in West Rome, Dave

Cesari monitored a Merlin nest which ultimately fledged four young. Mickey Scilingo reported that a Merlin nest in Constantia produced at least one fledgling, while in Syracuse, Meredith Leonard kept tabs on a Merlin nest that ultimately fledged three young. Peregrine Falcons successfully fledged three young in Utica, which constituted a first Oneida County record for the species. The Peregrines in Syracuse also produced a single fledgling, their first in a few years.

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher found in Redfield, Oswego County on 7 June is likely a late migrant. Once again Acadian Flycatcher was confirmed breeding at Whiskey Hollow. Joe Brin discovered nests on 22 June and 9 July—both with females sitting and males singing nearby. A bird was found singing in appropriate habitat at Sterling Nature Center but its breeding status was not confirmed. Single Fish Crows were reported from Onondaga Lake; their year-round presence implies breeding but the exact location is unknown. There were widespread reports of Common Ravens in the Region. What was described as a “probable” active nest was found in Brookfield in Madison County. At Onondaga Lake three were observed being mobbed by American Crows. This is an unusual location for the larger corvus species. A raven from Pennellville was brought to KKRC and determined to have been shot by a pellet gun. The bird survived its injuries but was deemed unreleasable and relocated to the Utica Zoo, where it will be kept for educational purposes.

Lake clean-up efforts and development of the West Shore trail at Onondaga Lake have disturbed most of the shoreline habitat. Low bluffs used by the former Bank Swallow colony south of Nine Mile Creek were removed to stabilize the waste beds in that area and to prevent erosion into the lake. With the bluffs gone, Bank Swallows will no longer be breeding in that spot. Much of the waste beds are stable and located away from the water's edge, and these may afford the displaced swallows a new nesting place. The west shore has also traditionally been home to a good number of Spotted Sandpipers. How they fared given the shoreline disturbance is unknown. Birders are encouraged to check on both these species, and any others known traditionally from Onondaga Lake's west shore (such as Field Sparrow & American Kestrel), to assess the impact of clean-up and development. Hopefully birds that have used this long-undisturbed area will adapt to new conditions.

Cliff Swallows were found to be breeding at Bridgeport, Phoenix, and Clay. At the Clay site, the swallows were seen rebuilding their nests on the same commercial structure where they had been previously removed. As an increasingly scarce breeder in our area it would be desirable to communicate with businesses about the birds and deterrence measures that might be undertaken during non-breeding periods to avoid nest destruction. The number of Winter Wrens encountered during the breeding season was less than normal. Matt Perry waited for the resident birds to set up housekeeping at Spring Farm Nature Preserve in Clinton, but they never did. In last summer's Region 5 report, the editors speculated that unprecedented flooding events in the eastern part of

the Region exacted a heavy toll on stream-side breeders like Louisiana Waterthrush and Winter Wren. Perhaps the absence of breeding wrens this summer lends some credence to that theory. This past winter's harsher than normal weather, which penetrated deeper south than normal, could also be a contributing factor. Hopefully they will recover next year.

On 29 August, Bob Williams found a **Worm-eating Warbler** in Waterville in southern Oneida County. The species rarely occurs in the Region as a migrant since its breeding grounds are well to the south of us. With only three reports received for the season, a decline of Louisiana Waterthrush continues to be a concern. Last year the species' breeding efforts were likely scuttled by flooding in the eastern part of the Region, but the negative population trend has set up over the course of at least several years and most certainly other factors are responsible for the species' retraction from its northern range. There were only two reports of Golden-winged Warbler this summer, which sadly has become typical in recent times. Singles of "Brewster's" Warbler and the much rarer "Lawrence's" Warbler were reported. The latter hybrid was seen several times in July by Bill Purcell at his Hastings residence. Definitely a good yard bird! The only multiple count of Cerulean Warblers came from Howland Island, which is the Region's traditional hotspot for the species. Only a few singles were reported in other areas and none after 5 July. The decline in some areas has been precipitous. Pine Warbler was commonly reported from many locations where there is appropriate pine forest habitat. Single Prairie Warblers were found from 8 June to 22 July at Happy Valley WMA. On 23 August Dennis Anderson found a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Three Rivers WMA among a moving, foraging flock of warblers.

Clay-colored Sparrow was confirmed breeding at Spring Farm Nature Preserve and at Green Lakes State Park in Fayetteville by Jerry Case. A maximum of four were heard singing at the former site on two occasions in June and July. There were two other sightings of the species in the Region. Is this elusive sparrow expanding in the Region? Perhaps, with greater effort by birders, more may be found in suitable habitat. Grasshopper Sparrow was found in Tully, Lysander, and two other sites. Orchard Oriole occurred primarily in the western part of the Region. Breeding was confirmed for that species near Whiskey Hollow, and it has become fairly reliable at Green Lakes State Park. The only Pine Siskins reported were two in Cold Brook on 14 June.

This season a total of 206 species was reported, which is three above the 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: Trumpeter Swan, Lesser Scaup, **Horned Grebe**, Red-necked Grebe, **Great Shearwater**, Sandhill Crane, **American Avocet**, **Whimbrel**, Ruddy Turnstone, Stilt Sandpiper, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, Short-billed Dowitcher, **Laughing Gull**, **Black Skimmer**, **Snowy Owl**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, "Lawrence's" Warbler, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

Summer 2014 produced 41,714 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 185 people.

IMPORTANT: Beginning with this Seasonal Report, a reduced-species “Synopsis” format is being adopted. As eBird data continues to be more comprehensive, species that are adequately documented there may be omitted unless there are unusual counts, locations, or dates or there are conservation concerns regarding a species’ status. This will allow the editors to focus on rarities, scarce breeders, birds in decline, etc.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Brew – Oneida L at Brewerton; Bville – Baldwinsville; BW – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; Cam – Camden, ONEI; Canas – Canastota; Caz – Cazenovia; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; Dolge – Dolgeville, HERK; Dville – Durhamville; Ff – Fairfield, HERK; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; GBTP

– Griffiss Business & Technology Park, ONEI; Ham – Hamilton, MADI; Hast – Hastings, OSWE; HV – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; KW – Kirkland Woods, Clinton, ONEI; LJ – Lake Julia, Remsen, ONEI; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; NHar – New Hartford; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk, Syracuse; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OswH – Oswego Harbor; Pville – Pennellville; RSP – Rome Sand Plains, ONEI; SB – Oneida L at Sylvan Beach; Sfield – Sangerfield, ONEI; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; SHTF – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango, MADI, Skan – Skaneateles; SP – Sandy Pd and vicinity; SNC – Sterling Nature Center; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; UM – Utica Marsh; VBSP – Verona Beach SP and vicinity; WH – Whiskey Hollow, WM – West Monroe; WP – Woodman Pd, Ham. Wville – Waterville, s. ONEI; WW – West Winfield, s. HERK.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 2 Skan 4 Jun, 1 thru 29 Jul; OnonL 21-31 Jul; 2 other singles thru 3 Aug.
Trumpeter Swan: max 4 HI 14 Jun; 2 Volney 10–15 Aug, only reports.
Wood Duck: max 45 UM 22 Jun; 29 Volney 29 Jun; 30 WP 29 Jul–16 Aug.
 Gadwall: OnonL 9 Jul; OneiL 11 Jul; only reports.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 WM 17 Jul, only report.
N. Pintail: 5 DH 14 Aug, early migrants.
Green-winged Teal: 5 Volney 23 Aug, only report.
Lesser Scaup: WP 25 Aug, only report.
Greater/Lesser Scaup: OneiL 11 Jul; OswH 17 Aug.
Bufflehead: WP 1 Jun.
Hooded Merganser: confirmed breeding Little Falls, Remsen, Richfield Springs, & Canas.
Red-breasted Merganser: WP 8 Jun; DH 13 Aug; only reports.
Ruddy Duck: 4 BLNC 3 Jun, only report.
N. Bobwhite: 2 Brew 3 Jun; Pompey 1 Jul; presumed releases.
Ring-necked Pheasant: only 3 reports.
Com. Loon: GLSP 6 Jun; Const 21 Jun; 2 Const 12 Jul; max 6 OF 13 Jul.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 11 Port Ontario 16 Aug; few reports.
Horned Grebe: Eaton 21–25 Jun (SH, ph), very late
Red-necked Grebe: Const 3 Jun (DW), late.
GREAT SHEARWATER: DeRuyter 18 Jul (GDo!, mob, ph, NYSARC), brought to rehabber, expired 19 Jul, 1st Reg rec, *intro*.
Am. Bittern: max 4 Klondike Reservoir, HERK 4 Jun; 7 other singles.
Least Bittern: 4 reports of singles.

Great Blue Heron: 4 infected with West Nile Virus (JS), *intro*.
Great Egret: max 4 Ham 10 Aug; low counts.
Green Heron: 30 Volney 25 Jul; max 97 WM 25 Aug (BP), roost flight.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad Bville 12 Aug; max 2 OLCW 15 Aug, ad & juv; reports from 4 locs.

HAWKS - TERNS

Turkey Vulture: max 89 DH 2 Jun; 33 Little Falls 7 Jul, 31 Aug.
Osprey: max 5 CM 5 Aug; widespread breeding.
N. Harrier: max 3 Richfield Springs 10 Jul; mostly singles.
N. Goshawk: ad SH 22 June (SH, ph); DH 26 Aug (BP), early migrant; only reports.
Bald Eagle: 42 DH 2 Jun (BP); max 46 DH 11 Aug (BP).
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 HV 8 Jun; 2 RSP 15 June; 2 Cam 21 June; DH 26 Aug (BP), early migrant; few reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: 198 DH 2 Jun; max 589 DH 11 Aug (BP).
Red-tailed Hawk: 90 DH 11 Aug; max 93 DH 26 Aug; 2 with West Nile Virus (JS).
Virginia Rail: max 12 TR 15 Jun, breeding; 3 Verona 29 Jul; 4 UM 7 Aug.
Sora: TR 15 Jun, only report.
Com. Gallinule: max 19 Volney 29 Jun; 6 HI 23 Aug; 6 UM 24 Aug.
Am. Coot: 2 HI 7 Jun; 2 HI 13 Jul; only reports.
Sandhill Crane: 5 HI 25 Jul (JS), only report.
AM. AVOCET (R5): Port Ontario 2 Jul (PB!, NYSARC), 5th Reg rec, *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: FH 2 Jun; arr FH 6 Aug;

max 5 SHTF 21, 23 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr SHTF 23 Aug; max 24 SHTF 31 Aug; all sightings from same loc.

Semipalmated Plover: Ff 6 Jun; arr SHTF 29 Jul; max 6 SHTF 24 Aug.

Killdeer: max 83 SHTF 24 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 5 OnonL 17 Jul; 5 SHSF 4 Aug; 5 OswH 17 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: Verona 4 Jun; arr TR 10 Jul; max 4 SHTF 2, 4 Aug; generally small numbers.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Skan 16 Jul; max 6 SHTF 23 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Skan 16 Jul; max 15 SHTF 29 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Poland 11, 14, 29 Jun; TR 25 Aug; only reports.

Whimbrel: max 2 Const 3 Jun (DW); Oswego 6 Aug (JT, DW); only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 FH 1 Jun (DW) & SB 3 Jun (MV); 2 OswH 1 Aug (DW, JT); max 6 SP 17 Aug (RC).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr SHTF 28 Jul (SH); max 3 SHTF 24 Aug (DW); all reports from same loc.

Sanderling: arr 8 OswH 1 Aug; max 10 FH 12 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr SHTF 18-24 Aug (SH, ph), only report.

Least Sandpiper: arr 5 WP 12 Jul; max 75 SHTF 23 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: N Med Center Pond 18 Aug (DNu), only report.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: SHTF 23 Aug (BP!, mob).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Ham 15 Jul; max 3 SHTF 4 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Ham 15 Jul; max 15 OswH 17 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: SHTF 21-31 Aug (SH, mob).

Wilson's Snipe: max 5 Poland 14, 30 Jun; most breeding season reports from n. ONEI & HERK.

Am. Woodcock: 5 Whitestown 27 Jun; 4 TR 19 Jun, 10 Jul, 17 Aug.

jaeger sp: DH 13 Aug (DW), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 10 Jul SB; max 196 SB 24 Aug.

LAUGHING GULL: DH 13 Aug (DW, BP, ph), non-breeding ad.

Ring-billed Gull: 1000 MCL 25 Jul (DW, JT).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 10 SB 21 Aug.

Caspian Tern: max 75 FH 2 Jun; 37 OswH 17 Aug; 39 OnonL 27 Aug; widespread reports thru.

Black Tern: max 23 DH 13 Aug; 7 WP 13 Aug;

5 reports from OneiL during breeding season.

Com. Tern: 230 Const 11 July (RB), est 100 pairs, 30 young; one with West Nile Virus (JS).

BLACK SKIMMER: ad Fulton 30-31 Jul (JG!, ph, NYSARC), 3rd Reg rec, *intro*.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 3 WH 15 Jun & BW 10 Jul; relatively uncommon.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 GLSP 18 Jul; small numbers.

E. Screech-Owl: max 2 Clinton 20 Jul; 5 in rehab, one with West Nile Virus (JS); few reports.

Great Horned Owl: max 2 Cicero 15 Jun; singles at 12 other locs; 1 with West Nile Virus from OSWE (JS).

Snowy Owl: Clay 15 Jul thru (mob, ph), *intro*; Munnsville 24 Aug (PB).

Barred Owl: max 4 TR 26 Jun, ad & 3 fledglings; 4 Boylston 28 Jun; WH 23 Jul, fledgling.

Com. Nighthawk: TR 2 Jun; 2 Norway 2 Jul; TR 17 Aug, first migr; 119 TR 23 Aug (GD), *intro*.

E. Whip-poor-will: Coldbrook 14 Jun, 4 Const 29 Jun; 2 June New Haven 4 Jul, unusual loc; 2 Salisbury 15 Jul; 7 reports from 4 sites.

Chimney Swift: 24 Skan 4 Jun; max 110 Oneida 25 Jul; 28 Pulaski 5 Aug; 35 DH 14 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: DH 2 Jun; 4 FH 15 Aug thru (JT), 2 ad & 2 juv.

Am. Kestrel: max 15 GBTP 8 Aug; 8 WW 16 Aug; one with West Nile Virus (JS).

Merlin: confirmed breeding in Rome, Const & Syr, *intro*.

Peregrine Falcon: 3 fledged from Utica nest, 26-30 Jun, 1st ONEI rec; one fledges from Syr nest; 4 reports away from nesting areas.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Const 1 Jun; Canas 5 Jun; Labrador Hollow 9 Jun; Stillwater

Reservoir 9 Jun; arr 11 Aug Dolge; 6 reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Redfield 7 Jun; Manheim 17 Aug; only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: 2 WH 15, 22, 29 Jun, 9 Jul, 7 Aug, 2 nests found; SNC 1 Jun (DW, SK); *intro*.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 WH 15 Jun, TR 19 Jun; 4 HV 29 Jun.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 LJ 7 Jun; 3 Sfield 22 Jun; 3 Moss Lake 6 Jul; 3 OF 13 Jul; 3 SH 21 Jul.

Warbling Vireo: 7 Elbridge 6 Jun; 10 HI 7 Jun;

7 UM 22 Jun; 7 WP 22 Jun; max 22 OnonL 10 Jul (DN), good number.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr WP 24 Aug.
Fish Crow: singles OnonL thru.
Com. Raven: max 6 Dolge 2 Jul; Brookfield 1 Jun, probable nest; 3 OnonL 9 Jul, unusal loc; Pville 29 Aug, shot, *intro*; widespread reports.
Horned Lark: max 14 SHTF 31 Aug (BP); all reports from same loc.
Purple Martin: 15 Const 12 Jul; max 36 WM 25 Aug; most reports from OneiL.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 10 HI 14 Jun; 10 UM 22 Jun; max 12 TR 12 Jul.
Bank Swallow: 15 SP 17 Jun; max 140 WM 25 Aug; 30 DB 30 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: 5 Phoenix 27 Jun; max 12 Clay 3 Jul; 10 SP 17 Aug; few reports; *intro*.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 Cold Brook 14 Jun; 8 SH 19 Aug; 5 TR 30 Aug; best numbers MADI.
Carolina Wren: max 3 BLNC 22 Aug.
Marsh Wren: 6 WP 22 Jun; max 12 TR 10, 12 Jul; 10 CM 5 Aug.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 4 Bville 8 Jul; 3 Jordan 24 Jul; 3 TR 10, 19 Jun.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 5 Sfield 22 Jun; 5 OF 6 Jul; 3 Marcy 19 Aug; relatively few reports.
Veery: max 10 WH 18 Jun & KW 18 Jun; 9 Westdale 26 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: Const 1 Jun; Redfield 3 Jun; Ff 29 Jun; only reports.
Hermitt Thrush: max 7 NHar 4 Jun & Trenton Greenbelt 19 Jun; 6 SH 21 Jul; relatively low numbers.
Wood Thrush: 14 RSP 15 Jun; max 15 KW 18 Jun; 10 WH 18 Jun; 10 GLSP 6 Jul; 10 Elbridge 10 Jul.
Brown Thrasher: max 8 GLSP 28 Jun, 18 Jul; 2 DH 1 Jul, presumed breeding; singles/small numbers away from GLSP.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

WORM-EATING WARBLER (R5): Wville 29 Aug (RW!), rare fall migrant.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Chittenango 4 Jun; NHar 4 Jun; 2 Little Falls 2 Aug; only reports, *intro*.
Golden-winged Warbler: Cam 6 Jun; Hast 16 Jul, presumed early migr; only reports.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Westdale 8 Jun.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Hast 8-30 Jul (BP!).
Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 OF 9 Jun; singles/small numbers from expected areas.
Tennessee Warbler: arr SH 28 Aug; 5 reports.
Nashville Warbler: max 6 Rome Pitch Pine

Bog 1 Jun; only 8 breeding season reports.
Mourning Warbler: max 8 WH 18 Jun; 5 GB 9 Jul; 4 SFNS 17 Jul.
Hooded Warbler: max 9 KW 5 Jun; 7 WH 15 Jun; 5 BLNC 15, 20 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: arr Hast, Canas 29 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: max 5 HI 7 Jun; WH 9-22 Jun, singing, breeding?; Redfield 8 Jul; singles at 6 other locs.
N. Parula: 4 reports from OF.
Magnolia Warbler: max 10 Sfield 2 Jun; 3 OF 6 Jul.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SFNS 20 Aug, early; Dville 28 Aug; TR 29 Aug; only reports.
Blackburnian Warbler: 6 LJ 7 Jun; max 7 OF 6 Jul.
Blackpoll Warbler: last DH 2 Jun; arr TR 29 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 LJ 7 Jun; 5 Moss Lake, ADKS 6 Jul; singles away from ADKS.
Pine Warbler: max 8 RSP 15 Jun; 7 HV 29 Jun; widespread.
Prairie Warbler: HV 8 Jun-22 July (DW!, mob).
Canada Warbler: 3 OF 9 Jun; 3 Cold Brook 14 Jun; max 5 RSP 15 Jun.
Wilson's Warbler: arr TR, Syr, Hast 29 Aug.
Yellow-breasted Chat: TR 23 Aug (DA!).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 8 GLSP 20 Jun; max 9 Hast 19 Jul; 7 TR 20 Jul; many reports & good high counts.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Westdale 6 Jun; max 4 SFNS 16 Jun, 6 Jul, breeding; 2 GLSP 8 Jun, breeding; Otter Lake ADKS 6 Jul; *intro*.
Field Sparrow: max 14 GLSP 22 Jun (BG), good number.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 WH 15 Jun, 14 Jul; 2 Ham 27 Jun; a few other reports of singles.
Savannah Sparrow: max 11 DeWitt 9 Jun; 6 Phoenix 14 Jun; 6 Tully 9 Jun-11 Jul; 6 Poland 30 Jun; decline continues in some areas.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Tully 4 Jun; 2 Lysander 14 Jun, 8 Jul; singles at 2 other locs.
Scarlet Tanager: max 6 Camillus 3 Jun, 6 RSP 15 Jun, 6 KW 16, 18 Jun, 6 SFNS 23 Jun, 6 HI 25 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: 7 GLSP 28 Jun; 7 OnonL 9 Jul; max 8 Hast 29 Jul.
Bobolink: 17 Manheim 23 Jun; 21 Poland 30 Jun; max 48 WM 25 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: 3 GLSP 14 Jun; 3 Caz 24 Jun; 3 Poland 30 Jun; max 5 Dville 4 Jul.
Orchard Oriole: 3 GLSP 7 Jun; 3 Bville 15 Jun; pair WH 15 Jun, feeding young; max 4

GLSP 28 Jun.

Baltimore Oriole: max 8 GLSP 5, 18 Jul; 8 Bville 8 Jul; low numbers reported in some areas.

Purple Finch: max 16 Dville 19, 27 Jul; mostly small numbers in expected areas.

Pine Siskin: 2 Cold Brook 14 Jun, only report.

EXOTICS

African Collard-Dove (domestic Ringed Turtle Dove): SH 3 Jul (DL, ph), presumed escape.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer started off warm, with a mean June temperature in Watertown of 66.3° F, or 1.5° above normal. The rest of the summer was cooler, with mean temperatures that were 1.2° below normal in July and 1.1° cooler than normal in August. Precipitation was remarkably consistent through the season, with 4.35" in June, 4.34" in July, and 4.10" in August. The June and July totals were both about 0.9" above normal, and these two months continued a stretch of consecutive months with above-normal precipitation that started in April but was broken in August, when that month's precipitation total was 0.2" below normal. The wet spring and early summer contributed to high water on nearly every pond, lake, and stream in the Region, especially Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, where virtually no shoreline was exposed.

Waterfowl and waterbirds were mostly unexceptional, with most species present in typical numbers. The most unusual waterfowl reports were of several Snow Geese at Perch River that lingered into early June, but early summer Snow Geese are now virtually annual, so this wasn't really a surprise. Notable among waterbirds was the relative scarcity of Pied-billed Grebes at several traditional nesting locations, especially Upper and Lower Lakes, where daily tallies were less than half that recorded in most recent years.

Large numbers of Great Egrets were observed throughout northeastern and central St. Lawrence County all summer, especially from mid-July to late August, although it is not clear whether any of these birds nested in Region 6. Persistent rumors of a rookery in northeastern St. Lawrence County have never been confirmed, and all of these egrets may have come from nesting sites in Quebec or elsewhere outside of the Region. In past years, up to 200 Great Egrets have been reported at an evening roost at Winthrop Swamp, but, given these roosting numbers, surprisingly few were seen during daytime. This summer was quite the reverse, with egrets being conspicuous over a large portion of St. Lawrence County during the daytime, but since the Winthrop roost was abandoned in 2013 the locations of night roosts are no longer known. As usual,

there was only a handful of reports of 1-2 Great Egrets in Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

Sandhill Cranes in several locations suggest increasing numbers of nesting pairs in Region 6, although the precise number of nesting locations remains unclear. Three cranes found in Turin in Lewis County in the spring were joined by a fourth during the summer; this latter bird apparently was a juvenile although the age of this bird was not well documented. The age makeup was also unclear for four cranes in Louisville, St. Lawrence County, where some reports that suggested juveniles were present were not definitive. Sandhill Cranes were also heard at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA at least twice. There were no summer reports at Lakeview WMA, where cranes have nested several years and were present in the spring, nor from Lisbon, where cranes were suspected to nest for several years but have not been reported since 2012.

The lack of exposed shoreline on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and high water almost everywhere else left little habitat for migrating shorebirds, and I received even fewer shorebird reports than has become the recent norm. Most sightings came from a few locations, such as Wilson Hill WMA, where shorebirds were seen foraging on several sandy islands in the refuge impoundments but did not stay for very long. Wilson Hill highlights included one each American Golden-Plover and Sanderling, both on 16 August. The only other golden-plover sighting was of two on a large lawn near Ogdensburg on 27 August. Shorebird use of the Canton sewage ponds varies dramatically between years, and few shorebirds were present this summer, although this is the most reliable location for Red-necked Phalarope in Region 6 and singles were present on 15 and 22 August. The best shorebird tally of the season was made by Margo Goetschkes at a farm pond in Cape Vincent, with nine species that included seasonal high counts for Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. It seems very likely that had more birders checked farm ponds near Lake Ontario regularly, the season's shorebird tally would have been more robust.

Colonial waterbird numbers were generally high this summer. After several years of declines associated with mortality from Type E botulism, the Caspian Tern colony on Little Galloo Island is growing again, with a record high 2436 nests in 2014. For the second consecutive year Common Terns also nested on Little Galloo Island after many years of absence but apparently not with any success. These Common Terns are no doubt spilling over from the St. Lawrence River, where the 1250 nests that were counted on the New York side of the river are slightly below modern high counts, and productivity was double that in 2013 and very close to the long-term mean. Results from NYSDEC Black Tern surveys, conducted approximately once every three years, found fewer pairs in Jefferson County and more pairs in St. Lawrence County than had been found on any previous survey, with the majority at Perch River and Upper and Lower Lakes WMAs, respectively. A record-high number of Herring Gulls nested on

Little Galloo Island as well, but Ring-billed Gull nests were not counted in 2014.

A few other non-passerine species of note are highlighted by a Snowy Owl that was photographed on an island in the St. Lawrence River on 7 August. Given the large number of Snowy Owls that persisted well into the spring, I was almost surprised that only one was seen during the summer. Six Yellow-billed Cuckoos are slightly higher than the recent norm for years without major tent caterpillar outbreaks, and Black-billed Cuckoo numbers were higher than the previous two years. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were present in typical numbers at Fort Drum and Chaumont Barrens but were hardly reported elsewhere, at least partly because of low observer effort. As usual, Common Nighthawks were common during June and July at Fort Drum but almost entirely absent elsewhere until migrants passed through in August.

Surveys on Fort Drum tallied 58 male Golden-winged Warblers compared to 97 male Blue-winged Warblers, the lowest ratio of Golden-winged to Blue-winged Warblers documented during any one year on the installation and continuing long-term trends for both species. Also found on these surveys were 34 territorial male hybrids; between 17% and 20% of all “winged warblers” observed on Fort Drum have been phenotypic hybrids each year since these surveys began in 2008. By comparison, in and near the Indian River Lakes area of northern Jefferson and western St. Lawrence Counties, 22 male Golden-winged Warblers were reported compared to just one Blue-winged Warbler and three hybrids. This latter area appears to be the best hope for Golden-winged Warbler to persist in Region 6.

Easily the biggest surprise of the summer was a Kirtland’s Warbler that occupied a territory in a red pine plantation on Fort Drum for at least two weeks. I found the Kirtland’s Warbler on 4 June, just three days after Andy Guthrie found one in western New York, and observed it every 1-3 days until I last saw it on 18 June. Throughout this period the male divided his time between foraging in dense pine foliage and singing extended bouts of song from the tops of trees, always staying within the red pine plantation until the last few days he was present. Unfortunately, this bird was in a permanently off-limits area on Fort Drum, so visitors were not able to see it.

During early June it seemed like Henslow’s Sparrows were virtually absent from Region 6, but by July 39-40 males were present in four locations. NYSDEC personnel surveyed fields in late May and early June at Perch River and Ashland Flats WMAs and at one field enrolled in a Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) finding no Henslow’s Sparrows. A second round of surveys between mid June and mid July turned up 14 males at Perch River and eight at the LIP property, and the final round of surveys in late July yielded 16 at Perch River, five at Ashland Flats, and 11 at the LIP site. Nick Leone had found one Henslow’s Sparrow at Ashland Flats in early June, and it is likely that at least one bird was here but missed on at least one round of surveys. Similarly, I searched fields on Fort Drum repeatedly, finding just two males by mid June but

7-8 males in late June and July. My impression on Fort Drum, and this may extend to the other sites as well, was that a small number of males were present early in the summer but sang rarely and thus evaded detection, with more males, perhaps the bulk present this year, arriving during June and July.

Other grassland birds were reported in typical numbers. As has become the recent norm, Upland Sandpipers were scarce, with at least six or seven pair at Fort Drum but only two breeding season reports elsewhere. Sedge Wren numbers were about average, with at least 13 territorial males on Fort Drum and one to three individuals each at Ashland Flats, Lakeview, Perch River, and Point Peninsula WMAs. Also typical, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows were abundant in sandy areas on Fort Drum but scarce, or in the case of Vesper Sparrow, completely unreported elsewhere. The only Grasshopper Sparrow report outside of Jefferson County was one at Robert Moses State Park in Massena, an unusual location. Clay-colored Sparrow, not really a grassland bird but found in many of the same areas, was found at six Jefferson County sites in addition to Fort Drum, where the species remains locally very common.

Other noteworthy passerines include two Orchard Oriole reports, one in Massena on 1 June and a pair at Perch River WMA on 2 July. Rather surprising was a singing Pine Grosbeak at Massawepie Mire on 5 and 6 June, as this species is virtually unrecorded in New York during summer. The only other northern finch sightings were of a single Red Crossbill, also at Massawepie Mire on 4 July, and two Evening Grosbeaks at a feeder in Parishville on 26 August.

For the season I received reports of 201 species, which is about average for the past three or four years but more than were reported during the years before eBird was widely used. The Fort Drum Kirtland's Warbler was certainly the highlight of the season, but in some ways it was also the biggest disappointment, as few people were able to see this bird. The continuing expansion of the contributor pool that eBird has facilitated is certainly worth commenting on, as some eBirders are now providing regular reports from areas from where reports were rarely or never submitted to the Region 6 editor. Some of these birders are Mandi Roggie, Deborah Earl, and Nancy Loomis in the Black River Valley, and Doug and Ann Emlin in eastern St. Lawrence County. Unfortunately, birders in the Adirondacks are still lacking, and, except for Massawepie Mire, which is frequently birded by visitors from out of the Region, I received very few reports from the Adirondacks.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; BI – Barnhart I, T Massena; CB – Chaumont Barrens preserve, T Clayton; CV – T Cape Vincent; CWF – Canton wastewater treatment facility; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; KC – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; LC – Limerick Cedars preserve, T Brownville; LGI – Little Galloo I; LWMA – Lakeview WMA, T Ellisburg; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WISP – Wellesley Island SP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS—VULTURES

Snow Goose: sev PRWMA to at least 8 Jun.

Mute Swan: 2 Murray 13 Jun, only report.

Trumpeter Swan: at least 2 pr PRWMA, produced at least 4 y; pr ULLWMA, no y seen.

Wood Duck: max 218 WHWMA 18 Aug.

Gadwall: max 11 SLR Waddington 20 Jul.

Am. Black Duck: 1-6/day Star Lake thru; 3 T Alexandria 10 Jun; 2 T Theresa 27 Jun; 2 Five Ponds Wilderness 2 Jul; only reports before late Jul; about 12 reports 1-5/day late Jul & Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: AFWMA 3 Jun; Putney Rd swamp T Dekalb 15 Jun; Green Rd swamp 3 Jul; several reports ULLWMA Jun & early Jul; only reports before Aug.

N. Shoveler: 5-6 PRWMA 23-26 Aug, only reports.

N. Pintail: WHWMA 16 Aug, only report.

Green-winged Teal: PRWMA 29 Jun, only report before mid-Jul; 5 reports 16 Jul thru.

Redhead: 9 WHWMA 30 Aug, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: several broods ULLWMA; a few reports from Adirondacks lacking details on location or number; max 79 ULLWMA 31 Aug.

Com. Merganser: max 20 SLR Waddington 20 Jul.

Ruffed Grouse: many anecdotal reports suggest better productivity than previous 2 years.

Com. Loon: Hyde L, Payne L, FD & ULLWMA, only loc away from Adirondacks, Tug Hill, & SLR

Pied-billed Grebe: max 65 WHWMA 16 Aug; 38 ULLWMA 31 Aug; fewer than recent years.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2283 nests LGI higher than 2010 & 2012 but lower than

every other year since 1988 because of NYSDEC egg oiling, culling, & harassment; NYSDEC continued efforts to eliminate cormorant nests from Gull I to minimize competition with Black-crowned Night-Herons.

Am. Bittern: 4-6/day FD old fields include 3 nests with y Jun & Jul; widespread reports at marshes and wetlands mostly lacked numbers.

Least Bittern: multiple PRWMA & ULLWMA; Goose Bay T Alexandria 18 Jun, only other report.

Great Egret: max 19 Bombay SF 1 Aug; up to 17/day ULLWMA 10 Aug thru; many reports 1-9/day Massena & adjacent towns N STLA thru; few reports 1-2/day Aug JEFF & LEWI.

Green Heron: max 17 CWF 4 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 79 nests LGI; 19 nests Murphy I.

HAWKS—TERNS

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 9 reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 12 reports.

N. Goshawk: FD thru; T Potsdam 1 Jun; Bombay SF 1 Aug; 2 T Hopkinton 29 Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: T Macomb 15 Jun; T Croghan 21 Jun; Bombay SF 1 Aug; Cranberry L thru; declining?

Virginia Rail: only 6 reports.

Sora: ULLWMA 17 Aug, only report.

Com. Gallinule: max 8 PRWMA 29 Jun; few reports elsewhere.

Am. Coot: PRWMA 29 Jun, only report.

Sandhill Crane: 5 ICNC 1 Jun, possibly late migr; 3 ad T Turin thru, where 1 y in Aug (DE); 4 T Louisville, where nesting suspected; increasing as breeder in R6.

Black-bellied Plover: 8 CV 13 Aug, only report.

Am. Golden-Plover: WHWMA 16 Aug; 2 T Oswegatchie 27 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 20 CV 13 Aug; 5 other reports all 16-19 Aug.

Killdeer: max 49 CV 31 Jul.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 11 CWF 7 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr FD 22 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 CV 13 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 arr CV 31 Jul; max 29 CV 8 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: at least 6-7 terr FD Jun & Jul; only other breeding reports Chaumont 21 Jun (SK) & Hounsfield 28 Jun (WF, MkM, MyM); presumed migr FD 15 Jul & ULLWMA 4 Aug.

Sanderling: WHWMA 16 Aug, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 40 CV 13 Aug; only 7 other reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr T Philadelphia 15 Jul; CV 13 Aug, only other report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 10 CV 13 Aug; only 3 other reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 ICNC 5 Aug; CV 13 Aug; only reports.

Red-necked Phalarope: CWF 15 & 22 Aug; annual at this site.

Bonaparte's Gull: WISP 13 Aug, only report.

Herring Gull: 979 nests LGI, record high; 109 nests Gull I where also increasing;

Caspian Tern: 2436 nests LGI 6 Jun, record high (IM).

Black Tern: NYSDEC survey counted 47 nests JEFF mostly at PRWMA, lower than any previous year & 75 STLA mostly at ULLWMA, more than any previous survey, *intro*; confirmed nesting Edsall Swamp T Lyme 28 Jun.

Com. Tern: 1250 nests NYS side SLR, higher than 2013 but lower than modern record of 1394 nests in 2012; nests between Ogdensburg & Massena (majority of all nests) fledged 1.4 y/nest (LH); 22 nests LGI including 1 chick 14 Jul apparently all abandoned by 1 Aug.

PIGEONS—PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5 locations N JEFF & W STLA Jun in area where most R6 reported come from in non-tent caterpillar outbreak years; only other T Croghan 27 Jun.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 48 reports about double 2013 total.

E. Screech-Owl: Cranberry L 19 Aug, only report.

Snowy Owl: Big I SLR 7 Aug, 4th summer record since 2006, photos!.

Com. Nighthawk: breeding season max 15 FD 10 Jul; several reports migrants central STLA 20-26 Aug; max 20 T Potsdam 23 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: 20 CB 4 Jun; max 29 on ten-stop survey route FD 17 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 9 pr successfully fledged y FD including 2 broods on 1 terr.

Merlin: reports from T Dekalb, T Canton, T Croghan, T Massena, FD, LWMA, WHWMA, & Hitchens Bog.

Peregrine Falcon: T Watertown 2 Jun, prob late migr; reports from known nesting sites at BI & Payne L; Cranberry L 16 Aug & WHWMA 28 Aug, only other reports.

FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: only 3 reports S STLA, reflects low observer effort in Adirondacks; migr FD 28 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last ICNC 4 Jun; breeding reports only from MM & High Falls Trail, reflects low observer effort in Adirondacks; arr Murray I 21 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: MM 9 Jun; Cranberry L 18 Aug; Bombay SF 30 Aug; only reports.

Horned Lark: FD 9 Jul; 5 CV 13 Aug; only reports.

Sedge Wren: 2 PRWMA 8 Jun; S Sandy Creek trail LWMA 19 Jul; 2 AFWMA; 3 PtPen WMA; max 13-15 terr FD thru.

Carolina Wren: Canton 9 Aug; FD 12 Aug; KC 30 Aug; first in sev months.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 4 LWMA 20 Aug; 6 other reports Lake Ontario Plain & St. Lawrence Valley.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: ULLWMA 12 Jul, only report outside Adirondacks.

N. Mockingbird: max 3 FD 10 Jul; T Watertown 15 Jul; imm CV 20 Jul.

Veery: heavy migratory movement T Canton & Russell early am 6 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: migr ICNC 5 Aug & T Russell 6 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: Red Lake Rd T Theresa 19 Jun, only report.

Golden-winged Warbler: 58 singing m on FD surveys; 22 m Indian River Lakes area Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: 97 singing m on FD surveys where increasing; 1 m Indian River Lakes area Jun.

Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler

hybrid: 34 singing m on FD surveys; 3 m Indian River Lakes area Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: last ICNC 1 Jun; arr Cranberry L 17 Aug.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: terr m FD 4-18 Jun (JB, photos! rep to NYSARC), 1st Regional & 2nd State record, *intro*.

Cape May Warbler: Cranberry L 7 Aug, presumed early migr (DB); next rep Murray I. 22 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 5 sites Indian River Lakes area Jun (NL, SK, JB); 2 locations T Croghan Jun & Jul (MR); 4 FD 3 Jul (JB).

N. Parula: none outside the Adirondacks.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last CB 8 Jun, late (GL); arr ULLWMA 17 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last T Rossie 15 Jun (JB), late; arr Cranberry L 18 Aug.

Palm Warbler: breeding reports from MM, Cranberry L, Horseshoe L; FD 29 Aug, only migr.

Prairie Warbler: T Lyme 7 Jun; T Macomb 15 Jun; T Croghan 21 Jun; 2 Murray I 21 Aug; only reports away from usual nesting sites CB, FD, LC.

Wilson's Warbler: last 3 T Massena 1 Jun; arr FD 27 Aug.

TOWHEES—WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: PRWMA 3 Jun; LC 4 Jun; CB 4 & 7 Jun; T Lyme 7 Jun; 2 CV 28

Jun; up to 4/day Butterfield Rd T Henderson Jun; high counts of 28 singing m FD old hayfields 28 Jun & 17 singing m FD sandy fields and regenerating clearcuts 10 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: one day max 62 singing m FD 10 Jul; no reports elsewhere.

Grasshopper Sparrow: one day max 44 singing m FD 10 Jul; RMSP 2 Jun; 3 CV 28 Jun & several reports PRWMA; only reports off FD.

Henslow's Sparrow: max 16 singing m on NYSDEC surveys Dog Hill Rd PRWMA Jul, where none found before mid June; 1 AFWMA 8 Jun (NL), where none on NYSDEC surveys until 5 found late Jul; 11 private field JEFF enrolled in NYSDEC landowner incentive program; 7-8 singing m FD Jul, where just 2 most of Jun; *intro*.

Lincoln's Sparrow: breeding reports from MM, Cranberry L, & Horseshoe L; no other reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: none outside Adirondacks and Tug Hill.

Bobolink: max 400 CV 24 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: SY male T Massena 1 Jun (JB); pr PRWMA 2 Jul (JB, PL, SM).

Pine Grosbeak: MM 5-6 June (CW, EW), rare in summer.

Red Crossbill: MM 4 Jul, only report (PL, SM).

Evening Grosbeak: 2 at T Parishville feeder 26 Aug (MS), only report.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN**Michael B. Burgess**

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The summer of 2014 began with slightly warmer than normal temperatures. In June, temperatures for the Region averaged 1-2° F above normal. The lowest recorded temperature across NY for the month of June was 36°, which was recorded in Indian Lake on 1 June. The warmest temperature in the Region was 77.5°, recorded in Peru. Wetter than normal conditions prevailed throughout the state in June. The Northern Plateau and Champlain Valley recorded their 10th and 14th wettest months, respectively. Precipitation in the Region ranged from 110% of normal in the St. Lawrence Valley to 150% of normal in portions of the Northern Plateau. July ushered in cooler than normal temperatures throughout NY. In Region 7, the Champlain Valley was 3.7° cooler than normal for the

month of July, which ranked as the eighth coolest July on record. The Northern Plateau was the only area of the state that experienced warmer than normal temperatures. Temperatures in the Region ranged from a high of 76.2° in Lake Placid to a low of 51.8° in Newcomb. July was the sixth consecutive month that NY recorded above normal precipitation, and was the 11th wettest July in 120 years. The Champlain Valley recorded its seventh wettest July on record, with precipitation that ranged from 130% to 150% of normal. All of NY experienced cooler than normal temperatures in August. Temperatures in the Region averaged 0.7-2.1° below normal and ranged from a high of 77.1° in Peru to a low of 50.7° in Newcomb. August broke the wetter than normal streak, with much of NY experiencing drier than normal conditions. Precipitation in the Region ranged from 70% of normal in the Champlain Valley to 100% of normal in the Northern Plateau.

A taxonomically diverse shorebird migration, including 21 species, was well documented throughout the Champlain Valley. Modest numbers of common plovers, long-legged waders, and peeps were reported from several premier habitats, including Chazy Riverlands, Noblewood Park, and Sandy Beach. Fall migration highlights included a **Baird's Sandpiper** and numerous **Short-billed Dowitchers** from Chazy Riverlands, an **American Golden-Plover** and three **Ruddy Turnstones** from Noblewood Park, a Ruddy Turnstone and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** from Sandy Beach, and a **Red-necked Phalarope** from Crown Point and Chazy Riverlands.

Reported numbers of waterfowl were low for the season, which may be attributed to, at least in part, the lack of reports from Ausable Marsh. However, waterfowl diversity was on par with expectations. In addition to very common species, numerous Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, and Redheads were reported from several locations within the Champlain Valley. Several reports from Noblewood Park throughout the latter half of the season documented solid numbers of terns, including 47 Caspian Terns, six Black Terns, and 84 Common Terns.

Boreal species, which are a specialty of the Region, were well documented this season. Gray Jays were reported multiple times from several locations, including Bloomingdale Bog, Ferd's Bog, and Madawaska Pond. Boreal Chickadees were reported from Saddleback, Mount Marcy, and Blue Mountain. Unlike previous years, Boreal Chickadees were not reported from Bloomingdale Bog or Ferd's Bog this season. Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from Intervale Lowlands and Bloomingdale Bog. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from several locations throughout the Region, including Madawaska Pond and Ferd's Bog. Reports of Swainson's and Bicknell's Thrushes were made from Whiteface Mountain and Cascade Mountain, and Bicknell's Thrush was also reported from Algonquin Peak, Mount Marcy, and Phelps Mountain.

Perhaps the most noteworthy report this season was a **Brown Booby** that was first reported on 23 August, from Crown Point. This represents the first report of a Brown Booby in the Region, and if accepted by NYSARC, a sixth

record for the State. Other highlights included three **Little Gulls**, two reported on 25 July from the Chazy Riverlands and one reported from Noblewood Park on 31 August, and a single **Fish Crow** reported on 6 July from Consumer Square in Plattsburgh. There is growing evidence that Fish Crows are a rare summer resident in Essex County. There were several species (including the Fish Crow) reported from the Region that are at or near their northern limit, and therefore, are unique and uncommon Regional reports that deserve mention. Such reports included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orchard Oriole, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-throated Vireo.

I am pleased to report that the 197 species recorded for this season is one more than the previous record of 196 species set in 2011.

CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers, Tom Auer, Alan Belford, Michael Bochnik, Ron Bussain, Laura Carberry, Ber Carr, Glen Chapman, Malinda Chapman, Alexandra Class, Chris Conrad, Omyia Damaj, Greg Dashnau, Joseph DiConstanzo, Gordon Dimmig, Heidi Doman, Bruce Dudek, John Dunn, Joseph Fell, Suzy Feustel, Tom Field, Brendan Fogarty, Benjamin Freeman, Larry Hall, Lynn Hertzog, Peter Jerdo, Bill Krueger, Ted Keyel, Tim Lenz, Russell Loeber, Larry Master, David McCartt, Matthew Medler, Jay McGowan, Graham Montgomery, Michael Moccio, Delia Moore, Karen O'Hearn, Matt Pratt, Sharon, Stacey Robinson, Derek Rogers, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Nancy Rogers, John Schwarz, Ezra Schwartzberg, Robert Scranton, Brandon Snavelly, Cedar Stanistreet, Scott Stoner, Noah Strycker, Hank Taliaferro, John & Pat Thaxton, Michael Turso, Lisa Walsh, Hans Van Der Zweep.

ABBREVIATIONS

APk – Algonquin Peak; AF – Altona Flat Rock; AP – Ausable Pt; BT – Bellmont; BBg - Bloomingdale Bog; BluMtn – Blue Mountain; BY – Bombay; CscdMtn – Cascade Mountain; CedRiv – Cedar Ri; CP - Crown Point; CR – Chazy Riverlands; FrdBg – Ferds Bog; FerrLk – Ferris L; FshCrk – Fish Creek; HW – Homeport Way; IndLk – Indian L; IL – Intervale Lowlands; JY – Jay; LC – La Chute; LkCol – Lake Colby; LkPleas – Lake Pleasant; LostPd – Lost Pd; MadwPd – Madawaska Pd; MinwBrk – Minnow Brook; MO – Moira; MseRiv – Moose Ri; MtMar – Mount Marcy; MtCol – Mount Colden; MtDef – Mount Defiance; NW – Newcomb; NP – Noblewood P; OsgRiv – Osgood Ri; PU – Peru; PhlpMtn – Phelps Mountain; PB – Plattsburgh; PS – Paul Smiths; PtAuR – Point Au Roche SP; RollPd – Rollins Pd; SdleB – Saddleback; SabtsBg – Sabattis Bog; SB – Sandy Beach; SL – Saranac L; SL – Slant Rock; TI – Ticonderoga; VV – Vermontville; WH – Wadhams; WebSw – Webb Royce Swamp; WP – Westport; WFMtn - Whiteface Mountain; WillPd – Willis Pd; WB – Whallons Bay Rd.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 500 CH 3 Mar (BK); last CH 26 May (BK).
ROSS'S GOOSE: CH 4 Apr (BK).
Canada Goose: max 400 MRP 14 Apr (JS).
Wood Duck: arr 2 LC 30 Mar (SR); max 32 CP 4 Apr (PJ).
Gadwall: arr EF 21 Mar (LH); max 50 CR 22 Apr (BK).
Am. Wigeon: arr & max 20 CH 3 Apr (AB).
Am. Black Duck: max 100 CH 4 Apr (BK).
Am. Black Duck x Mallard: arr & max 6 EF 1 Mar (SG).
Blue-winged Teal: arr 6 CR 22 Apr (BK); max 16 AM 26 Apr (JR).
N. Shoveler: arr 3 PM 2 Apr (MB); max 25 CR 22 Apr (BK).
N. Pintail: arr 4 EF 1 Mar (BR); max 20 CH 3 Apr (AB).
Green-winged Teal: arr 2 EF 29 Mar (AB); max 150 CR 25 Apr (BK).
Redhead: arr CP 7 Mar (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: max 100 EF 1 Mar (BR).
TUFTED DUCK: EF 1 Mar (SG).
Greater Scaup: max 275 EF 2 Mar (SG).
Lesser Scaup: max 180 CP 27 Mar (SR).
White-winged Scoter: EF 1 Mar (SG).
Long-tailed Duck: EF 1 Mar (BD, SG).
Bufflehead: max 59 LC 13 Apr (GC).
Com. Goldeneye: max 300 CH 15 Mar (SB).
Barrow's Goldeneye: arr & max 2 EF 1 Mar (SG).
Hooded Merganser: max 22 CH 3 Apr (BM).
Com. Merganser: max 235 CP 3 Apr (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: arr EF 6 Mar (GC); max 11 EF 5 Apr (PJ).
Ruddy Duck: arr & max WB 1 May (PJ).
Wild Turkey: max 50 WB 29 Mar (LG).
Com. Loon: max 3 LC 13 Apr (GC).
Pied-billed Grebe: arr CH 2 Apr (BK).
Horned Grebe: max 5 PtR 3 May (JH).
Red-necked Grebe: arr CH 4 Mar (PO); max 5 PtR 3 May (JH).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 CP 2 May (SR).
Am. Bittern: arr CR 22 Apr (BK).
Great Blue Heron: max 30 AM 6 Mar (ZA).
Great Egret: max 6 AM 26 Apr (JR).
Green Heron: SS 25 May (JP).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: LC 27 Apr (GC, MC).
Turkey Vulture: arr 6 ES 21 Mar (LH).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: arr WB 2 Apr (PJ).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): AC 20 Apr (MB).

Bald Eagle: max 3 EF 3 Mar (JM).
N. Harrier: max 3 WB 29 Mar (LW, AB, TR).
N. Goshawk: BB 24 May (CF).
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr PH 15 Mar (AB).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr MC 14 Apr (JS).
Rough-legged Hawk: max 5 WB 29 Mar (AB, LG, TR), last CR 14 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr PtR 3 May (JH).
Sora: arr CR 20 May (BK, MB).
Com. Gallinule: arr CR 7 May (BK, MB), ties Reg record early.
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): arr BM 12 Apr (LC); CP 22 May (SR).
Semipalmated Plover: arr 7 CR 12 May, max 12 CR 23 May (BK).
Killdeer: arr WB 2 Apr (PJ).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr SB 26 Apr (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 HW 8-9 May (PJ).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 CR 26 Apr; max 10 CR 12 May (BK).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr & max 4 CR 12 May (BK).
Dunlin: arr 2 CR 13 May; max 15 CR 23 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: arr 6 CR 12 May; max 22 CR 20 May (BK).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 CR 12 May (BK).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 16 CR 24 May (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: arr & max 4 WS 3 May (PJ).
Am. Woodcock: arr MM 26 Mar (SR).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 19 CR 22 Apr (BK).
Herring Gull: max 44 EF 21 Apr (AP).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: PM 3 Apr (MB).
Glaucous Gull: EF 21 Mar (LH).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 6 PB 2 Apr (MB).
Caspian Tern: arr & max 10 NP 14 Apr (PJ), ties Reg record early.
Com. Tern: arr 2 CR 12 May (BK).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 22 May (SR).
E. Screech-Owl: HW 28 May (PJ).
Snowy Owl: EL 2 Mar (MD); MB 9 Mar (MD).
Barred Owl: max 3 PS (BS).
Short-eared Owl: WB 1 May (J & PT).
N. Saw-whet Owl: PB 7 Apr (CM).
Com. Nighthawk: arr CP 15 May (PJ).
Chimney Swift: arr 5 May LF (BS).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr MM 8 May (MM).
Belted Kingfisher: arr MB 8 Apr (PJ).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: CP 11 Mar; 2 CP 8 May (SR).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr CM 12 Apr (PJ).
Black-backed Woodpecker: MN 1 Mar (BD).
N. Flicker: arr 2 CP 9 Mar (SR).
Am. Kestrel: arr WB 29 Mar (LG).
Merlin: max 2 LCI 4 Apr (SM).
Peregrine Falcon: CR 12 May (BK).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr FB 18 May (GA).
E. Wood-Pewee: arr LA 15 May (MB).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr BB 20 May (MS).
Alder Flycatcher: arr 2 BB 20 May (MS).
Least Flycatcher: arr LP 2 May (JM).
E. Phoebe: arr PM 2 Apr (MB).
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr LP 3 May (JM).
E. Kingbird: arr 2 CP 2 May (SR).
N. Shrike: last IL 12 Apr (LM, AB).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr ES 22 Apr (PJ).
Warbling Vireo: arr PH 1 May (SR).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr LPI 11 May; max 12 CRI 25 May (GD).
Gray Jay: max 11 BB 1 Mar (SG).
Horned Lark: last IL 12 Apr (AB).
Tree Swallow: arr PB 3 Apr (AB).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr LC 13 Apr (GC).
Bank Swallow: arr 3 WH 11 May (PJ).
Cliff Swallow: arr 4 CF 9 May (MB).
Barn Swallow: arr SB 17 Apr (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: max 6 BB 12 Apr (PH).
Tufted Titmouse: max 5 MM 12 Mar (SR).
House Wren: arr HW 3 May (PJ).
Winter Wren: arr SL 8 Apr (AB).
Carolina Wren: LC 13 Apr (GC, MC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 AP 15 Apr (MB).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BB 12 Apr (PH); max 12 CP 6 May (J&PT).
E. Bluebird: max 6 LA 8 Mar (MM).
Veery: arr CF 8 May (MB).
Bicknell's Thrush: arr & max 9 WM 18 May (LM).
Swainson's Thrush: arr CP 14 May (SR).
Hermit Thrush: arr BB 19 Apr (ZA).
Wood Thrush: arr MD 7 May (GC).
Gray Catbird: arr IL 3 May (J & PT).
Brown Thrasher: arr TL 17 Apr (DE).
N. Mockingbird: PB May 4 (MB); CP 15 May (SR).
Am. Pipit: arr & max 10 KE 8 May (J & PT).
Cedar Waxwing: max 32 ES 1 Mar (SG).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: arr CR 13 May (BK).
Snow Bunting: last & max 30 WB 29 Mar (J & PT)..
Ovenbird: arr WP 25 May (PJ).
Louisiana Waterthrush: MD 29 Apr (GC).
N. Waterthrush: arr BB 12 May (GD).
Golden-winged Warbler: WS 25 May (MM).
Blue-winged Warbler: WS 25 May (MM).
Tennessee Warbler: arr CP 15 May (SR).
Nashville Warbler: arr CP 4 May (SR).
Mourning Warbler: 3 IL 22 May (JC, MBe).
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 5 CF 8 May (MB).
Am. Redstart: arr 3 CP 9 May (PJ); max 16 IL 22 May (JC, MBe).
Cape May Warbler: arr CF 9 May (MB).
N. Parula: arr CF 9 May (MB).
Magnolia Warbler: arr PB 10 May (MB); max 27 IL 23 May (JC, MBe).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SM 12 May (SB).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr CF 9 May (MB).
Yellow Warbler: arr HW 8 May (PJ).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr BT 10 May (NR); max 11 IL 22 May (JC, MBe).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr BB 15 May (RB).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr TI 4 May (MC).
Palm Warbler: arr SB 26 Apr (SR).
Pine Warbler: arr TI 1 Apr (GC), Reg record early.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 SB 17 Apr (SR).
Prairie Warbler: arr LG 14 May (GC).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TI 3 May (GC).
Canada Warbler: arr CP 14 May (JA).
Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 BM 12 May (SB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr 2 HW 12 Apr (PJ).
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 10 WB 29 Mar (LG).
Chipping Sparrow: arr LC 5 Apr (SM).
Field Sparrow: arr AC 8 Apr (MB).
Vesper Sparrow: arr 3 WB 14 Apr (PJ).
Savannah Sparrow: arr 3 WB 14 Apr (PJ).
Fox Sparrow: arr PS 2 Apr (SM).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr HW 12 May (PJ).
Swamp Sparrow: arr IN 13 Apr (MM).
White-throated Sparrow: max 45 PK 12 May (DR).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr PtR 22 Apr (JH); max 15 PB 9 May (MB).
Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 CP 8 May (SR).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TI 3 May (SR).

Indigo Bunting: arr PK 12 May (DR).
Bobolink: arr CP 11 May (SR); max 12 CR 12 May (BK).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr IR 3 Mar (SR).
E. Meadowlark: arr PB 5 Apr (MB).
Rusty Blackbird: arr WB 29 Mar (AB, TR); max 13 IL 11 Apr (AB, LM).
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr WB 29 Mar (AB, LG, TR).

Orchard Oriole: PB 4 May (MB); max 3 CP 22 May (SR).
Baltimore Oriole: arr HW 8 May (PJ); max 20 CP 15 May (SR).
Purple Finch: max 48 IL 20 Mar (LM).
Red Crossbill: max 7 MN 26 May (SR).
Evening Grosbeak: max 5 BT 26 Apr (NR).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Summer 2013 began warm and wet and ended with normal seasonal temperatures. June ended 2.1° F warmer than average, with nearly an extra inch of rain above average. July continued warmer than average and very wet, with nearly three additional inches of rain above average falling in several storms and a two-day soaker at the end of the month. August cooled slightly and finished with less rainfall.

Late summer dispersal of egrets has been increasing in our Region over the last 20 years. Few Augusts expire without a handful of reporters spotting the bright white bodies of egrets on area ponds and ditches. This season, there were over 50 reports of Great Egret with the Regionally significant single location maximum of 20 at Cohoes Falls and a few other locations with 10+ birds. Snowy Egrets, however, remain uncommon, and only one was reported from Cohoes for a week in August. In the Alan Devoe Bird Club's newsletter, Bill Cook reports this season on the status of Northern Bobwhite sightings in Columbia County. None of these birds are from wild reproducing populations, but their presence is interesting nonetheless. Helen and Carl Specht reported one in their yard on 26 August, the first sighting in Columbia County since 2006. Northern Bobwhite are scarce even as escapes because area sportsman no longer have aggressive breed-and-release programs. Equally rare throughout Region 8 are Ring-necked Pheasants. National incentives for breeding programs, often administered through local rod-and-gun clubs to encourage younger members to raise and release these game birds, have declined significantly. These days, released game birds are about as uncommon as escaped parrots and other pet birds.

Bob Yunick sends along an interesting anecdote about the forensics of finding a dead owl. "On 12 July, I found where a Northern Saw-whet Owl had been killed, probably by one of the resident Barred Owls. The ground where the attack occurred was littered with dozens of body feathers and seven rectrices.

The rectrices matched the markings and size of those illustrated in the USGS Feather Atlas for a hatching-year Saw-whet and were unworn, consistent with those of a newly fledged Saw-whet. Last year in June I heard a Saw-whet calling less than 50m from where the remains of this juvenile were found, and, given the 12 July date, this strongly suggests local nesting.”

Steve Chorvas, in his annual summer survey of Plateau Mountain for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies Mountain Birdwatch Program, found what is typically this Region’s largest number of high-elevation breeders, including 23 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and 26 Bicknell’s Thrushes.

John Hershey discovered a Golden-winged Warbler that held a territory in Washington County for the month of June. Two Clay-colored Sparrows could be found around the Fort Edward grasslands in July, providing small but possible interest in searching for evidence of breeding. Want to see a Grasshopper Sparrow in Region 8? Head to an airport. This summer the county airports of Albany, Saratoga, and Schenectady all hosted them.

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamsen, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Steve Chorvas, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, Tim Dormady, Corey Finger, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Ken Harper, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Kelly McKay, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Rich Nord, Paul Novak, Tim O’Conner, Mike Peterson, John Piwowski, Neil Powell, Bill Purcell, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Scott Stoner, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Marlene Vidibor, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, T. Lloyd Williams, Chris Winters, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

COX – T Cocksackie, GREE; FtE – Fort Edward grasslands, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; VF – Visher’s Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Am. Bittern: Livingston COLU 4 Jun; Cherry Plain RENS 30 Aug.

Least Bittern: max 3 VF 7 Jun.

Great Egret: max 20 Cohoes 13 Aug, *intro*.

Snowy Egret: Cohoes 21-26 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-heron: Cohoes ALBA 12 Aug; Livingston COLU 29-31 Aug.

HAWKS – TERNS

Red-shouldered Hawk: Cherry Plain RENS 21 Jun.

Virginia Rail: max 3 VF 9 Jul.

Sora: VF 8 July.

Sandhill Crane: 2 S Glens Falls WARR 27 Jul.

Black-bellied Plover: Cohoes ALBA 21 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: Stillwater 22-24 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 5 Cohoes 24 Jul;

Stanton Pd ALBA 30 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: Livingston COLU 16 Jul; Ferry Drive ALBA 3 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 15 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 Cohoes ALBA 15 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: FtE 19 July; 2 COX 24-6 Aug.

Sanderling: max 3 Stillwater SARA 22 Aug.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Wrights Loop Stillwater SARA 21-3 Aug (DH, mob).
Least Sandpiper: max 35 Neiber Swamp, Livingston COLU 15 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 15 Cohoes ALBA 21 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: Cohoes ALBA 15-16 Jul (JH).
Wilson's Snipe: max 6 Knox ALBA 24 Jun; Wrights Loop SARA 31 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: 14 Coeymans ALBA 22 Aug.
Caspian Tern: Saratoga L SARA 9 Jun; Hudson COLU 15 Jul; Catskill 7 Aug; 2 Cohoes 8 Aug.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Burnt Hills ALBA 1 Jun; Jenny L SARA 12 Jul.
Com. Nighthawk: max 30 Albany 19 Aug.
E. Whip-poor-will: Malta SARA 2 Jun; Hillsdale 1-19 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Selkirk ALBA 1 Jun; max 23 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: Five Rivers ALBA 26 Aug.
Horned Lark: 2 Saratoga Airport SARA 1 Jul.
Purple Martin: max 7 Saratoga L SARA 2 Jun.
Cliff Swallow: Gilboa SARA 15 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: 3 Fox Hill SARA 28 Jun.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 26 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Putnam WASH 11-22 Jun (JH).
Mourning Warbler: max 9 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: Slingerlands ALBA 11 Jun; Pine Bush ALBA 22 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: Schodack IRENS 23 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 26 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun.
Canada Warbler: max 5 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun; Five Rivers ALBA 23 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Meadowlark: Saratoga Battlefield SARA 6 July; max 5 FtE 14 Jul; COX 24 Aug.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 FtE 8 Jul.
Vesper Sparrow: Saratoga Airport SARA 2 Jun-15 Jul.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Albany Co Airport ALBA 1 Jun; Schenectady Co Airport SCHE 20 Jun; Saratoga Airport SARA 1 Jul; 4 FtE 15 Jul.
Purple Finch: Tannersville GREE 27 Jun; 28 Jenny L SARA 28 Jun.
Evening Grosbeak: Bog Meadow SARA 11 Aug.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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June's weather was remarkable not for any extremes but for how consistently normal the temperatures and precipitation were. July and August continued with consistently normal temperatures, but July was very wet. Poughkeepsie had 7.61" of rain where the normal is 4.72". August was drier, with 3.4" of rain, 0.8" below average.

Six **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** were spotted by DEC people while banding geese at Morningside Park in Sullivan County. They alerted a birder who got the word out, and the geese were seen by a number of birders. Photographs were taken and at least one NYSARC report was

submitted. They were not found the next day. This is a first county record for Sullivan County.

A hen Common Merganser with five young was discovered on the Croton River, just below the dam on 5 July by John Philips. This is Westchester County's first breeding record. Chick numbers were down to two on 15 July.

A pair of American Oystercatchers raised three young on Echo Island, New Rochelle. A number of **AMERICAN AVOCET** reports were received in July. The first was 8 July by Peter Kinney and Joe Lydon while tracking Shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon for the DEC in Newburgh Bay. They spotted the bird floating not far from the Newburgh boat launch. A week later on 14 July an **AMERICAN AVOCET** was found on the swimming beach at Croton Point Park by Christopher Letts. Jim Bourdon photographed the bird before it took off flying to the northeast. This will be Westchester's fifth record. Presumably the same bird was found at Piermont Pier the next day and also videographed. The bird seemed to move farther south out of Region 9 and was briefly seen later in the day in Inwood in upper Manhattan. Another avocet was found later in the month on the Delaware River in Port Jervis on 27 July. A kayaker on the river reported the bird to Scott Baldinger, and he got the word out. The bird was found at Riverside Park, and a number of birders, including Ken McDermott and Bruce Knot, got to see this fourth record for Orange County.

There was an intriguing report by Sean Camillieri of a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** singing along Curtis Ormsbee Trail on Slide Mt. on 19 July. Barbara Mansell found an early **Lark Sparrow** in Clinton Corners on 22 August. It was observed and photographed by a number of birders and was also seen the next day. Grasshopper Sparrows returned to Croton Point Park with at least three singing males. Breeding was confirmed by Anne Swaim on 5 July, when five sparrows were found with one adult carrying food for young. Chris Cording reported a first summer male Summer Tanager with incomplete details in Doodletown on 22 August.

Other notable species include White-crowned Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

Julie Aitchison, Mary Aitken, Christina Baal, Andrew Baksh, Scott Baldinger, Alan Beebe, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Lynn Bowdery, Michael Britt, Tom Burke, Sean Camillieri, Steve Chorvas, Judy Cinquina, Chris Cording, Mark DeDea, Bruce Dudley, Evan Edelbaum, Andrew Farnsworth, Deb Ferguson, Amy Fradon, Patrick Fream, Karen Fung, John Grant, John Haas, Sarah Hansen, Jesse Jaycox, Tait Johansson, Peter Kinney, Deborah Kral, Christopher Letts, Paul Lewis, Joe Lydon, Barbara Mansell, Eva Mark, Sariena Masiero, Curt & Clara McDermott, Kenneth McDermott, Karen Miller, Karlo & Alison Mirth, Sandy Morrissey, Frank Murphy, Bruce Nott, John Philips, Carena Pooth, Adrienne Popko, Deborah Powell, Jessica Prockup, Susan Rogers, Matthew Rymkiewicz, Jim Schlickenrieder, Peter Schoenberger, Nadir Souirgi, Anne Swaim, Herb Thompson, Wendy Tocci, Larry Trachtenberg,

James Vellozzi, Lance Verderame, Steve Walter, Alan Wells, Dan Whalen, Brian Whipple, Paul & Maureen Wolter, Jim Yates, Matthew Zeitler.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 6 Morningside P 24 Jun ph (KM, JH, BN, MZ, SB, JJ), NYSARC report submitted.

Brant: Rye 7 Jun; Piermont Pier 3-5, 20-22 Jun (AW).

Green-winged Teal: Buttercup Sanc 7 Aug (MR).

Canvasback: Kingston Pt 6 Jul (MD, WT).

Hooded Merganser: 7 Neversink Ri 16 Jun .

Com. Merganser: f with 5 yg Croton River 2-5 Jul, 1st breeding record WEST; down to 2 juv 4 Aug.

N. Bobwhite: Ward Pound Ridge 26 Jul (JV).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Bashakill 6 Jun.

Com. Loon: Hen 1 25 Jun – 2 Jul; Tivoli 9 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: Bashakill 21 Jun.

Least Bittern: Saugerties 6 Jul; 2 Buttercup Sanc 24 Jul; 2 Tivoli Bays; Sleightsburgh Spit 9 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: Cortlandt 16 Jul (SH); Sleightsburgh Spit 26 Jul; CPP 3, 4 Aug (CR, JG); 2 Kingston 20-24, 27 Aug.

Glossy Ibis: CPP 4 Aug (CR); Sleightsburgh Spit 10 Aug (AF, PS, MD, WT).

HAWKS - SKIMMERS

N. Goshawk: Sterling Forest 1 Jun.

Clapper Rail: 2 MC 1 Jun.

King Rail: Wallkill River NWR--Liberty Marsh 26 Jul (MBr).

Com. Gallinule: 2 Bashakill 10 Aug

Am. Coot: Morningside P 1 Aug .

Semipalmated Plover: New Greenhaven Beach, Rye 7 Jun; 12 MC 30 Jul; 2 Tivoli Bays 1 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: pr raised 3 yg Echo Island, New Rochelle 14 Jun – 7 Jul (MBo).

AMERICAN AVOCET (R9): Newburgh 8 Jul (PK, JL); ph CPP 14 Jul (CL, LT); Piermont 15 Jul (EE); Port Jervis 27 Jul (SB, KM, BN, Cu&CIM).

Solitary Sandpiper: CPP 6 Jul.

Willet: MC 2 Jun; Rye 18 Jun; 3 Hen 1 4 Jul; 2 MC 12 Jul; 4 MC 6 Aug; MC 14, 15, 26, 27 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 12 ad, 3 chicks SGNWR 1 Jun; 5 ad, 2 chicks Blue Chip Farm 1 Jun; 4 Blue Chip Farm 4, 7 Jun; 4 SGNWR 15 Jun; 7 Blue Chip Farm 8 Jun; Saugerties 4 Jul .

Ruddy Turnstone: Piermont Pier 4 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza 20 Jul

(KF, JH, Abo, SB, LV, CP, HT), 5th record SULL.

Sanderling: Piermont Pier 4 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 14 Aug.

Western Sandpiper: MC 29 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: flock overhead in evening MC 1 Jun.

Bonaparte's Gull: Rye 1 Jun; Piermont Pier 6 Jul; 2 CPP 29 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Kinston Pt 8 Aug (P&MW).

Least Tern: 2 MC 2 Jun, 9 Jul.

Caspian Tern: Kingston Point 4 Jul.

Com. Tern: 15 EGR 4 Jul.

Forster's Tern: 4-6 CPP 3, 4 Aug; 2 MC 2-26 Jun.

Royal Tern: 2 New Greenhaven Beach, Rye 7 Jun (AF); PP 20 Jul, photo (KF).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Slide Mt 2 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: some movement 19-22 Aug; 53 Wingdale 20 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Muscote Farm 1, 17, 29 Jun; 4 Weston Rd Swamp Jun-Aug.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: North Salem 22 Jun, unusual for WEST.

Merlin: Kingston 30 Jun – 23 Jul; Stanfordville 20-28 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Mohonk 7 Jun; Wolf Brook 6 Aug; Montgomery Place 19 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 Slide Mt 21 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: Rye 3 Jun; 2 Mianus River Gorge 8 Jun; 2 Minnewaska SP 12 Jun; Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 14 Jun; 3

Knappe Brook, olive 15 Jun; 3 Pawling Nature Preserve 6 Aug.

Horned Lark: juv CPP 4 Aug, unusual location.

Purple Martin: 3 MC 26 Jun.

Cliff Swallow: 20 Cross River Res 28 Jun.

Marsh Wren: 4 MC 28 Jul.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing Curtis Ormsbee trail Slide Mt 19 Jul (SCa); Bashakill 10 Aug (SB).

Bicknell's Thrush: 7 Slide My 21 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: 20 Slide Mt 7 Jun.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Hooded Warbler: Pruyn Sanctuary 6 Aug, 1st migrant

Magnolia Warbler: f Rye Lake Peninsula 7 Jun (MBo); Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 9 Jun (MA); Kingston 23 Jun (MD); 1st migr Rockefeller SP 11 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: 1st migrant Tarrytown 16 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 16 Balsam Lake My 21 Jun.

Canada Warbler: 1st migrant Harstdale 6 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Greig Farm 8 Aug (SR).

Lark Sparrow: Clinton Corners 22, 23 Aug (BM,CP,DK)

Grasshopper Sparrow: 5-6 SGNWR 1, 7 Jun; 1-3 CPP 2 Jun – 28 Jul; 5, FY CPP 25 Jul; 2 Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 4 Jun; Red Hook 13 Jul; Greig Farm 8 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: singing Shenorock 4 Jun (JAI).

White-crowned Sparrow: Montgomery 15 Aug (DP).

Summer Tanager: imm male Doodletown 22 Aug (CC).

Blue Grosbeak: Valkill 1 Aug (DW).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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This summer's weather was delightful. Only three days, one in each month, reached or barely exceeded 90° F. June's mean temperature varied from 72.4° at Central Park to 70.4° at Islip, 1° and 2° above normal, respectively. Precipitation was 4.26" at Central Park, close to normal, but 2.48" below normal further out on Long Island, at 1.79". July averaged moderate mean temperatures, the highest being 76.1° at Central Park, close to normal. July rainfall was recorded at 5.59" at Central Park, 0.99" above normal, and 2.96" at Islip, slightly below normal. August's mean temperature was slightly below July's, and slightly below normal—74.5° at Central Park and 71.9° at Islip. And while rainfall averaged lower than normal at Central Park (2.20" was 2.19" below normal), the middle of Long Island saw **14.07"** of rain, **13.57"** of which fell in a 24 hour period

during a freak rain event 12-13 August. Islip picked up a whopping 9.71" of rain in just two hours ending at 6:56 a.m., including an incredible one-hour total of 5.34" between 4:56 and 5:56 a.m. This single event eclipsed Islip's previous wettest August (13.78" in 1990), tied its wettest single month on record (October 2005); and set a new official New York State record for rainfall in a 24-hour period (the previous record was 11.6" at Tannersville on August 27-28, 2011 during Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene).

According to the National Weather Service, "(a)n anomalously deep upper level trough was moving into the northeast the morning of August 13th, transporting deep moisture over Long Island. At the surface, a parent low pressure system was moving across southeast Canada, with secondary low development just south of New York City. Heavy precipitation focused along and just north of the warm front associated with the secondary low pressure system. The mean storm motion was parallel to the orientation of the warm front and was significant in helping maintain heavy rain over Islip, NY for several hours."

The rain overwhelmed storm drains, causing tremendous flooding and damage estimated in the tens of millions of dollars to homes, businesses and government facilities. Sinkholes and road washouts were widespread. In Islip and Brookhaven Townships in Suffolk County, sections of most local and nearly all major roads were impassable, and looked more like lakes and rivers than thoroughfares. The spectacle of cars floating half-submerged down the highways was a familiar one on local newscasts and social media venues. It is interesting that we did not receive reports of flooded-out rails and other marsh denizens as has happened in the past during major flooding events.

There were a number of interesting reports of winter-season waterfowl this summer, including several species that have made Regional news in recent seasons, such as King Eider, Black Scoter, and Red-necked Grebe. It was not a particularly good summer for viewing seabirds from land, but a well-timed and deftly executed deepwater pelagic trip 11-12 August was extremely productive. By reaching Hudson Canyon and establishing a chum slick prior to first light, this See Life Paulagics trip out of Freeport witnessed a stunning assemblage of storm-petrels, including dozens each of **Leach's** and **Band-rumped**, as well as a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** a short time later. This spectacle was enough to awe veteran observers accustomed to finding themselves still chugging southward as the sun rose, then racing mostly unproductively around the Canyon in the short time left before turn-around time. This time, we were treated to leisurely studies of the *Oceanodromas*, followed by the stunning appearance of a **Fea's Petrel**, which made one close pass of the ship. The trip also recorded **Audubon's Shearwater** and **Bridled Tern**, but the regular shearwaters were scarce to absent.

News regarding the shorebird migration was mixed but mostly poor, probably for a variety of unrelated reasons. Counts at Jamaica Bay's East Pond were much lower than historical norms for many species, especially for the

freshwater specialties, such as Lesser Yellowlegs and Long-billed Dowitcher, for which this site represents the Region's premier stopover site. The reported maximum for Lesser Yellowlegs at the East Pond was just 25—astonishingly low by historical standards, where counts in the multi-hundreds have been routine. Quite possibly these trends are attributable to subtle alterations in the habitat quality (for instance due to the salt water intrusion in 2012) rather than any kind of population trends. Consistent with this view were a number of healthy counts of Lesser Yellowlegs flying past outer coast vantages, such as 51 passing Robert Moses SP on 15 August. Needless to say, the still breached and utterly compromised West Pond hosted very few birds of any kind—even salt marsh species seem not to have colonized it in proportion to its size. Grassland species were also poorly reported, with only a single report of three migrating Upland Sandpipers, just two Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and fewer than usual American Golden-Plovers.

The summer gathering of immature of Lesser Black-backed Gulls peaked in mid August, with counts on 14 August of 37 at Jones Beach and 29 at Smith Point CP.

Mid August cold fronts were well monitored this year for landbird migration and morning flight behavior. The cold front that passed through on 13 August produced some interesting migratory movements that were monitored over the next two mornings by Doug Gochfeld at Fort Tilden, Queens, and by SSM at Fire Island, Suffolk. Typical migrants of the season that were conspicuous at both sites included Eastern Kingbird, various swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, and Bobolink. A particularly dramatic flight was noted 18 August, first nocturnally at the Empire State Building in Manhattan, by Jacob Drucker et al., then later by Doug Gochfeld et al. at Fort Tilden, and by Michael McBrien at East Patchogue. Counts of 650 Chimney Swifts at Fort Tilden and 911 Eastern Kingbirds there, plus 141 at East Patchogue, illustrate the value of appropriately focused attention. Most notable in my opinion was the definite presence in these flights of several species for which early fall movements have been correlated with broader irruptions of northern forest-breeding species: Downy Woodpecker, Myrtle Warbler, and Purple Finch. On the basis of these observations, we predicted in August that the fall of 2014 would, like those of 1995 and 2007 among others, feature irruptions by Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, and other forest-breeding species.

A **White-faced Ibis** continued from spring at Captree. A **Brown Booby** was seen and distantly photographed from Fort Tilden on 29 August. New York's second **Common Ringed Plover** was at Cupsogue 24 August. Found by Andrew Baksh on the falling tide, it was seen by many observers on the next rising tide, but never again, unfortunately.

We thank David Wheeler for crunching Region 10's voluminous eBird data though Swan Swan Hummingbird.

Region 10 and New York State lost three long-time, active birders and advocates for the natural world this summer. Jean Bourque, a tireless and dedicated defender of wildlife and its habitat in New York City, passed away June 9. Larry Merryman, indomitable conservationist and stalwart pillar of the Great South Bay Audubon Society, died on June 26. Diana Teta, an active birder for decades on Long Island, in New York City, and beyond, and well-known to many, passed away in mid July. Each will be sorely missed, and our heartfelt condolences go out to their family and friends.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, QUEE; Calv – Calverton grasslands (former Grumman property), SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue County P, SUFF; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CR – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CRCP – Connetquot Ri SP, SUFF; DOP – Dreier Offerman P (Calvert Vaux P), KING; EH – East Hampton, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, QUEE; FI – Fire Island; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; IHP – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; JamBay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE, (East Pd unless otherwise indicated); JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End, NASS; LCP – Lemon Creek P, RICH; LI – Long Island; MB – Mecox Bay and flats, SUFF; MPSNC – Marine P Saltmarsh Nature Center, KING; Mtk – Montauk, SUFF; NB – Nickerson Beach, NASS; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock In area; SMCP – Shirley Marina CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; WNWR – Wertheim NWR; WWP – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: injured, Northville farm pond, 4 reports 7 Jun-2 Aug.

Mute Swan: max 133 MB 16 Aug (AnW); 101 JamBay 10 Jul (ABk).

King Eider: Plumb Beach, KING 29, 31 Aug (ShB, mob).

Common Eider: large counts from the area of the Fishers I breeding areas include 67 Fishers I 6 Aug (J. Sep), 25 Plum I 1 Aug (J. Sep), and 20 Great Gull I 14 Jun (JDi); reports from regular summering sites in eastern LI include 2 Shinn 22 Jun – 10 Aug (mob) and 17 Mtk Seal Haulout Trail 3 Aug (AnW); westward, 4 NB 7 Jun (BBE) and one JBWE 24 Jul (KeF, SF) were notable.

Surf Scoter: 1-2 inds reported from Orient, Mecox, Shinn, Seatuck NWR, RMSP in SUFF, and NB and Long Beach in NASS 1 Jun-25 Aug.

White-winged Scoter: max 5 South Dumpling 8 Jun, and 4 Orient Causeway 29 Aug; 1-2 inds reported from Orient Pt, Amagansett, Georgica (EH), Plum I, and Shoreham 24 Jun-24 Aug.

Black Scoter: unusually numerous and widespread this summer: max 120, 110 Georgica Beach 22 Jun, 29 Jul; 100 Davis Park, FI 13 Jul; 90 Camp Hero, Mtk 17 Jul; 84 RMSP 2 Jun; 55 Orient Pt 1 Jun; numerous and widespread reports involving 1-5 inds from all counties except NEWY.

Long-tailed Duck: last rep JBSP 11 Aug (JDi).

Northern Bobwhite: 1-3 inds reported from 10 widespread locs; most or all now probably from release programs.

Red-throated Loon: CCP 4 & 9 Jun; WNWR 13 Jun; Shinn 22 Jun.

Common Loon: max 44 RMSP 1 Jun (M.Britt); 20 Shinn 1 Jun; most notable among numerous and widespread later reports was one at CP Res 6-8 Jun.

Horned Grebe: MB 11 & 14 Jul (JSh), rare in summer.

Red-necked Grebe: MB 14 Jul thru (JSh, mob), rare in summer.

Northern Fulmar: 6 pelagic NY Shelf 11 Jun (JSh, DR, L.Hertzog), ph.

FEA'S PETREL: SeeLife Paulagics trip Hudson Canyon 12 Aug (DG, mob), ph, potentially the 1st fully documented record for NYS.

Cory's Shearwater: max 79 Hudson Canyon 13 Jul (AnW, DR, JSh); two reps of poss *Scopoli's*: Mtk pelagic 3 Aug (T. Floyd) & Hudson Canyon 12 Aug (D. Weber, ph); about 20 reps from shore, max 9 CCP 13 Jul (DG, PJL, SSM); 1 Rockaway P, QUEE 7 Jun (M. Shanley) & 2 JBSP 15 Jun (J. Gag.) were the westernmost.

Great Shearwater: highest counts 139 Hudson Canyon 22 Jun (AnW, DR, JSh) & 100 off Mtk 29 Jun (D. LaMagna); about 15 reps from shore through period, max 5 Shinn 14 Jun (ABk).

Sooty Shearwater: relatively few this year; high counts 9 RMSP 1 Jun (MB, KeF, SF) & 13 RMSP 2 Jun (ABk); last from land CCP 4 Jun

(MMcB); last Block Canyon 27 Aug (N. Bonomo).

Manx Shearwater: max 3 Hudson Canyon 22 Jun (AnW, DR, JSh); 9 reps of 1-2 inds, e.g., RMSP 1 Jun (MB) & Montauk Pt 20 Aug (M. Scheibel).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 3 pelagic 90-100 mi se Shinn 1 Aug (AnW, DR, JSh); 2 pelagic outer Block Canyon, 1 middle grounds 9 Aug (AnW, DR, JSh); 1 pelagic middle grounds 10 (Aug AnW, DR, JSh); 6 SeeLife Paulagics trip Hudson Canyon 12 Aug (DG, mob), ph; 20 pelagic Block Canyon 27 Aug (N. Bonomo).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: max 1,060 Hudson Canyon 12 Aug (DG et al.); other high counts 100 off Mtk 29 Jun (D. LaMagna), 115 Hudson Canyon 13 Jul (AnW, DR, JSh), & 219 Hudson Canyon 2 Aug (AnW, DR, JSh); many reps of small numbers from shore Long Beach, NASS to Mtk, max 15 CCP 11 Jul (Cin-Ty Lee).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: pelagic "Fishtails" se Shinn 1 Aug (AnW, DR, JSh), ph; SeeLife Paulagics trip mid Hudson Canyon 12 Aug (DG, mob), ph.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: 8 pelagic se Shinn 22 Jun (AnW, DR, JSh); 2 pelagic se Shinn 22 Jun (AnW, DR, JSh); 6 pelagic se Shinn 1 Aug (AnW, DR); pelagic se Shinn 9 Aug (AnW, JSh); 43 SeeLife Paulagics trip Hudson Canyon 12 Aug.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 12 pelagic se Shinn 1 Aug (AnW, DR); 23 pelagic se Shinn 1 Aug (AnW, DR, JSh); 56 SeeLife Paulagics trip Hudson Canyon 12 Aug.

BROWN BOOBY: sub ad FT 29 Aug (CF, LM, ph.)

Brown Pelican: JBSP 3 Jun (E. Becher); JBWE 23 Jul (ABk); prob same bird Pt. Lookout 23 Jul (BF); LCP 25 Jul (ACi); 3 Cedar Beach, T Babylon 4 Aug; 2 JBWE 5 Aug (S. Schellenger, W. Blazey); Tobay, NASS 9 Aug (J. Gag); JBWE 9 Aug (TWB, GB), seen 30 min later at RMSP (PJL).

Least Bittern: 1-2 ads, 3 young Arshamogue Pres, T. Southold SUFF 23 Jun-26 Jul (mob), only location.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Captree I, SUFF 1 Jun (KeF, SF, mob), cont from spring, last rep 13 Jun.

Black Vulture: max 3 various locs RICH; Caumsett SP, SUFF 22 Jun (PJL, SSM), ph.

Turkey Vulture: max for LI 14 Calv 23 Aug (B. Washburn); nest with downy young EH 21 Jun (R. Poveromo et al.), ph p. 336.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Red-shouldered Hawk: LI sightings: Blydenburgh CP 21 Jun; CRSP 22 Jun; WNWR 2 Jun; Caumsett SP 26 Jul & 7 Aug; Melville 11 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: max 5 Riverhead sod farms 22 Aug; CCP 25 Aug; 3 BFB 29 Aug; JBSP 29 Aug; JamBay 31 Aug.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER: ad m CCP 24 Aug (ABk, mob), ph; second documented record for NYS.

American Avocet: IHP 15 Jul; 1-3 JamBay 28 Jul-6 Aug; SMSP 30 Jul (SSM, mob); SPCP 1 Aug (M. Scheibel); CCP 9 Aug (CF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 55 SMCP 27 Jul (J. LeClaire); max at JamBay only 25 8 Aug; 51 migr RMSP 15 Aug (SSM).

Upland Sandpiper: 3 Rocky Point DEC 30 Jul (R. Kaskan), only report.

Hudsonian Godwit: CCP 25 Jul, 25-26 Aug; 6 JamBay 30 Aug, down to 2 here 31 Aug.

Marbled Godwit: max 6 CCP 21, 22 Aug (mob).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 2500 JamBay 27 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: CCP 13 Jul (DG, PJL, SSM), ph; max 11 JamBay 23 Aug, 9 SMCP 26 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 300 JamBay 24 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 28 JamBay 28 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: JBWE 26-29 Jul; 1-2 JamBay 29 Aug thru.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 9 Jul CCP, where usually scarce; 13 Jul JamBay; max 39 JamBay 13 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: ad HSP 13-19 Aug, unusual in Region; JBWE 28 Aug.

RUFF: no reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 1500 JamBay 14 Jul, 442 CCP 3 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: OMNSA 16 Jul; 2 JamBay 27 Jul, reports of one bird here various dates thru; Timber Pt Golf Course, SUFF 4 Aug (SSM).

Wilson's Phalarope: SMCP 4-8 Jun; JamBay 29 Jul.

Red-necked Phalarope: JBWE 13 Aug; Pt Lookout 13 Aug; SMCP 3 Aug.

Little Gull: ad-like eastern LI Sound 25 Jul (SSM, PJL); JBWE 10-11 Aug (K. Fung, MMcBr, mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 6 RMSP 1 Jun (MB); two high counts 14 Aug: 37 JBSP (M. Andersen) & 29 SPCP (DR).

Glaucous Gull: imm Terrapin Pt, JamBay 13 Jun (ABk).

BRIDLED TERN: second cal yr, SeeLife Paulagics trip Hudson Canyon 12 Aug (DG, mob), ph.

Gull-billed Tern: unus locs: SPCP 24 Jun (J. LeClaire), Camp Hero, Mtk 24 Jun (K. VanVuren), Mecox 6 Aug (K. Nilsen), Captree I 15 Aug (M. Andersen).

Caspian Tern: JamBay 13, 17 Aug; Orient Harbor Wetlands 17 Aug.

Black Tern: max 11 Shinn 22 Aug, 10

Napeague Harbor 11 Aug; poor showing.

ARCTIC TERN (R10): CCP 21 Jun; CCP 28 Jun; fewer than in recent years.

Royal Tern: first report 6 Jul MB; max 34 CCP and 16 JBWE 9 Aug.

SANDWICH TERN: MB 6 Jul (HMcG); NB 8 Jul (BF).

Black Skimmer: 1025 breeding colony NB 6 Aug (BF).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: various locs w side Manhattan from 22-29th Sts 22 Jun-9 Aug (D. Ringer, mob).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: CCP 10 Jun (S. Barth, W. D'Anna, C. Morien).

Common Nighthawk: maxes for various locs include: 19 Sep's Farm, E. Marion 31 Aug; 14 PP 28 Aug; 13 Southard's Pd 28 Aug; 13 Stony Brook 25 Aug; 8 HSP 28 Aug.

Chuck-will's-widow: reports from traditional breeding locs 8 Jun-24 Jul inc max 3 Napeague, 1-2 FI and Quogue; one outlier near Ross's School, EH 8 Jun.

Chimney Swift: 650 FT 18 Aug (DG, LM).

Red-headed Woodpecker: CP 21 Jun (J. Spindel).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Bryant P, NEWY 4 Jun (S. Stuart).

Downy Woodpecker: definite influx beginning 8 Aug, with 24+ reports barrier beaches, as many as 3 per day RMSP (KeF, SF, SSM).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 1,4 Jun; CP 4, 9 Aug; FBF 23 Aug; CP 24 Aug; 2 PP 29 Aug.

Eastern Kingbird: 911 mig FT 18 Aug (DG); 141 mig E. Patchogue 18 Aug (MMcBr); 100 DOP 18 Aug (K. Randall).

American Crow: max 81 private farm EH 31 Aug (AnW).

Fish Crow: max 126 New Dorp, RICH 16 Aug (H. Fischer).

COMMON RAVEN (R10): numerous widespread reports from all counties; max 5 Calv 21 Jun; nested on Hampton Bays water tower again this year.

Cliff Swallow: present at APEC through Jul (S. Perreault et al.), no direct evidence of breeding.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Seatuck NWR 17 Jun; SMSP 5 Aug; Wagner College, RICH 27 Aug; RMSP 28 Aug; PP 29 Aug; FBF 30 Aug.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 37 FT 18 Aug (DG, LM); 22 E. Patchogue 18 Aug (MMcB).

Cedar Waxwing: 131 RMSP 7 Aug (SSM); 326 FT 15 Aug (DG).

WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 6 Aug, most records from NYC parks.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 Aug; most records from NYC parks; easternmost Southards Pd 21-22 Aug (PM, C. Cammarota), Rocky Pt, SUFF 4 Aug (R. Kaskan).

Northern Waterthrush: highest counts 19 FT 18 Aug (DG et al.), 16 FT 15 Aug (DG), & 11 RMSP 15 Aug (SSM).

Golden-winged Warbler: PP 15-16 Aug, only report.

"Brewster's Warbler": RMSP 16 Aug (KeF, SF).

Prothonotary Warbler: JamBay w side East Pd 15 Aug; Mtk Seal Haul-out Trail 17 Aug (AnW).

Tennessee Warbler: about 10 reports, the earliest and easternmost RMSP 15 Aug (SSM).

Mourning Warbler: two reports 18 Aug: PP (M. Yuan) & Jam Bay (A Bk).

Kentucky Warbler: Bethpage, NASS 22 Aug (J. Gag).

Cerulean Warbler: f PP 15 Aug (R. Jett, W. Pollard, S. Sime).

Yellow Warbler: 62 FT 18 Aug (DG, LM).

Palm Warbler: *palmarum* Randall's I 3 Aug (A. Drogin), very early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: this year fetured an early fall flight, *intro.*: PP 8 Aug (K. O'Hearn, K. Toomey), 19 Aug (R. Manian), & 29 Aug (I. Conte, K. Toomey); FT 15 Aug (DG); E. Patchoge, SUFF 18 Aug (MMcB); Jam Bay 29 Aug (ABk).

Yellow-throated Warbler: 2 singing males CRSP 6 Jun-17 Jul, but no evidence of breeding this yr; RMSP 16 Aug (KeF, SF).

Yellow-breasted Chat: DOP 7 Jun (AxW); FT 16 Aug (CF); JBWE 29 Aug (S. Walter).

TOWHEES-WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 1-2 reported from Gabreski Airport 1 Jun-9 Aug, known breeding loc.

Lark Sparrow: RMSP 7-9 Aug (KeF, SF, mob); Green-Wood Cem, KING 12 Aug; HSP 24 Aug (SF).

Savannah Sparrow: max 8 Calv 17 Jun (M. Schrimpf), breeding.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 29 Calv 1 Jun; also reported from other fields in Calverton, Gabreski Airport, Morton NWR during Jun & Jul, and Aquebogue 18 Aug.

Nelson's Sparrow: Plumb Beach, KING 1, 7 Jun, cont from 31 May (H. Lopes, R. Jett, K Randall).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bryant P, NEWY 4 Jun (S. Stuart).

White-throated Sparrow:

Dark-eyed Junco:

Summer Tanager: Old Stump Rd, Brookhaven, SUFF 6 Jul (C. Fernandez).

Blue Grosbeak: 1-2 Calv area 2-28 Jun; Joline Ave Beach, RICH 6 Jun; 1-2 CR 7 Jun-19 Aug; 2 WPP 15 Jun-27 Aug; Charleston, RICH 11 Aug; Green-Wood Cem, KING 24 Aug.

Dickcissel: JamBay 17 Aug (J. Cole, R, Aracil); MPSNC, KING 23 Aug (D. Hrehowsik, R. Manian, K. Costello).

Red-winged Blackbird: 2960 FT 18 Aug (DG, LM); 963 E. Patchogue 18 Aug (MMcB).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 16 Calv 26 Jul (AnW), breeding.

Purple Finch: RMSP 15 Aug (SSM).

EXOTICS

Chukar: 20th St, Brooklyn 14 Jul (T. Yarden).

African Collared-Dove: IHP 16 Jul.

Budgerigar: PP 16 Jun; MPSNC 12 Jul.

No. Red Bishop: Brooklyn Bridge P 13 Jul (J. Liss).

Scaly-breasted Munia: Brooklyn Botanic Garden 28 Jun.

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American Avocets, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, *Queens*, 29 Jul 2014, © Andrew Baksh.



Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Hudson Canyon, 12 Aug 2014, © Doug Gochfeld.

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

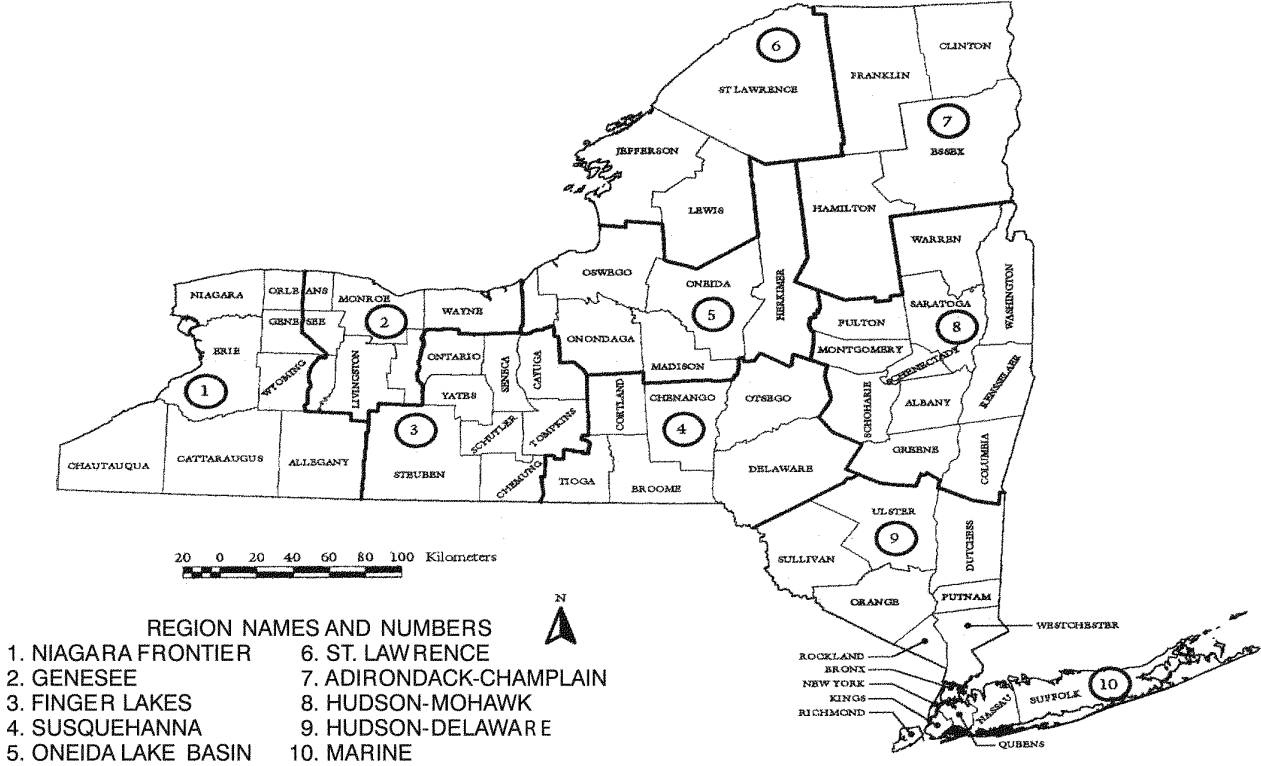
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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