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Editor – S. S. Mitra

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Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Round Lake, *Saratoga*, 11 July 2015, © Scott Stoner.

Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Fort Drum, *Jefferson*, 9 July, 2014, © Sue Barth.

**THE RETURN OF BALD EAGLES
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
AS BREEDING BIRDS TO LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK**

Bob Grover (corresponding author)

Director of Environmental Sciences, GPI, Babylon, NY
rgrover@gpinet.com

MaryLaura Lamont

Park Ranger, William Floyd Estate, Fire Island National Seashore
Woodpink59@gmail.com

Mike Scheibel

Natural Resource Manager, Mashomack Preserve, The Nature
Conservancy
mscheibel49@gmail.com

The recent return of the majestic Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) as a breeding bird to Long Island after ~75 years absence has generated great excitement both among the birding community and in the news media. This article examines the history of Bald Eagles nesting on Long Island, their disappearance, and, after a long hiatus, their recent return.

Long Island's documented ornithological history is unusually long and detailed. This wealth of knowledge is probably partly due to the island's distinctive geography and ecology, but it is certainly also a consequence of the island's location near New York City. Home to generations of biologists, research centers such as the venerable American Museum of Natural History, and birding hotspots such as Central Park, New York City is an epicenter of North American ornithology and has accumulated a vast historical database of avian species occurrence going back well over a century. A detailed history of the Bald Eagle's status on Long Island can be traced through this database.

The oldest reference we could locate regarding the breeding of Bald Eagles on Long Island is in *The Birds of Long Island*, authored by J. P. Giraud in 1844. Giraud observed that Bald Eagles were "quite abundant" on Long Island in winter, with "60 to 70 shot in one season" (gasp!). He also noted that he "never observed a nest on Long Island", but, of course, the island still had vast wild areas with little access in 1844. Bull (1964) wrote that it "undoubtedly bred" in remote areas of Long Island and elsewhere from the 1870s to the 1890s, but that there was little information available.

Chapman, in his 1906 *The Birds of the Vicinity of New York City*, stated that Bald Eagles were “rather rare but breed in several locations.” This work pertained not exclusively to Long Island, but also to the greater metropolitan area, the Lower Hudson River Valley, and northern New Jersey, and does not specifically parse out the birds’ status on Long Island. Eaton (1914) wrote that the Bald Eagle “formerly nested in many places along the shores of Long Island” but that persecution caused the abandonment of the majority of these sites. Griscom’s *Birds of the New York City Region* in 1923 (pertaining to roughly the same areas as Chapman), observed generally that eagles were locally common in summer but nesting was not confirmed, yet made a specific reference to Mastic, Long Island, stating they were a fairly common summer resident there, and “may breed.”

Cruickshank, in his *Birds Around New York City* (1942), specifically observed that Bald Eagles bred on Gardiners Island “until 1930.” The literature is sparse over the next few decades, until Bull’s landmark *Birds of the New York Area* was published in 1964. Bull added the observation that Bald Eagles were common on Long Island in the winter until the 1930s, and reiterated Cruickshank’s observation that they bred on Gardiners Island until the 1930s.

The decline of Bald Eagles throughout New York State as a result of habitat loss, human interference, and illegal shooting had already reduced the population to fewer than 20 pairs by the mid 20th century, and, after World War II, the use of the pesticide DDT brought them to near extirpation. By 1960, nesting activity had ceased at most of the known locations, and by 1970, there remained only a single, unsuccessful pair at Hemlock Lake, near Rochester. With the enactment of federal legislation and a growing conservation movement, the birds finally began a slow recovery.

As is typical of the *Accipitridae*, Bald Eagles are not possessed of great fecundity, for which they compensate by long life span and a relatively long period of parental care. Nevertheless, the sharp curtailment in illegal hunting and the nationwide ban on DDT in 1972 was not enough to facilitate their recovery without intervention. Fortunately, the State implemented a successful reintroduction program in 1976, a cooperative effort by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Cornell University, to aid in the species’ recovery.

New York’s Bald Eagle Restoration Project undertook an unprecedented goal—to bring back a breeding population of eagles to New York by importing young birds from other states and hand rearing them to independence, a process known as “hacking”. As stated in the draft 2015 NYSDEC Conservation Plan for Bald Eagles in NYS (Town 2015), between 1976 and 1988 biologists collected 198 nestling bald eagles, most of them from Alaska. They transported the eaglets to suitable habitats in New York, provided food while the birds became accustomed to their new environment, and released them when they were able to fly. The hacked eagles thrived, returning to New York to nest and

breed. By 1988, the hacking project had reached its goal of establishing 10 breeding pairs, and was ended. The population continued to grow, and in 2007 Bald Eagles were removed from the list of threatened and endangered species. In 2014, 254 pairs in 331 tracked territories were occupying nests. The eagles' decline and subsequent slow recovery has been well chronicled by many investigators and nicely summarized by Peter Nye, himself an instrumental figure in the recovery effort, in Levine (1998) and McGowan and Corwin (2008). A comprehensive report is found in Town (2015).

Despite successful reintroduction in the rest of the State, Bald Eagles remained absent on Long Island. Two relatively recent comprehensive surveys, published in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988), and *The Second Atlas of the Breeding Birds in New York State* (2008), found no Long Island breeding records of Bald Eagles in the periods covered, 1980-1985 and 2000-2005, respectively.

In 2006, the first Bald Eagle nest on Long Island since the 1930s was discovered on Gardiners Island by MaryLaura Lamont (MLL). Since that time several more nest sites have been confirmed as well. Mike Scheibel (MS) has been compiling records of Bald Eagle activity on Long Island from 2006 to the present, in his capacity as a wildlife biologist for NYSDEC and, more recently, The Nature Conservancy. These records document recent nesting activity at five aeries, all in Suffolk County: 1) Gardiners Island, Town of East Hampton; 2) Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, Shirley, Town of Brookhaven 3) Mashomack Preserve, Town of Shelter Island, 4) Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, Town of Islip; and 5) William Floyd Estate, Mastic Beach, Town of Brookhaven. Other suspected locations include Northern Nassau County (Mill Cove, Oyster Bay, Laurel Hollow), Town of Oyster Bay, and the Peconic River area, Town of Riverhead. Details on these sightings are as follows.

Following approximately seventy-five years absence as a breeding species in this region, Bald Eagles were found near a nest on the north end of Gardiners Island in 2006. This discovery was made on 16 December when MLL, participating in the Montauk Christmas Bird Count on this privately-owned island, noted a large stick nest in a live red oak, set back in the oak forest near Bostwick Pond. Two immature-plumaged eagles were observed interacting near the nest site. MLL suspected it might be an eagle's nest but was unable to confirm it that day.

Access to the island is restricted, dependent on the presence of the landowners and the clemency of sea conditions. No access was possible for the Christmas Bird Counts from 2007-2009, but returning to the island in 2010, MLL again detected the large stick nest from some distance. Again, time constraints prevented her from inspecting it at closer range. In 2011, she finally examined the nest closely, and confirmed it was indeed a Bald Eagle nest. One

immature and two adult eagles were in the vicinity, the adult female actively harassing the observer. A second immature bird was found later at a nearby location (Lamont 2012, 2014). The eagles were observed around the nest site again during the Christmas Bird Counts in 2012 and 2013, and nesting activity was reportedly observed earlier in these seasons. On 27 June, 2014, MS confirmed active nesting at this site when he observed a single juvenile-plumaged eaglet in the nest. This site likely remained active through the 2015 season, but no further information is available.

At Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, on the Carmans River, a visiting kayaker or canoeist reported a possible eagle's nest to refuge staff in the spring of 2013. The nest, located in a live pitch pine, was later confirmed, but productivity was uncertain. Nevertheless, an immature eagle was seen with an adult during the fall and winter of 2013. In 2014, nesting success was again uncertain, but 1-2 immatures were seen with an adult in the fall of 2014. In 2015 nesting success was confirmed, with the presence of a juvenile-plumaged bird near the nest site.

At the Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island, a nest in a live black oak was originally observed by MS in January 2014, and on 5 March, it was occupied by an incubating adult eagle. On 21 April, one eaglet was seen in the nest, and on 10 June, two young (aged ~62 days) were observed flapping in the nest. On 3 July two fledglings were seen flying over nearby Gibson Beach in the company of both adults. In 2015, three young were fledged on or about 1 July from this nest. See Figures 1 and 2, pp. 309-310.

In 2015, at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Great River, a 3-4 year old and an adult eagle appeared to be usurping an old Osprey nest in a live pitch pine, as first reported by John Gluth in mid-March. He later observed the male carrying sticks to the nest. Subsequently, there were interactions between the eagles and Ospreys in the area, and, while breeding was apparently unsuccessful, the eagles are back in the vicinity as we go to press. These may well be the same birds observed in spring of 2015 and sporadically throughout the following winter at Connetquot River State Park, immediately to the north.

The return of Bald Eagles to the William Floyd Estate after a long absence there was also discovered by MLL, in 2015. The estate, now a separate operating unit of the National Park Service's Fire Island National Seashore, was home to the famous naturalist John Treadwell Nichols (1883-1958), who married Cornelia Floyd in 1910. He is said to have written about eagles nesting on the property. The nest is known to have been there in the 1920s and possibly the 1930s, after which the eagles disappeared, as did all the others on Long Island and across most of the country.

In November 2014 MLL observed a female Bald Eagle on the estate. The bird remained all winter, and in February 2015, was being courted by a male. What made this nesting all the more unusual was that the female was a third year bird; her mate was a full adult (Fig. 3, p. 310). On 21 March the female was found incubating in the nest. Judging by the actions of both parents, it appeared

that an egg or eggs had hatched around 20-21 April. By 27 April the parents were repeatedly observed feeding their eaglet(s). On 2 May a single fluffy, white, head could be seen bobbling within the nest (Fig. 4, p. 311). By 21 May, the eaglet had molted into all-black plumage, except for two white, downy feathers sticking out of the top of its head. By 9 June the eaglet was flapping its wings and by 19 June it was half the size of its mother. Despite her inexperience, the mother successfully fledged her eaglet on 13 July (Fig. 5, p. 311). All three stayed in the area until the end of July.

In addition to these confirmed nesting attempts, two suspected attempts were reported to MS in recent years. In Northern Nassau County, eagles were sighted during the 2012 breeding season in Mill Cove, Oyster Bay and Laurel Hollow, likely involving the same birds. These reports were supplemented by photos of two adults perched during July of 2012 in Laurel Hollow. Along the Peconic River, numerous sightings were reported from around the village of Riverhead in 2015, including one of a bird carrying nesting material in the Flanders area.

The return of breeding Bald Eagles to Long Island is a part of the on-going recovery of the species in New York State. The cooperative effort by NYSDEC, USFWS, and Cornell University, coupled with the nationwide ban on DDT, proved to be one of the most successful conservation stories of our time. Long Island, with its still-plentiful woodland, river, and coastline habitats, is a natural place for this population to expand.

Even as of this writing, reports of eagle sightings, many with photos, are pouring in to local listservs, regional compilers, the eBird database, and birding websites across Long Island. With this ongoing, steady increase in observations, we anticipate that additional nestings will be attempted in the spring of 2016.

What a wonderful addition to the “birdscape” of Long Island.

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**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
68TH ANNUAL MEETING, ALBANY, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 3, 2015**

The 68th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held at the Radisson Hotel in Albany, NY on October 3, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed 24 delegates from 19 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Nancy Kern made a motion to approve the September 20, 2014 Annual Meeting minutes as published in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 64 No. 4. Kevin Griffith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

President's Report by Kathryn Schneider:

Kathy presented her written report which she made available to the delegates. Three issues of *The Kingbird* were printed last year. To address publication delays of *The Kingbird*, a new position, Production Editor, was formally established to help the Editor with proofreading, and to work as a liaison with the printer and the U.S. Postal Service. Patricia Lindsay has filled this new position. Kathy stated that additional Regional Editors are needed and provided a map of *The Kingbird* reporting regions along with a list of Regional Editors indicating vacancies. Regional Editors play a vital role beyond reporting sightings by analyzing regional data and documenting notable exceptions in the context of long-term trends and environmental changes. NYSOA also continues to organize the annual statewide waterfowl count. Bill Ostrander is the coordinator and compiles the results, which are published in *The Kingbird* and on the NYSOA website. The 2015 *Checklist of Birds of New York State* was published reflecting new state records accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) and taxonomic changes dictated by the American Ornithologists Union. Looking ahead, NYSOA participated in the planning meetings for the third Breeding Bird Atlas for New York State, set to begin in 2020.

The Annual Meetings continue to provide a special opportunity for birders—not only to learn more about birds during field trips, educational workshops, scientific presentations, and special tours, but also to mingle with other birders. NYSOA's newsletter, *New York Birders* is published quarterly. Kathy encouraged members to opt for the electronic version, which saves time, money, and natural resources. A spring field trip was held in the Adirondacks with 22 participants. The New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) held a field trip nearly every month. The NYSYBC has grown from 11 members in 2008 to 54 members in 2015. Kathy highlighted the work of the Marketing and Publicity Committee to help NYSOA grow its membership. The committee started a NYSOA Facebook page and ran the great hat give away at the conference.

Kathy highlighted the work of the Conservation Committee which published four informative articles in *New York Birders*. The committee represented NYSOA in the Birders Coalition for Gateway, working to influence the restoration of West Pond at Jamaica Bay, provided comments on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) State Wildlife Action Plan for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and provided comments on the DEC's Bald Eagle Conservation Management Plan. NYSOA also approved a member organization grant to Delaware-Otsego Audubon to create and distribute educational materials about alternatives to lead ammunition.

Treasurer's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy provided the following documents: the Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity for December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2015. He also provided the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Fund Activity and Balances for December 31, 2014. Andy encouraged members to support NYSOA by renewing at a higher level.

Audit Report by Andy Mason:

Andy Mason reported that the Audit Committee had completed the 2014 audit and found NYSOA's finances in good order.

New Member Club Vote: Pat Aitken moved to accept **Seatuck Environmental Association** as an organizational member of NYSOA. Bill Lee seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

NYSOA Committee Reports:

Linda Clark Benedict gave the **Archives Committee Report**. The archives are located at the Cornell University Library. The NYSOA website has a list of what is included in the archives.

Bill Ostrander gave the **Awards Committee Report**. The following were this year's awards: The Lillian C. Stoner Award recipient was Joseph Hernandez. Certificates of Appreciation were given to Brian White and Connie Soja for hosting the Townsend's Solitaire in Erieville in December 2014; Candace Giles for hosting the Varied Thrush in Irondequoit in April 2015; and Aidan Perkins and his parents for hosting the Bohemian Waxwing in Suffolk County in January 2015. The Emanuel Levine Memorial Award recipients were Guy A. Baldassare and Joshua Stiller for *Habitat Use and Migration Chronology of Waterfowl on the Upper Hudson River, New York*. *Kingbird* 64(2): 90-101.

Andy Mason gave the **Conservation Committee Report**. Andy introduced the Committee members and highlighted some of the year's activities. He also provided a written report. Comments were submitted on the NY State Open Space Conservation Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, and the DEC's draft 2015

Bald Eagle Conservation Management Plan. The Committee has continued participation in the Enterprise Park at Calverton Coalition, monitoring development proposals for this large grassland habitat in eastern Long Island; and the Plum Island Coalition and efforts to ensure that Plum Island (off Long Island) is protected rather than developed. The Committee monitored the Remsen-Lake Placid Unit Management Plan calling for creation of a recreation trail along an existing rail bed. There is continued involvement in future management plans for the Gateway National Recreation Area, primarily led by Seth Ausubel. Seth discussed Jamaica Bay and how it was breached in 2012 by Hurricane Sandy. He discussed Phase 1 of the plan, which will restore water control structures and reestablish fresh water habitat for birds. There will be a public comment period for the plan. The Committee continues to publish a quarterly conservation column in *New York Birders*. Andy encouraged members to bring conservation issues to the Committee.

Carena Pooth gave the report on **County Listing**. She provided a written report. There were 114 submissions last year, a new high. New for 2015 is the NYS Pelagic Zone. The form and additional information will be in the October issue of *New York Birders* and the deadline for 2015 data submission is March 1, 2016.

Tim Baird gave the **Marketing and Publicity Committee Report**. Tim talked about the NYSOA hat give-away for members who attended this year's Annual Meeting. He is looking for more marketing ideas and plans to use press releases to publicize the work of NYSOA. The goal is to increase membership. Greg Lawrence discussed the new NYSOA Facebook page and announced it now has 195 "likes". Mary Beth Warburton discussed field trips and would like more ideas on where members would like to go.

Pat Aitken gave the **Membership and Circulation Committee Report**. Pat provided a written report. Annual memberships through September 2015 show 486 total members and 42 club and organization memberships.

There was no **New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) Report**.

Carena Pooth gave the **New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) Report**. She provided a written report. It details the membership numbers, ages, and geographic distribution of members. The club has entered its eighth year. There are currently 54 members, up from 11 members in 2008. Members range from 10 to 19 years old. The January Annual Kickoff meeting is the most heavily attended event each year. The club holds monthly field trips around the state. Carena encouraged those in attendance to donate bird books and other birding stuff for the club's Book & Stuff Swap. The club gives out scholarships, and gave out \$3000 to nine young birders this past year. New this year is the

NYSYBC Independent Big Day activity which enables Youth Members unable to participate in the World Series of Birding to help raise money for the Scholarship Fund.

Publications Reports:

Shai Mitra gave *The Kingbird Report*. Shai talked about the new Production Manager position filled by Patricia Lindsay. He said that Regional Editors are needed for *The Kingbird*. Shai is looking into revising the style sheet for the Regional Reports.

Joan Collins gave the *New York Birders Report*. She became Editor with the January 2015 issue. She plans to include poetry and a NYSOA volunteer feature in each issue. Joan asked attendees to send articles since this is a publication for the birders of NYS. She also encouraged members to opt for the electronic version of *New York Birders* which features color, live links for email and web pages, and arrives much quicker than the paper copy sent through Post Office mail.

Research Committee Reports:

Joan Collins gave the *Atlas 2020-2025 Report*. Joan reported that there have been two conference calls and one face to face meeting so far this year among NYSOA, DEC, Cornell Lab, and Audubon NY representatives. Data entry for the third NYS Breeding Bird Atlas will most likely be through an eBird portal. The Atlas will need the participation of as many NY birders as possible.

Bill Ostrander gave the *NYS Waterfowl Count Report*. Bill is the coordinator, and compiles the statewide regional data results for publication in *The Kingbird* and on the website.

Carena Pooth gave the *Website and Information Services Report*. She provided a written report which lists the most visited pages on the nybirds.org and nysyoungbirders.org websites during the past year. The NYS Avian Records Committee page was the most visited on the nybirds.org website. The field trip reports was the most visited page on the nysyoungbirders.org website. The online NYS checklist of birds incorporates the most recent AOU and NYSARC updates. The NYS Young Birders Club website has lots of current and historical information. Photo quizzes, created by the club VP, are new this year.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Report:

Dan Rosenblatt gave the report. He provided a 20-page Bureau of Wildlife Report. Dan highlighted the Young Forest Initiative, Grassland Incentive Program, Breeding Bird Atlas, State Wildlife Funding, Bald Eagle Plan, Piping Plover nest on Lake Ontario, and Plum Island. Dan answered questions from the group on the Mute Swan plan, Young Forest Initiative, Cormorant control, and Bobwhite hunting season on Long Island.

Election of Officers: Seth Ausubel presented the **Nominating Committee Report**. The committee nominated the following 2015-2016 slate of Officers/Directors for election:

Joan Collins – President
Seth Ausubel – Vice President
Mary Beth Warburton – Recording Secretary
Andy Mason – Treasurer

Peter Capainolo – Director (2017)
Dawn O’Neal – Director (2017)
Carena Pooth – Director (2017)
Kathryn Schneider – Director (2017)

Kevin McGowan made a motion to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Bill Lee seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Election of Nominating Committee: Kathy Schneider announced the following names for election to the 2015-2016 **Nominating Committee:** Bob Adamo (Chair), Janet Allison, and Dominic Sherony. Tim Baird made a motion to elect the Nominating Committee. Andy Mason seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Election of Auditing Committee: Kathy Schneider announced the following names for election to the 2015-2016 **Auditing Committee:** John Cairns (Chair), Irving Cantor, and Stephen Chang. Shai Mitra made a motion to elect the Auditing Committee. Nancy Kern seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Old Business: None

New Business: The 2016 Annual Meeting will be hosted by Chemung Valley Audubon Society at the Holiday Inn Elmira-Riverview Hotel September 9-11, 2016.

The Catskill Center is planning to hold a Birding Conference the second weekend in June 2016.

Kevin McGowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Kern seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Secretary pro tem

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

PIPING PLOVERS NEST SUCCESSFULLY ON THE EASTERN SHORES OF LAKE ONTARIO

A pair of Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) successfully nested on the eastern edge of Lake Ontario in 2015. This represents the first nesting in New York State away from the immediate marine coastline in 30 years. In total, five Piping Plovers were observed on these shores during summer 2015. Piping Plovers, which are listed as state and federally endangered, breed farther west on the Great Lakes (www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/pipingplover/index.html), so the nesting we report represents a substantial eastward extension of their current range. The number of nesting plovers on the Great Lakes has risen from 12 pairs in 1990 to 75 pairs in 2015, but all of these were located west of Wasaga Beach, Ontario (Francie Cuthbert, personal communication).

In early June 2015, we received a report from local birder Bill Purcell that a single Piping Plover was spotted on the shoreline of Lake Ontario in Oswego County. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) staff went to the site to confirm the sighting and search for a nest. After several days of searching, it was determined that this was a single bird with no nest. The color band combination and numbers on the USFWS band indicated that this bird hatched in 2014 from a nest on North Manitou Island, part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan, approximately 490 miles (790 km) to the west. On 1 July, a pair of Piping Plovers joined the single bird. These birds were confirmed to be the pair that lost their nest due to inclement weather just days earlier in Toronto, Canada; one of these birds, the male, was banded (on North Manitou Island in 2014, Alice Van Zoeren, personal communication) and this band had been observed at the Toronto location. There was no indication this pair attempted to nest in New York State.

In addition to the Oswego County birds described above, a pair of Piping Plovers was discovered by local photographers Diana Whiting and Sue Phillips on 27 June in Jefferson County, on a stretch of beach approximately a mile long and secluded by water, just four miles north of the Oswego County site. After an intensive search of this stretch of beach, two NYSDEC staff and a volunteer found the pair with a nest containing two eggs. Both adult birds were banded and from the banding combination we determined that they were siblings that hatched from a nest in Wasaga Beach, Ontario, Lake Huron 300 miles (480 km) away, in 2013.

Two days later, in an effort to protect the birds, NYSDEC staff and a volunteer ventured out to the nest site with snow fence, posts and signs. Unfortunately, a heavy rain storm had occurred the day before and we discovered the nest had failed, with only a few pieces of eggshell remaining.

Disappointed, we decided to walk the beach to see if there was any sign of the pair. To our pleasant surprise, about a mile from the original nest which had failed, a new nest was discovered with the pair currently incubating one egg! Two days later this nest had two eggs. Fencing and signs were quickly erected in an attempt to protect the nest from human and dog disturbances. NYSDEC staff, Student Conservation Association (SCA) dune stewards and several volunteers monitored the site over the next several weeks and tried to increase public awareness as to how special this nesting pair was. After much hard work and dedication, we were excited to learn on 25 July that two chicks had hatched from the nest.

This success story was almost lost as a storm had brewed on Lake Ontario just two days prior to the eggs hatching, with waves actually crashing over the nest while the incubating bird sat tight. Staff placed sandbags and large pieces of driftwood around the nest, preventing the water from washing it away. Both chicks were banded on 30 July with USFWS and color bands. The next few days and weeks were trying, as the chicks began to run up and down the beach within harm's way of several predators, including unleashed dogs. On 7 August it was determined that one of the chicks was missing. Finally, on 18 August one of the volunteers spotted the surviving chick and an adult flying over the shoreline waters of Lake Ontario. The chick had successfully fledged.

Acknowledgments—The success of this nest would not have been possible without the help of NYSDEC staff, SCA interns, USFWS staff, Audubon New York staff and several dedicated volunteers.

Irene Mazzocchi [irene.mazzocchi@dec.ny.gov] and **Elizabeth Truskowski**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

COMMON EIDER ON GREAT GULL ISLAND: A NEW NESTING LOCALITY FOR NEW YORK STATE

With the on-going effects of climate change and generally warming temperatures it is expected that a number of southern nesting avian species will extend their ranges northward. McGowan and Zuckerberg (*The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, K. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds., Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2008, pp. 41-42) reviewed some of the difficulties in statistically proving this trend and reviewed data documenting the trend in New York State. Given these expectations, it may be surprising to find a previously northern nesting species extending its nesting range southward. However, over the last twenty years the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) has been moving south as a nesting species.

Historically, the Common Eider was an uncommon winter visitor to New York waters, mainly on eastern Long Island, but increasing in numbers in the latter half of the Twentieth Century (Bull, J. 1974. *Birds of New York State*, Doubleday, New York, pp 143-144). Since the mid-1990s winter numbers of the species around Montauk have further increased into the thousands, sometimes surpassing 10,000 individuals (Spahn, R. 1998. Common Eider, pp. 166-167 in *Bull's Birds of New York State*, E. Levine, ed., Cornell University Press, Ithaca). With the growth in wintering numbers has come the occurrence of increasing numbers of summering individuals leading to the first confirmed breeding of the species in New York on Fishers Island in August 2000 (summarized by McGowan, 2008, pp. 120-121 in *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*). The breeding population on Fishers Island has continued to expand in recent years (Lindsay and Mitra, 2008, *The Kingbird* 58(4):399; Lindsay and Mitra, 2014, *The Kingbird* 64(4):370). McGowan (2008) suggests that it is possible the extension of the species' breeding range south to Rhode Island (1999) and then further south to Fishers Island may have been a result of the introduction of the species from Maine to the Elizabeth Islands off the coast of Massachusetts in the 1970s.

Great Gull Island, a field station of the American Museum of Natural History, lies about 7.5 miles (12 km) to the southeast of Fishers Island in the mouth of Long Island Sound. Researchers studying the large tern colony there are present on the island every summer from late April to early September. Since 2007 DiCostanzo and others have noted small numbers of Common Eiders around the island every summer. Numbers have generally ranged from two to twenty with nearly all individuals being females and immature males. With the increasing number of summering birds and the species nesting on nearby Fishers Island it seemed inevitable that Common Eiders might try to nest on Great Gull Island. On 1 July 2015 DiCostanzo noted a disturbance among the nesting terns north of the main headquarters building on Great Gull Island. The terns appeared to be diving at something atop a low ridge. The disturbance gradually moved downhill and west. DiCostanzo and Dick Young investigated, trying to find the source of the disturbance, but could find nothing in the deep vegetation. They gave up after the terns dispersed. When the terns repeated their disturbed behavior Helen Hays asked Kramer to go to the main tower on the island to see if the additional elevation would help in spotting the source of the disturbance. Kramer spotted a female Common Eider leading six ducklings out of the vegetation and down towards the water.

Over the next two weeks DiCostanzo watched for any sign of the ducklings around the shoreline of the island, but did not spot them. Adult eiders were seen around the island throughout the rest of the summer. It is likely the strong currents present around the island scattered the young eiders after they reached the water. There is no sheltered water on the north side of the island where the female appeared to be leading the young. Unfortunately, there is precedent for this result on the rare occasions that waterfowl have nested on Great Gull Island.

In the summer of 1981 a pair of Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) nested on the island and all but one of the ducklings disappeared as soon as they reached the water. (The remaining young had become separated from the rest of the brood and was left behind. It was hand-raised by students on the island and eventually released.) The only somewhat sheltered stretch of water around Great Gull Island lies off the south side of the island. Perhaps if any future nesting attempts by Common Eiders occurred close enough so that the female chose that spot to take its young to the sea, they might have a better chance of success. Even though this was an apparently unsuccessful nesting attempt it represents an extension of the known breeding range for the Common Eider in New York State and appears to be the southernmost nesting of the species in North America, albeit only by a few miles.

Joseph DiCostanzo, Great Gull Island Project; jdicost@amnh.org
Niles A. Kramer; nilesaugiekramer@gmail.com

BACKYARD SCREECH OWL

In 2011, the Great South Bay Audubon Society (GSBAS) agreed to participate, with Audubon New York, in an American Kestrel nest box program. The GSBAS plan was to purchase six nest boxes and place them in locations with suitable habitat. Being a woodworker, I offered to build and donate one of the boxes, and I suggested the St. Charles Cemetery, in Farmingdale, Suffolk County, as a promising location. On a lark, I built two boxes, since the nest box specifications for American Kestrel and Eastern Screech-Owl are identical, and I had frequently heard screech owls around my yard.

Based on my own empirical data, the Eastern Screech-Owl appears secure in southwestern Suffolk County, where I do most of my birding. Nevertheless, the two state Breeding Bird Atlases show an apparent decline, and in my West Islip neighborhood, they went from confirmed in the 1985 Atlas to probable in the 2005 Atlas. Eastern Screech-Owl is not listed in the Draft 2015 New York State Wildlife Action Plan (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation), which, I suppose, is a good thing.

Coincidentally, the box we put up at St. Charles Cemetery was successful the first year, with five kestrel chicks fledging. That was the only successful box in the GSBAS program, and it has not been successful since. Conversely, I spent four summers evicting European Starlings from the owl box I placed in my yard. It was not an easy battle. The box is mounted on a steel pole about twelve feet high. I chose the location as far away from trees as possible to avoid squirrels and raccoons. Every week or ten days, I would set up a step ladder, open the box, and remove the starling nest. Fortunately, I was able to intervene in each case before any eggs had hatched. 2011 was the worst year, when I removed nine nests and a total of 18 eggs!

On March 9, 2015, I woke up and, while sitting on the edge of the bed putting on my watch, looked out the window and saw a straw-colored object protruding from the nest box entrance hole. I grabbed the resident window sill binoculars, my heart racing, and *voilà*, an Eastern Screech-Owl. The owl would show its head periodically throughout the day, and we could usually watch her fly out at dusk.

On 13 March, just before dusk, I heard a single “toot” note from an Eastern Screech-Owl trill. Then another note. Then a double and a triple, progressing to a Morse code like pattern, and out flew the owl in the direction of the trill. I surmised that “my” owl was a female and the nearby triller was a male. More typical trilling was heard over the next several evenings, but I was unable to visually locate the serenading male in the waning twilight.

On 29 March, I decided to investigate the box interior. Wanting to cause minimal disturbance, I attached a light to my iPod, climbed up the ladder, put the iPod into the entrance hole and clicked away. The system worked perfectly, and I was thrilled to see three eggs in the box. Interestingly, this date corresponds to the earliest egg date listed for the species in Bull’s *Birds of the New York Area* (1964). Given that the first egg could not have been laid later than 27 March, we can infer yet another shift toward earlier breeding phenology among New York State birds. On 15 April, another climb up the ladder revealed that the egg count had increased to five (Fig 1). An examination of the nest on 27 April revealed that one owlet had hatched. This corresponded with a behavioral shift on the part of the adult female, and possibly the male. For example, on 28 April she flew out, as usual, but returned only three minutes later and entered the box, presumably with food. On 3 May, another photograph showed three chicks had hatched (Fig. 2). The frequency of the food deliveries made it more difficult to examine the box. On 4 May, I could hear two owls vocalizing at various times throughout the night.



Figure 1. Five E. Screech-Owl eggs in the nest box, 15 April 2015.



Figure 2. Three recently hatched owlets, 3 May 2015.

On 24 May, as I was sitting out on the deck at dusk, an owl poked its head out. But this was not an adult. Rather, it was a curious little downy, gray-colored chick (Fig. 3). On 27 May, I watched a screech owl feeding frenzy, with presumably both parents bringing food, mostly mice, to the nest at a rate of one per minute. At one point an adult brought a limp mouse and passed it to an awaiting owlet, who, with two heaves, swallowed it whole. That owlet appeared to be the “alpha” and it maintained its position in the entrance hole. A minute later, however, an adult arrived with another mouse and unceremoniously pushed the alpha back into the box to feed one of its siblings.

The following day, 28 May, there was an afternoon rainstorm. That brief storm must have driven earthworms to the surface, because they became the “special of the day”. The parents brought a steady diet of worms, along with plump, bright green caterpillars that I was unable to identify. Evidently, the alpha had a Gary Larson, Farside, moment, “Wait, these are worms! They’re feeding us worms!”, because about two hours after dusk it took off on its inaugural flight. I didn’t expect the owlets to be flight-capable upon leaving the nest cavity, since there is really not enough room in the box for them to fully stretch out their wings. The owlet proved me wrong, and flew about 30 feet to the top of an arbor in the yard. The owlet was quickly joined by both protective parents. This was the first time I had actually observed both red morph parents together. The following evening another owlet was observed leaving the box. This one had less refined flying skills, and scampered around on the grass, under the parents’ watchful eyes, finally disappearing into the gardens. Finally, on 30 May, an owlet was observed in the entrance hole most of the day. We never saw it fly out, but by 9 PM there was no activity at the box. As I write this, we have

not heard or seen any of the owls since 30 May, but we were certainly privileged to enjoy their company for 83 days and nights.

A subsequent examination and cleanout of the box revealed no sign of any occupation, so all five owlets must have fledged. I found several legs which appeared to have belonged to House Sparrows, and a few mouse tails. I never did find any pellets anywhere around the box or in the yard, which I found curious.

All in all, this was a great experience, and I look forward to a repeat performance next spring.

Bob Grover, West Islip; rgrover@gpinet.com



Figure 3. Owlet's first look at the "real world", 24 May 2015.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2015

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314
shaibal.mitra@csi.cuny.edu

June 2015 was very wet through most of the state, including all upstate Regions for which we received reports. There were no strong statewide trends in precipitation for July or August, or for temperature in any month. The intense rainfall experienced by much of western, central, and northern New York State during June presumably affected breeding success in many kinds of birds, but few direct observations supporting this idea were obtained.

Foremost among a number of positives for the breeding season, Piping Plovers nested successfully this summer along the Lake Ontario shore of Jefferson County. This is the first record for New York's Great Lakes shoreline in 30 years and is described in detail in a note in this issue. In Region 9, Ospreys nested successfully this summer in Ulster County, a first for the county in the modern era, and Ulster also recorded its first confirmed Merlin nesting this summer. In Region 8, two observations of Acadian Flycatchers during June suggested a range expansion from the nearest strongholds in Region 9 to the south. Clay-colored Sparrows now breed regularly over large parts of the state, just a few decades after their first confirmed nesting in 1971. Nelson's Sparrow also shows potential for expanding its breeding range into northernmost New York State, as indicated again this year with Nick Leone's discovery of a singing bird on 19 June in Region 6. Meanwhile, Orchard Orioles continued their expansion into Region 6 from the south, furnishing reports of probable and confirmed nesting. At the other end of the state, Cliff Swallows nested again in Region 10, where nesting evidence has been accumulating in recent summers in a relatively small area around the westernmost Long Island Sound, in Bronx and Nassau Counties.

Region 1 made another fine showing in the rarities department, with several remarkable records. A Neotropical Cormorant found by Jim Pawlicki was the Region's second and just the third for the state. Alec Humann's Swallow-tailed Kite was the first summer record for Region 1, and just fourth ever for the Region. A long-staying Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was much admired by many observers. Amazingly, this striking-looking species might be losing some of its mystique, at least in terms of rarity, as occurrences pile up—two more were found in Region 10 in July! A Great White Heron was described well by a single observer at Tobay, Nassau County, Long Island, on 16 July, but unfortunately no photos were obtained. This example illustrates the value of detailed descriptions and photos of even quite striking species. Great White Heron differs from Great Blue Heron not only in being white, but also in subtle points of structure and soft parts coloration. Furthermore, its white tone is subtly

but noticeably different from that of other white herons, such as Great Egret. Congruence among multiple characters is desirable to rule out, for instance, a leucistic or albinistic Great Blue Heron.

Long-tailed Jaeger and Sabine's Gull are regular along New York's Great Lakes shoreline and also far offshore (both species were recorded in Region 2 at the end of August, and the jaeger was reported on pelagics at the start of June and the end of August.) But both are nevertheless very rare from shore on Long Island. Thus, a Long-tailed Jaeger seen by Angus Wilson from Amagansett, eastern Long Island, on 6 June was very noteworthy, and another seen from Breezy Point, Queens, on 16 June by Doug Gochfeld and Sean Sime was potentially the first documented record for Queens County and New York City. Even more astonishingly, when the same intrepid duo returned to Breezy Point two days later, they encountered the even rarer-from-shore Sabine's Gull!

There was a greater than usual amount of birding effort offshore this summer, and collectively these trips were remarkably productive. Black-capped Petrels were found repeatedly and in numbers: **11** in the eastern portion of Long Island's far offshore waters on 29 August and **5** around Hudson Canyon on 31 August! Another Fea's Petrel was found, at the Rabbit Ears on 18 August, and a new state-high **60** Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were found near Hudson Canyon on 31 August. Species such as Leach's and White-faced Storm-Petrels, Audubon's Shearwater, South Polar Skua, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Bridled and Arctic Terns were recorded as well, as detailed in the report for Region 10.

BIRD OF THE SEASON

In terms of sheer rarity, Region 1's Neotropic Cormorant leaps to the fore, as does Region 10's Fea's Petrel. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Regions 1 and 10 were enjoyed by many observers but are less surprising after establishing a pattern of occurrence in recent years. In my opinion, the BOTS award for summer 2015 must go to Black-capped Petrel. The enigmatic Diablotin was considered almost impossible to see anywhere on Earth as recently as the mid-20th Century, so we've certainly come a long way, through the discovery of the species' regular occurrence in the Gulf Stream in the 1970s, to today, when we are literally unsure as to whether this species is actually even rare in New York's far offshore waters. A case can be made that conditions were unusually favorable during summer 2015, contributing to the spate of records from New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. But it can also be argued that appropriate effort has been so sparse in the past that the species has been under-detected historically, at least to some extent. In any case, summer 2015's Black-capped Petrels will be vividly remembered by many for a very long time.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

6405 Woodberry Court, East Amherst, NY 14051
morgm@roadrunner.com

James Pawlicki

2100 Sheridan Drive Apt #149, Tonawanda, NY 14223
jmpawli10@gmail.com

The summer of 2015 got off to a wet start in June. The mean temperature was 65.6° F, 0.7° below average. Rain was frequent, with a total of 5.03" at the Buffalo airport, 1.37" above average. July averaged out as normal, with an average temperature of 71.0°, 0.1° below normal. Rainfall at Buffalo was 2.42", 0.81" below average. August was comfortable, with the mean temperature at 69.7°, 0.1° above normal. There was 4.39" of rain, 1.13" above average. Weather data was excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

A look at the summer season highlights reveals a diverse mix of unexpected species. With some species out of season for regular occurrence and others geographically misplaced, it poses some fun questions. For instance, how often has Black-bellied Whistling-Duck overlapped in time in the same region with Snowy Owl and Harlequin Duck? Or, has any region in North America held sightings of Swallow-tailed Kite, Neotropic Cormorant, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, and the aforementioned species in a three month period? I suspect this assemblage has not come together before; however, these questions are left for us all to ponder as answering them would likely take more time than preparing this Regional summary did.

The **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was originally found by Charlie Horton in late May. Many birders made a visit to Twelve Mile Creek, adjacent to Wilson-Tuscarora SP, to see this handsome bird that was present until mid-July. Another carryover from May that was also close to the whistling-duck, was a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** that was present into July in the vicinity of Wilson Harbor. A second bird was found in the same area in June but no evidence of breeding was discovered.

Jacque Walters photographed a **Snowy Owl** in Buffalo Harbor on June 3, representing the first summer record for the Region. The owl perched atop a harbor light structure in the midst of an active Common Tern colony which undoubtedly created quite a ruckus. Also out of season and a first summer record was a male **Harlequin Duck** observed at the base of Niagara Falls which was initially reported by a tourist from Sweden aboard a Maid of the Mist boat. Continuing with the out of season theme, but certainly not as unexpected, were sightings of **Iceland Gull** and **Glaucous Gull** in early June along Lake Ontario. In recent years several birders have taken to checking the piers and other areas

along Lake Ontario more often in summer, to which I attribute the increase in early summer reports of immature gulls like these.

Alec Humann was enjoying some coffee on the back deck of his grandfather's house in the City of Buffalo on the morning of 2 August and started an eBird list when an Osprey flew over. A few minutes later he observed a distant white bird approaching that he assumed was a gull but it turned out to be a **Swallow-tailed Kite** that flew about 100 feet overhead. He took several photos with his phone and called the brief encounter one of the most surprising and exciting birding experiences of his life. This represents the fourth Regional record and first in summer.

Another first for summer was a **Neotropic Cormorant** sighted by Jim Pawlicki on a distant break wall in Buffalo Harbor on the evening of 15 July. He communicated with Gates Dupont who kayaked out to the breakwall and took video footage of the smaller cormorant among the hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants. This is the second Regional record, with the first coming this spring, and potentially the third for New York State if accepted by NYSARC. The sighting followed a similar encounter two nights earlier that Jim suspected perhaps was a different Neotropic Cormorant out on the breakwall, but distance prevented definitive identification.

A **Brant** was a nice find at Gratwick Park on 11 Jun as spring and early summer reports are irregular. A **Snow Goose** thought to be injured remained at Iroquois NWR into June, while one on Lake Ontario off Fort Niagara SP in July was more unusual and a first for July in this Region. A **Trumpeter Swan** was identified at Tonawanda WMA in August for the only report this summer. A few reports of summering diving ducks were reported from the usual places around the Great Lakes, Niagara River, and Batavia WWTP. Batavia WWTP remains the best place to see a Ruddy Duck in this Region, if not the entire State; however, summer numbers have dropped in recent years with a maximum count of only 20 this summer. **Common Loon** was observed much more than usual in summer. One to two **Eared Grebes** were at Batavia WWTP in July and August, a nearly annual summer occurrence. A **Red-necked Grebe** was identified on Lake Ontario in late August, which is developing into a new nearly annual summer occurrence. Melissa Mance-Coniglio observed four **American White Pelicans** flying west over Olcott on 14 June, and they were later photographed by Bonnie Voight sitting out on Lake Ontario in Porter.

Some nice counts of **Ruddy Turnstones** on 1 June at Ellery and Tonawanda WMA were the highlight of the tail end of spring migration. Just 30 days later the first southbound shorebirds were documented. Shorebird highlights in July included **American Avocets** at Buffalo Harbor and Ellery. While this species is now annual in summer and often with multiple sightings, there is still an increased level of excitement among birders. **Willetts** were reported at three locations in July and one in late August; collectively, this represents an excellent summer showing. A single **Whimbrel** at Buffalo Harbor in late August was the lone report this summer. Joe Mitchell identified a juvenile

Western Sandpiper at Wood Marsh at Tonawanda WMA in August. This location was the hotspot for shorebirding in late summer.

Immature **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continue to be found in summer with increased regularity. Three **Forster's Tern** reports were more unusual given the dates in June and early July, when they have been rare to occur in the Region, while they presumably nest elsewhere on the Great Lakes. Good **Black Tern** numbers continued from the spring at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR.

While we did not receive any reports or confirmation, it is likely that **Sandhill Cranes** nested in the Oak Orchard WMA and/or Iroquois NWR areas again this year, with sightings (adults) through the summer. **Merlins** continued in previous breeding areas of Lakewood and Buffalo, and there were several new locations with apparent breeding reported this year including East Aurora, Wellsville, and Cuba Lake. An adult feeding a fledgling in Lancaster in early August was the best evidence. **Clay-colored Sparrows** continued at Krull Park in Olcott, and there were sightings from three other locations this summer.

Our uncommon and/or declining breeding species were mostly found only in previously documented breeding areas. **Upland Sandpipers** were again in Java and Tillman Road WMA, and perhaps a new location in Shelby, with a likely migrant at Dunkirk Airport in August. Presumed migrant **Common Nighthawk** reports continued into the second week of June, but possible breeding is likely left to only very small numbers in North Buffalo and Jamestown. **Prothonotary Warbler** was only found at Tonawanda WMA. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** found by Richard and Dorothy Rosche in suitable "Canadian zone" habitat in Lost Nations SF in Allegany was a rare summer report for the Region. Also unusual for location was a singing **Acadian Flycatcher** at Tiff Nature Preserve in mid-July. **Pine Siskin** sightings from multiple areas in June and July may have been indicative of nesting or nesting earlier in the year.

Two good sightings at Forest Lawn Cemetery were highlights of the start of the southbound warbler migration. Alec Humann identified a **Cape May Warbler** there on 24 July, the earliest documented in the Region and a first for July. Shelly Seidman photographed a warbler she was not familiar with on 19 August which was identified as a **Cerulean Warbler**, rarely observed during 'fall' migration in the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Barth, John Barton (JBa), Doug Beattie (DBe), Don Bemont (DBo), Jim Berry (JBe), Elizabeth Brooks, Brad Carlson, Seaghan Coleman, Willie D'Anna, Gates Dupont, Joe Fell, Kurt Fox, Mike Galas, Christopher George, Joanne Goetz, Andy Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Becky Harbinson, Carol Hardenburg, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Alec Humann, Nathan Johnson, Tom Kerr, Christopher Kundl, Greg Lawrence, Twan Leenders (TwL), Tim Lenz (TiL), Karen Lee Lewis, Jon Levin, Pat Lindsay, Melissa Mance-Coniglio (MMA),

David Mark, Pat Martin, Michael McBrien (MMc), Georgia McDonald, Jay McGowan (JMc), Leslie Misener, Joe Mitchell (JMi), Shai Mitra, Mike Morgante (MMo), Celeste Morien (CMo), Terry Mosher, Carl Mrozek (CMr), James Pawlicki (JPa), Ralph Peterson, John Podoliak (JPd), Betsy Potter, Jay Powell (JPo), Ken Reichman, Jajean Rose-Burney, Richard and Dorothy Rosche, Len Rusin, Livia Santana, James & Ann Sawusch, Richard Salembier, Shelly Seidman (SSe), Debbie Sharon, Tom Simmons, Susanne Steeg (SSt), Kirk Vanstrom, Gale VerHague, Bonnie Voight, Jacqueline Walters, Ginnie Yerkovich, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – 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; CCWMA – Canadaway Creek WMA, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DA – Dunkirk Airport, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, CHAU; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; SPWS – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TRWMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

Wilson NIAG 2-29 Jun, 11, 16 Jul (WD, KL, mob); continuing from May.

Snow Goose: INWR 4 Jun (WD), injured; FNSP 13, 22, 25 Jul (KL, JPa, JF); rare in summer.

Brant: Tonawanda NR 11 Jun (CG, CK), only report.

Mute Swan: no reports away from L Ontario shore.

Trumpeter Swan: TWMA 12 Aug (JPa), only report.

Wood Duck: 46 OOWMA 19 Jun; max 150 BWWTP 21 Aug.

Gadwall: 5, 3 BWWTP 3, 13 Jun; 2 BufH 5 Jul; 1 ad + 12 yg BWWTP 8 Jul; Dayton CATT 9 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: Newstead ERIE 17 Jun; INWR 22 Jun; max 16 TWMA 12 Jul.

Blue-winged Teal: 8 TWMA 19 Jul; arr 5 BufH 30 Jul; max 28 BWWTP 21 Jul.

N. Shoveler: 2, 1 BWWTP 13 Jun, 8 Jul; N Harmony CHAU 9 Jul; arr TWMA 26 Jul.

N. Pintail: TWMA 26 Jul, 20 Aug; INWR 28 Aug; only reports.

Green-winged Teal: BWWTP 3, 13 Jun; max 30, 46 TWMA 12 Jul, 27 Aug.

Redhead: PB 8, 12 Jul; Newfane NIAG 25 Jul; 3 DH 26 Jul; 3 TBNP 28 Jul, 13 Aug; 5 BWWTP 13 Aug; LBSP 18 Aug; more reports than typical Jul-Aug.

Greater Scaup: 1-6 NF 30 Jun-4 Jul (JPa, RS, JBa); Buffalo NR 15 Aug (CK); only reports.

Lesser Scaup: BWWTP 13 Jun, 2-18 Jul (KF, GL); NF 30 Jun, 2-6 Jul (JPa, RS, JPo); Wilson NIAG 23 Aug (WD); only reports.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (R1): m NF 30 Jun-4 Jul (JPa, RS, JBa, ph), in gorge below Horseshoe Falls, first summer record in Reg.

White-winged Scoter: 2 NF 30 Jun-6 Jul (JPa, RS, JBa); 2 MI 1 Aug (LR); only reports.

Red-br. Merganser: 4, 9 DH 26, 29 Jun, lingering.

Com. Merganser: 1 ad + 11 yng DH 26 Jun; max 21 Wellsville ALLE 23 Jul.

Ruddy Duck: 7, 20, 14 BWWTP 2 Jun, 26 Jul, 26 Aug, regular location in summer but numbers decreasing in recent years; 2 INWR 18 Aug.

Ruffed Grouse: INWR 28 Aug (CMo); rare away from Southern Tier.

Com. Loon: AISP 1 Jun (TiL); Buffalo NR 10 Jun (AH); Wilson NIAG 17 Jun (MMc); Olcott NIAG 2 Jul (JPa); 3 N Harmony CHAU 20 Jun (TiL); BufH 23 Jun (JPa); INWR 23 Jun (JPa); NF 23 Jun (GM); 4 Mayville CHAU 7 Aug (TiL); 3, 1 Wilson NIAG 24, 28 Aug (WD); more summer reports than typical.

EARED GREBE (R1): 1, 1-2 BWWTP 2-27 Jul, 1-26 Aug (GL, SB, mob); annual location in late summer-fall.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Wilson NIAG 24 Aug (WD), only report.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT: imm BufH 15 Jul (JPa!, GD, ph, NYSARC); 2nd Reg record and will be 3rd State record if accepted.

Double-crested Cormorant: 603, max 952 BufH 16 Jun, 21 Jul; 300, 400 DH 10 Jul, 1 Aug; 90 INWR 18 Aug.

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1): 4 Olcott NIAG, Porter NIAG 14 Jun (MMA, BV), fly-over at Olcott and later seen sitting on L Ontario in Porter.

Am. Bittern: max 5, 3 INWR 13 Jun, 3 Jul; 2 TWMA 28 Jul; E Aurora ERIE 9 Aug; Tiftt NP 30 Aug.

Least Bittern: 1-2 INWR 1-13 Jun, 1-23 Jul; 1-2 Tiftt NP 5-16 Jun; Pomfret CHAU 24 Jun; regular locations except for the last one.

Great Egret: 31, 68 MI 30 Jun, 21 Jul; 138 TWMA 30 Jul; 151, 248 OOWMA 17, 24 Aug (CMo), evening roost counts.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 8 TWMA 29 Jul; uncommon away from NR.

Black Vulture: 2, 7-8 Lewiston NIAG 6 Jun, 3-8 Aug, year round residents.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: well reported from known breeding locations.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Buffalo ERIE 2 Aug (AH!, ph, NYSARC), fly-over, unexpected; first summer record and only 4th overall for Reg.

Bald Eagle: well reported from known breeding locations and Lake Erie shore.

Virginia Rail: max 4 CSWMA 22 Jun; 2 BWWTP 2 Jul.

Sora: BWWTP 26 Jul; JAS 29 Jul (JL); few reports.

Am. Coot: 8, 17 INWR 26 Jun, 3 Jul; only regular summer location.

Com. Gallinule: 10, 16, 35 INWR 19 Jun, 12 Jul, 28 Aug (TiL, AG, CMo); higher counts than usual.

Sandhill Crane: 1, 2, 1-7 INWR 3 Jun, 26 Jul, 8-28 Aug; 3, 1 OOWMA 28 Jul, 17 Aug, has bred at INWR/OOWMA in recent years.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2, 2, 4 TWMA 31 Jul, 1, 17 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 TWMA 15 Aug; 4 Oakfield GENE 23 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 1, 25, max 36 TWMA 8, 31 Jul, 7 Aug.

Am. Avocet: arr 4 BufH 14 Jul (JPa); 2 Ellery CHAU 19 Jul (KV); only reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 4, max 32, 30 TWMA 8, 26 Jul, 2 Aug (JPa, JMi); 16 Chautauqua CHAU 2 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 4, max 22 TWMA 1, 21 Jul.

Willet: arr DH 7 Jul (GV, BH); BufH 14 Jul (PY); Barcelona Harbor CHAU 19 Jul (SS); LBSP 29 Aug (GL); good showing.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 48, 122, max 130 TWMA 4, 26 Jul, 13 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: Java WYOM 6 Jun (PM); 1-4 TRWMA 7 Jun-8 Aug, regular location; 1-2 Shelby ORLE 29 Jul-23 Aug (CMo); DA CHAU 9 Aug (GV).

Whimbrel: BufH 30 Aug (JPa), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 18 Ellery CHAU, 13 TWMA 1 Jun (KV, JMi), excellent counts for these locations; arr 1-2 BeSP 25-27 Aug; 9 BufH 30 Aug.

Sanderling: 6 DH 4 Jun, spring sightings uncommon; arr 2, 2 PB 16 Jul, 21 Aug (AG, GL, SB, CMo); 2, 1 BufH 18 Jul, 30 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6, max 65, 40 TWMA 17 Jun, 26 Jul, 4 Aug; arr LBSP 9 Jul.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: juv TWMA 11 Aug (JMi!, CMo, SB, DBE, ph), rare.

Least Sandpiper: arr 4, max 200, 150 TWMA 4, 21 Jul, 4 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1, 2 TWMA 16 Jul, 21 Aug (CMo, SB, JMi); Tiftt NP 20-21 Aug (SSE, BH); LBSP 29 Aug (GL); only reports.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 4 BWWTP 19 Aug (GL, JPd); LBSP 29-30 Aug (CMo, WD, JPo); only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3, 18, max 59 TWMA 12, 31 Jul, 7 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1, 2, 5 TWMA 21 Jul, 2, 19 Aug (JMi, CMo, GL, JPd); 2 LBSP 29-30 Aug (WD); only reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1, 6, 4 TWMA 8, 21 Jul, 20 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 5 TWMA 7 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Wilson NIAG 8 Jun; 3 DH 12 Jun; Tonawanda ERIE 12 Jun; 2 BufH 13 Jul; Wellsville ALLE 24 Jul (KR), unusual location for Jul; 2 TWMA 8 Aug; BWWTP 21 Aug.

Iceland Gull: imm Wilson NIAG 5 Jun (JPa), late.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: FNSP 5 Jun (JPa); 1-2 Wilson NIAG 4-6 Jun (JPa, AG); Goat I 6 Jul (JPa, AG); 1, 3 Lewiston Res 19, 22 Jul (JPa); Barcelona Harbor CHAU 27 Jul (RG, AG); continued increase in sightings Jun-Jul.

Glaucous Gull: imm Wilson NIAG 6 Jun (AG, JPa), late.

Great Black-backed Gull: 18 imm BufH 16 Jun.

Caspian Tern: 47 Olcott NIAG 19 Jun; 67, max 83, 72 PB 24 Jun, 8 Jul, 21 Aug; 41 TWMA 12 Aug.

Black Tern: 38, 40 INWR 6 Jun, 5 Jul (AG, CMo); BWWTP 15 Jul, 21 Aug (GL); max 49 TWMA 12 Aug; PB 21 Aug (GL, CMo, SB); above average numbers at INWR/TWMA.

Com. Tern: 38 ad + 4 n Olcott NIAG 10 Jun, late failed breeding attempts; max 453 BufH 16 Jun; 73 FNSP 22 Jul (JPa).

Forster's Tern: Wilson NIAG 5 Jun, 11 Jul (BC, J&AS); BWWTP 2 Jul (GL); only reports.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1-2, 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 3-30 Jun, 5, 15 Jul (WD!, RS, JPo), continuing from spring, likely pair but no confirmation of breeding.

Black-billed Cuckoo: BeSP 20 Aug (DS), probable migrant.

SNOWY OWL: BufH 3 Jun (JW, ph); first summer record in Reg.

Com. Nighthawk: INWR 4 Jun; 1, 1, 2 DH, Wilson NIAG, Marilla ERIE 9 Jun; Amherst ERIE 11 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 11, 25 Jun (PY, MMo), probable breeding; 2 Jamestown CHAU 18 Jul, probable breeding; 4 Amherst ERIE 23 Aug (RS); 11 Tonawanda ERIE 23 Aug (PH); 5 Whitesville ALLE 30 Aug (KR); 4 other reports of 1-2 from 16-28 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from five locations.

Merlin: 2 East Aurora ERIE 3 Jun (LH); 2 Chautauqua Institution CHAU 11 (CH); Cuba L ALLE 26 Jun (CMo, SB); 1, 2 Buffalo ERIE 28 Jun, 17 Jul (BH, PY); ads + 2 nests Lakewood CHAU 1-19 Jul (TS); CCWMA 12 Jul (GV); Wellsville ALLE 26 Jul (RP); 1 ad, 1 fl Lancaster ERIE 5 Aug (CMr), apparent new nesting location; arr TWMA 11 Aug; seven other Aug reports; continued presence as rare breeders Jun-Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: Tift NP 10 Jun; DH 26 Jun, 9 Aug; several reports 1-2 thru Jul from 10 locations; 2 Grand I ERIE 6 Aug; NF 7 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr West Seneca ERIE 23 Aug (GY); AmSP 30 Aug (RS); only reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr FLC 22 Aug (JPa); AmSP 25, 28, 30 Aug (RS); Wilson NIAG 30 Aug (BP).

Acadian Flycatcher: 5 Hunter's Creek CP ERIE; Tift NP 18 Jul (JMc, LS), unusual location; last INWR 26 Jul.

Least Flycatcher: arr AmSP 21 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr AmSP 26, 27 Aug (RS).

Com. Raven: 1, 5 Tonawanda ERIE 10, 13 Jun (MG, JR); Pomfret CHAU 3 Aug (TM); away from regular distribution.

Purple Martin: 85, 80 INWR 3 Jun, 16 Jul; 63 OOWMA 19, 22 Jun; 77 Newstead ERIE 24 Jun; 80 Akron ERIE 16 Jul; lower numbers at nesting sites than recent years.

Tree Swallow: 165, 685, max 850 BWWTP 26 Jul, 8, 21 Aug.

Bank Swallow: 55 BWWTP 21 Jul; 60 Tonawanda ERIE 12 Aug; max 125 Alabama GENE 24 Aug.

Barn Swallow: 200, 130, max 385 BWWTP 15, 18 Jul, 8 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Lost Nation SF ALLE 22 Jun (R&DR!), likely a rare summering bird.

Swainson's Thrush: Tonawanda ERIE 2 Jun; last Buffalo ERIE 15 Jun (PY); AISP 3 July; arr 2 Tonawanda ERIE 27 Aug (PH); LBSP 29 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr AmSP 21 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Cuba ALLE 1 Jun; Jamestown CHAU 28 Jul; several other reports from documented breeding locations.

N. Waterthrush: arr Tift NP 23 Jul (NJ), likely migrant; TBNP 29, 30 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: 5 Alma ALLE 14 Jun; arr East Aurora ERIE 9 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 TWMA 6-13 Jun, 4 Jul; known breeding location.
Tennessee Warbler: arr FLC, TBNP 22 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: WFWMA 4 Jun; Gerry CHAU 29 Jun; Alfred ALLE 19 Jul; arr FLC, Tiffit NP 22 Aug.
Mourning Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 28 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr FLC 24 Jul (AH!), record early; Wilson NIAG 14-27 Aug (WD, BP).
Cerulean Warbler: 3 INWR 19 Jun; 2 Royalton NIAG 8 Jul; Newstead ERIE 12 Aug; last FLC 19 Aug (Sse), migrant.
N. Parula: Caneadea ALLE, New Hudson ALLE 26 Jun; arr Amherst ERIE 28 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: arr AmSP 21 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 13 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr FLC 5 Aug, early.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 21 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: Cuba L ALLE 1 Jun (TiL); JAS 2 Jun (TwL); BuSP 13 Jun (TK, SC, LM); TBNP, WTSP 14 Jun (JR, SM, PL); Shelby ORLE 2, 19 Jun (CMo), record late by 1 day; arr 1, 2 Buffalo ERIE, BMAC 28 Aug; more reports in Jun than typical.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 CCWMA 12 Jul; arr BeSP 20 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Grand I ERIE 18 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: max 5 Yorkshire CATT 26 Jun; last AISP 19 Aug.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr AmSP 26 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 3 Alma ALLE 14 Jun; WFWMA 4 Jul (JBe); arr Ashford CATT 18 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr AmSP 26 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1, 1-4 Olcott NIAG 3 Jun, 9-21 Jul, known breeding location; Newstead ERIE 24 Jun (CMo); Somerset NIAG 2 Jul (JPa); LBSP 23-31 Jul (DBo).
Vesper Sparrow: TRWMA 16 Jun (DM); Bethany GENE 27 Jul (DBe); Attica WYOM 16 Jul (DBe); Alabama GENE 24 Aug (CMo); only reports.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 1-2 DA 2 Jun, 8 Jul, 1 Aug (GV); 1-2, 1 Middlebury WYOM 20-27 Jun, 19 Jul (DBe, CMo, SB); 1-2, 3 TRWMA 1-14 Jul, 8 Aug (CMo, mob); Newstead ERIE 16 Jul (SB); Alexander WYOM 20 Jul (DBe).
White-throated Sparrow: 4-6, 6 Alfred ALLE 13-29 Jun, 25 Jul (EB); 2 Machias CATT 17 Jun (WD); only reports.
Bobolink: 57, max 100 INWR 18, 28 Aug (CMo).
Orchard Oriole: Middlebury WYOM 20 Jun (CMo, DBe); 2 SPWS 2 Jul (LH); 5, max 6, last 1 LBSP 9 Jul, 1 Aug, 29 Aug, record late by 4 days (DBo, WD!); 2-3 Bethany GENE 23-24 Jul (DBe); 8 other reports from 7 locations.
Pine Siskin: Forestville CHAU 5-7 Jun (GV); Fredonia CHAU 6-16 Jun (JG); 3 Portland CHAU 16 Jun (CH); 5, max 11, 4 Wilson NIAG 19, 26, 30 Jun (WD, DS, JF); Shelby ORLE 11-13, 19 Jun (CMo); Marilla ERIE 23-30 Jun, 3-4 Jul (LH); Whitesville ALLE 26 July (KR).

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REGION 2—GENESEE

Robert Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580

rspahn@prodigy.net

Looking at the averages, this was a very flat, wet summer. All three months averaged very near normal temperatures: June – 65.9° F, 0.3° below normal; July – 70.9°, 0.1° above normal; and August – 69.5°, 0.2° above normal. There was only one day > 90° in July and no days below 32° and the only record was a record low high on 27 June. There was just a shallow seesaw of temperatures through the season. Rainfall was a bit different. June was very wet at 6.20",

2.86" above normal, our ninth wettest June on record, and the heavy rains were scattered through the month. July was near normal at 3.56" and only 0.23" above normal. The heaviest of this rainfall was also south of Rochester. Nearly half of the rain, 1.56", fell in the 17-18 Jul period. August saw 4.67", 1.20" above normal, but 4.31" of that fell on just the 10th and 20th, leaving much of the month dry. There was enough precipitation to keep the Lake Ontario level high but not enough to provide much field habitat for shorebirds. Late spring migrants were few and early fall birds seemed to just trickle in. Though species variety was good, numbers were poor.

The multiple season approach still seems a good way to tackle this overall season. June sees the tail end of spring migration. This year reports were weak for most late migrants for a variety of reasons. The cool, wet June limited both birds and birders. High waters and a good growing season limited habitat both available and visible for trying to find late shorebirds and lingering waterfowl. Both groups were poor for both species and numbers. There was also very limited observation or reporting of the usual early June late hawk and eagle movements. Along the Lake Ontario shore diving ducks and loons and grebes cut off nearly completely. Gulls provided some highlights, with a rare adult Laughing Gull seen by Jim Barry on 2 June, a couple of Iceland Gulls lingering into June, and about 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls recorded. More than usual Bonaparte's Gulls and Caspian and Common Terns lingered through the month; often there is a clear break with essentially none for much of June.

Among the passerines, we had the usual late migrants, mostly revealed by banding at BBBO, though numbers for most of that set of species were low. Interesting late birds included Tennessee Warbler to 11 June; Magnolia Warbler on 23 June; Blackpoll Warbler to 14 June; Wilson's Warbler on 17 June; and White-throated Sparrow on 23 June. There were also a number of other warbler species banded late that are not known to breed really close to the BBBO station. A Worm-eating Warbler reported in the hills south of Conesus Lake by Kelly Close on 22 June is hard to assess. We expect the possibility of breeding at the south edge of the Region but have no confirming evidence to date.

Moving on to the "breeding season", we have the usual lack of organized reporting due to few serious studies in progress and to the lack of reporting in a time frame useful to this report. BBS route summaries and MAPS summaries could add to better understanding of this season. Weather conditions should have been generally conducive to a good breeding season. Among the waterfowl, good counts of Wood Duck and Mallard in June and July suggest good nest success in the Region. For all of the other species, numbers are low enough to suggest little breeding in the Region. Mute Swam was interesting, with several pairs with young in ponds along the Lake Ontario Parkway early, but few young visible with the adults later. Trumpeter Swan reports were much fewer than in recent prior years. This year the Sandhill Cranes in the NMWMA either moved their young south into Region 3 or to areas where they were not reported. Late in the season, there was report of a possible subadult with a pair

near Taylor Marsh north of the Village of Honeoye plus a second pair on the other side of the marsh simultaneously. Moving down through the list, there was no assessment of numbers for the few breeding shorebird species. The only breeding species among the larids are Ring-billed Gull on occasion nesting on rooftops or a shopping plaza pond, with no reports this summer, and Black Tern, with some good numbers from the Van Dyne Spoor area of the NMWMA all summer.

An interesting positive was many reports of good numbers of breeding Pied-billed Grebe, Common Gallinule, and American Coot and sightings of American and Least Bitterns from the marshes at the end of Van Dyne Spoor in the NMWMA. On a NYSOA Young Birders Club field trip there on 16 August, we had families of the three species with small young. Given the small area of open water and good visibility near the road and calls from various distances, one can only wonder how many pairs of each species really are nesting in this large area of restored marsh.

Among the breeding passerines, we are aware of two MAPS projects in the Region but receive only limited information. Breeding Bird Surveys I conduct or heard about in the Region reported no unusual changes in species or numbers. From personal birding trips into the hills south of Rochester and reports filed by others, the usual species were essentially all present where expected. A couple of question marks were very few Winter Wrens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Golden-crowned Kinglets in expected sites. Again, without serious efforts to count and assess it is hard to draw conclusions from such anecdotal information. Among the rarer species we have the following: reports of good Fish Crow numbers in the Charlotte area of Rochester plus a few other locations with singles or a few; Common Raven seen in a new location; Golden-winged Warbler still hanging on in one location in the Town of Wolcott, Wayne County; "Lawrence's" Warbler in the Town of Bristol, Ontario County near where found last year; Prothonotary Warbler again along Armitage Road in Wayne County back and forth over our border with Region 3; more Yellow-rumped Warblers at Hamlin Beach State Park in early August, suggesting breeding there; Clay-colored Sparrow in the usual locations on Cook Road in the Town of Hamlin; and Pine Siskins all summer at feeders in Webster.

Summer birds we would not expect to be breeding, at least where and when found, included Black Vulture in Letchworth State Park several times in June, Lesser Black-backed Gull in June and July, and a number of warblers banded in late July, with Tennessee on 30 July the farthest from known breeding areas but also a fairly regular early wanderer or migrant.

Fall migration often begins with shorebirds returning in mid to late June. This year we had no such reports. The earliest fall arrivals were Greater Yellowlegs on 2 July. After that it was mid July before nine species arrived with first fall dates between 14 and 17 July. Among the highlights at that time were Whimbrels at two locations along the Lake Ontario shore. Three American Pipits on 24 July at a Genesee County farm were record early for the Region.

August brought reports of nearly all the reasonably expected fall migrants. Of 53 new arrival dates compared with the Monroe County Checklist (1985) arrival date distributions, 15 were in the interquartile range, 19 in the first quartile, one in the fourth quartile, and 11 record early, though nine of those have been seen at even earlier dates in the intervening years. Only Blackburnian Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler arrived at Regional record early dates. Scanning the checklist again, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Redhead, and both scaup were seen on the early side as well as both loons. Three Red-necked Grebes on 6 August, continued their early dates of recent years. There was no concerted effort at monitoring the summer hawk movement at Braddock Bay reported. Special shorebirds included three American Avocets at Sodus Point on 11 August, seven Willets from 10-20 August topped by three at Sodus Point on 24 August, and eight reports of Whimbrels. Rarer sightings included: two Long-tailed Jaegers, one by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach SP on 28 August and a second by Dave Wheeler at Sodus Point on 29 August; an immature Sabine's Gull seen by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood near the lakeshore in Durand-Eastman Park on 29 August; and adult Little Gulls off Hamlin Beach SP on 1, 9, and 28 August. We can also toss in one more report of a Eurasian Collared-Dove at the Greenwell farm in Hamlin on 8 August, the first since 31 January. Birders pass that area regularly with eyes open, but reports remain few. Common Nighthawk arrived by 23 August, but reports were few and numbers low through season's end.

Among the passerine migrants, there was a steady flow of arrivals, both banded at BBBO and found by birders across the Region. As noted above, most of the arrivals were within their historical date ranges or a bit early, and there were no really outstanding rarities. Some of the more interesting reports were: Olive-sided Flycatcher on 28 and 29 August; Philadelphia Vireo on 4 August; a Barn x Cliff Swallow seen on 23 and 28 August in Hamlin; the two record-early warblers noted above; and a male Yellow-headed Blackbird found in the Van Dyne Spoor area of NMWMA by an RBA field trip on 22 August, seen by others through the 27th. There were some good totals banded, which will appear with the species data below. There were no really stellar banding days, with the high being 66 birds on the 15th. There were also decent counts for some of the swallows and a count of 14,000 Red-winged Blackbirds by Jay McGowan at Van Dyne Spoor on 23 August. A caution with counts is that one must pay attention to the levels of aggregation as well as aspects of observer effort.

A special note bearing attention for the future is Jim Adams' report and photos of the effects of emerald ash borer in Oatka Creek Park, where he monitors birds daily. The photos are reminiscent of the worst periods of gypsy moth defoliation, only in this case the trees are dying and will not just push forth new leaves. This park is a local hotspot for the effects of this alien invader.

Looking to measures of effort or at least the results in records for the season, we have approximately 16,512, 12,352, and 16,444 = 45,308 eBird "records" for the respective months and total for the season in this Region.

Adding data from local listservs, banding work, special surveys, and personal communications, we tallied species totals of 175, 173, and 202 vs. their 10-year averages of 179.1, 165.5, and 188.9. The August total was the second highest on record, topped only by 211 in 2009. There were quite a few species in the eBird data with hundreds of “records” in a month, but remember that you really need to examine the data in detail to find what that means in terms of “different records” and especially numbers of different individuals observed.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, BBBO (Betsy Brooks, *et al.*), John Ballou, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Dick Beery, Don Bemont, Linda Clark-Benedict & Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Patrick Blake, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Ken Burdick, Bruce Cady, Doug Cameron, Brad Carlson, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Cathy Contant, Dawn Crane, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D’Anna, Ian Davies, Larry Draper, Bruce Dudek, Sarah Dzielski, Wayne Fidler, Mark & Kelly Fitzsimmons, George Ford, Drew Fowler, Andy Garland, Chuck Gibson, Nathan Goldberg, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, William Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Anita Gwara, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Helen & Chris Haller, Kathy Hapgood, Elenor Hartquist, Kim Hartquist, George Haskins, Jim & Allison Healy, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Alec Humann, IBA Monitoring, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Ryan Kayhart, Tom Kerr, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Elijah Kruger, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Patricia Lindsay, Mark Lyons, Peggy Mabb, Mark Magistro, Mary Magistro, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matthew Medler, Jim Miles, Evan Mistur, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Shai Mitra, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Andrea Mott, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Dave Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Mike O’Brien, Pat Parslow, Andrea Patterson, Jim Pawlicki, Gerard Phillips, Norma Platt, Jon Podoliak, Carena Pooth, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, David Prill, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Thomas Riley, Dave Robertson, Dick & Dorothy Rosche, Ken Rosenberg, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jesse Rubenstein, Jennifer Rycenga, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Mickey Scilingo, Zaphir Shamma, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sheron, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Joe Stevenson, Noah Strycker, Kimberly Sucy, Elaine Taft, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Michael & Joann Tetlow, Larry Therrien, Herb Thompson, Martha Van Bork, Jeanne Verhulst, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, David Wheeler, Joe Wing, Chris Wood.

ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; CLI – Conesus L Inlet, including WMA marshes, LIVI; Cuy – Cuylerville area, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester at Lake Ontario; G – Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; IBO – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; NC – back end of Long Pd inland from Lake Ontario Parkway, T Greece; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma WMA, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; OCP – Oatka Creek P, MONR; PtB – Point Breeze, ORLE; S- Savannah, WAYN; SPT – Sodus Pt, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: last NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 15 June (DWh, JTa), late.

Wood Duck: 50 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 15 June; max 100 Conesus Inlet WMA 28 July; 63 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 14 Aug.

Gadwall: last 7 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 5 Jun; HB 7 Aug (AGu), scarce in summer.

Am. Wigeon: last NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 21 June (DNu); 2 HB 11 Jul (AGu), scarce in summer; max 6 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 1 Aug (ID, LT), high for date.

Am. Black Duck: max 11 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 28 July, low.

N. Shoveler: arr HB 25 Aug (RS), early.

N. Pintail: arr NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 25 Aug (AM, JAk), early.

Green-winged Teal: max 11 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 14 Aug, low.

Redhead: 1 PtB 12 Jul (AGu), unusual mid summer; arr 3 HB 16 Aug (B&BM), early.

Greater Scaup: arr HB 8 Aug (AGu), very early.

Lesser Scaup: arr OB 29 Aug (JeB, W), early.

Long-tailed Duck: last HB 17 Jun (RS), Reg record late.

Com Merganser: 2 HB 10 Jul (AGu), scarce on Lake Ontario mid summer.

Red-breasted Merganser: last PtB 21 Jun (JPa), late; 2 T Wolcott 3 Jul (W&MR), scarce in summer.

Red-throated Loon: last 4 HB 3 Jun (AGu), late; HB 6 Aug (AGu), scarce in summer.

Com. Loon: last HB 22 Jun (DNi), late; 1-2 HB 11, 17 31 Jul, 1 Aug (AGu), scarce in summer; arr 4 HB 28 Aug (AGu), early.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 45 NMWMA

(Sandhill Crane Unit) 5 Aug, good count.

Horned Grebe: last HB 13 Jun; arr 3 HB 28 Aug (AGu, JPa), early.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 3 HB 6 Aug (AGu), early; max 6 HB 22 Aug (AGu), early for so many.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 315 DE 29 Aug (JeB, CW).

Am. Bittern: 1 HANA 2 Jul (GF), unusual loc.

Least Bittern: HANA 19 Jun (AGa, DSh), unusual loc.

Great Egret: 3-7 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 21 Jun (sev), unusual date for so many; HANA 3 Jul (MG), unusual loc for date.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 Broad St. bridge in downtown Rochester 25 Jul (JMj, LM), unusual loc.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): Letchworth SP 5, 7, 22 Jun (EK, KS).

Turkey Vulture: max 135 Riga Landfill 10 Jul (BriM).

HAWKS – LARIDS

Osprey: HANA 21 Jun, interesting loc for date; nest w yng Burger P, T Greece July, another cell tower with nest.

N. Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: only 5 rep scattered thru season.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 97 Frisbee Hill, Greece 5 Jun (BriW).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 31 BB 17 Aug (KD), very low; few counts reported.

Com. Gallinule: max 75 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 21 Aug (DR).

Sandhill Crane: max 16 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 20 Aug (RBA Field Trip); 14 T Galen WAYN 31 Aug (W&MR); 2 ad E of Taylor Marsh ONTA 2 Aug (DBea, KK); 2 ad W of Taylor Marsh ONTA (DBea), different pr.

AM. AVOCET (R2): 3 SPT 20 Aug (JW, MG, CC, LL).

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 Summerville Pier 11 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 H 23 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 SPT 14 Jul.

Killdeer: max 241 H 29 Aug (CW), high count.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1-2 IBO 15 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 10 NMWMA

(Carncross Rd) 2 Jul (AdM, DNu).

Willet: SPT 10 Aug (JW); IBO 19 Aug (JMi); Summerville Pier 20 Aug (MG); SPT 20 Aug (MG); 3 SPT 24 Aug (JW).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Pultneyville Harbor 17 Jul (MG).

Upland Sandpiper: first of year 1 Geneseo County Airport 24, 27 Jun (DRos, DBea), very late; 4 Geneseo Airfield 21 Jul (JK); H 28 Jul (AGu); 4 Batavia Turf Farm 19 Aug (CMo).

Whimbrel: arr SPT 14 Jul (W&MR, JW, ph); IBO 15 Jul (JMi, sev, ph); 7 rep of 1-2 SPT 4-29 Aug; Summerville Pier 13 Aug PMA).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 3 Summerville Pier 31 Jul; max 10 SPT 26 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 29 Aug & 3 NC 29 Aug.

Sanderling: arr 2-7 IBO 15 Jul; max 12 HB 29 Aug.

Dunlin: last 6 IBO 9 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr SPT 18 Aug (JW).

Least Sandpiper: arr 2 IBO 15 Jul & 17 T Sweden MONR 15 Jul; max 20 T Williamson WAYN 19 Aug, low.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Geneseo 26 Aug (MW).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr sev SE of Cuylerville LIVI 17 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 11, 20, max 38 IBO 8 Jun, low max; arr 6-7 SPT 14 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Geneseo 27 Jul; max 3 SPT 19 Aug, low.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: arr 1 lt morph juv HB 28 Aug (AGu); 1 ad SPT 29 Aug (DWh).

SABINE'S GULL: 1 juv Sherry Pd, Durand-Eastman P 29 Aug (JeB, CW).

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 HB 25 Jun (DH), usually scarce in late Jun.

Little Gull: single adults HB 1, 9, 28 Aug (AGu).

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad off Edgemere Dr Greece 2 Jun (JiB).

Iceland Gull: BB- W 1 Jun (BriM), late; last 1 1st sum HB 13 Jun (AGu), late.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3-4 HB 7 Jun (AGu, B&BM); total approx 13 sev 5-28 Jun; 1 1st sum HB (AGu); 1 1st sum OB 12 Jul (AGu).

Caspian Tern: max IBO 12 Jun (JMi); 75 SPT 11 Aug; 74 HB 17 Aug.

Black Tern: max 16 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 6 Aug (LC-B, SB).

Com. Tern: max 30 HB 6 Aug (AGu).

Forster's Tern: arr BB-WS 30 Aug (CW).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1

Greenwell farm H 8 Aug (AGu), 1st since Jan.

Com. Nighthawk: last Greece 18 Jun (KG); arr 3 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 23 Aug.

Chimney Swift: max 300 York Central School LIVI 23 Aug (JK).

Red-headed Woodpecker: nest Webster 24-30 Jun, Jul (JBo, mob), new loc; max 6 HB 16, 31 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: max 9 Nations Rd area, Avon 1 Aug (KS).

Merlin: 3 rep Jun; 3 rep Jul; 10 rep Aug; no rep on any nests this sum.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 2 yg Roch (falconcarn) thru, 3 eggs hatched and yng banded but 1 yng lost; approx. 7 other rep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr H (Cook Rd) 28 Aug (AGu, JPa) & 29 Aug (CW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1B BBBO 5 Jun; arr HB 8 Aug (AGu), early; total B 15 BBBO 9-29 Aug.

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: max 13B BBBO 5 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: HANA 21 Jun (BCad, RBA Field Trip), unusual loc for date.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Conesus Inlet WMA 4 Aug (JD), early.

Red-eyed Vireo: total B 39 BBBO Aug.

Fish Crow: max 17 OB area 27 Jun (AGU); 16 OB area 5, 26 Aug (RS); 6 Rochester 3 Jul B&BM, filled in Inner loop area; U. of Rochester 8 Jul (JCol).

Com. Raven: 5 Honeoye Falls 14 Jun (BCar), many for loc.

Purple Martin: max 81 Savannah-Spring Lake Rd WAYN 28 Aug.

Tree Swallow: max 1000 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 23 Aug (NG, JMcG).

Bank Swallow: max 1200 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 23 Aug (JMcG).

BARN X CLIFF SWALLOW: H @3, 28 Aug (B&BM, AGu).

Winter Wren: scarce in some breeding loc; 2 Durand-Eastman P 1 Aug (CW), unusual loc for date; migr 1-2 four Mile Creek Pres, Webster 26, 31 Aug (JMi).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1 Cobbs Hill 8 Jun; arr HB – W 31 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: total B 10 BBBO 1-6 Jun; last H 14 Jun (AGu); 1 T Canadice ONTA 2 Aug (DBea), rare in sum; arr 1B BBBO 28 Aug.

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

Gray Catbird: max 43 Beechwoods SP WAY 18 Jun (RS, TS); total B 137 BBBO Aug, high number.

Am. Pipit: 3 Cy Farms GENE 24 Jul (EM), Reg record early.

Cedar Waxwing: max 210 HB 20Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: 1B BBBO 24 Jul (AP), unusual loc for date.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (R2): 1 South Conesus 22 Jun (KC), latest local Jun record.

N. Waterthrush: 6B BBBO 3-5 Jun, unusual number for loc for dates; migr 2B BBBO 15 Aug; total B 20 BBBO 15-30 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 N Wolcott WAYN thru 17 Jun, 3 Jul (W&MR).

“Brewster’s” Warbler: 1B BBBO 15, 16 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: 1 T Bristol ONTA 4 Jun (KK), near last year’s site.

Black-and-white Warbler: 1B M 8 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 S (Armitage Rd) thru 6 Jun (KB, NS, TL), nesting.

Tennessee Warbler: last BBBO – MAPS 11 Jun; 1B ad f BBBO 30 Jul (AP), unusual loc for date; arr 1B M 1 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: Lakeshores Marshes WMA 25 Jun (W&MR), unusual loc for date; Beechwoods SP 10 Jul (JW), unusual loc for date; 1B M 21, 26 Jul (AP), unusual loc for date; arr 3B M 8 Aug, early.

Mourning Warbler: 1B M 22 Jun (AP), unusual loc for date; arr 1B M 17 Aug, early.

Com. Yellowthroat: total B 26 M 1-31 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: max 20 Letchworth SP 7 Jun (MVB), count in prime breeding loc.

Am. Redstart: max 20 HB – west end 5 Jun (BriM), good count; total B 50 BBBO 21-30 Jul; total B 46 BBBO 1-31 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1 HB 10 Aug (R&SS), early.

N. Parula: arr 1B BBBO 26 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: 1B BBBO - MAPS 23 Jun, late; N Wolcott WAYN 3 Jul (W&MR), unusual loc for date; arr H 14 Aug (AGu), early; total B 55 15-31 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 G 18 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1B M 1 Aug (AP), Reg record early.

Yellow Warbler: total B 176 BBBO 21-30 Jul; total B 63 1-20 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1B M 15 Aug, early.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 HB 14 Jun (B&BM); arr 3B BBBO 29 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1B BBBO 2 Jun; arr 1B BBBO & 1 Badgerow P 22 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 3 G 18 Jul (KG) & 1-5G 2-30 Aug (KG), unusual loc for dates; max 15 HB 17. 25 Aug (RS).

Prairie Warbler: 1 Canadice Hill Rd ONTA 2 Aug (CW), scarce breeder.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Four Mile Creek Pres, Webster 24 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 1 Genesee County P & Forest 2 Aug (GL); arr 1B BBBO 21 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: last 1 N Wolcott WAYN 17 Jun (LD), late; arr 1B BBBO 25 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1, 2 Cook Rd, Hamlin – 2 loc 25 Jun (AGu); 1-2 Cook Rd, Hamlin 6-12 Jul (AGu, KS).

Grasshopper Sparrow: max Genesee County Airport 12 Jul (AGu).

White-throated Sparrow: Durand-Eastman P 6 Jun, late; M 23 Jun (AP), late; 2 Penfield MONR 19 Jul (PB), unusual loc for date.

Bobolink: max 40 Nations Rd IBA 17 Jun (NK), good count.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 14,000 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 23 Aug (JMcG), good count.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 m NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 22-27 Aug (RBA Field Trip, mob), *intro*.

Com. Grackle: max 500 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 29 Aug (DNu), good count.

Pine Siskin: Byron GENE 26 Jun (DBea); 3, 1-3, 1-5 Webster 24 Jun, 19-30 Jul, Aug (PMab), yard and feeders; 1 N Wolcott 5 Jul (W&MR); HB 10, 30 Jul (AGu); good number of summering birds, breeding possible.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14905
browncreeper9@gmail.com

The average temperature in Ithaca in June was normal at 64° F, almost 2° below normal in July at 67°, and back to normal in August at 67°. Precipitation in Ithaca was double the norm in June with 7.89" compared to the normal of 3.89". The 6.15" of rainfall in July was 2.32" above normal. August was relatively dry with only 2.11" of precipitation, 1.54" below normal.

There were a number of unexpected waterfowl reports in the Region this summer. A late migrating immature Tundra Swan spent an evening on the Chemung River near Elmira, and two Lesser Scaup lingered at Myers Point in early June. Early fall migrants included Ross's Goose, Northern Shoveler, and Greater Scaup. Other unusual waterfowl records for the season included a Eurasian Wigeon at Montezuma NWR and Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and Red-breasted Merganser on Cayuga Lake and another Red-breasted Merganser on Seneca Lake. A family of Trumpeter Swans was reported at Montezuma NWR in June and July.

A late Horned Grebe and four Common Loons were observed on Cayuga Lake in early June. Double-crested Cormorants nested in Ithaca. A **Brown Pelican**, observed for two days on Cayuga Lake, was the first record for the Cayuga Lake Basin. There was one report of a fledgling Sandhill Crane at Montezuma NWR.

The Willet at Montezuma NWR was the most unusual sandpiper species of the season. Several species arrived early on their fall migration: American Golden-Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Red-necked Phalarope.

Mildly rare gull species were Bonaparte's, Laughing, and Lesser Black-backed. Black Terns at Montezuma NWR and Common Terns at Frontenac Harbor were present in good numbers in early June. An **Arctic Tern** discovered and photographed by Kevin McGowan was observed occasionally around Cayuga Lake for a period of about one week. Late in the season, Caspian Terns were at Montezuma NWR in high numbers, and Ian Davies found a Forster's Tern at Seneca Lake.

Several breeding species are scarce in the Region, but seem to be hanging on at certain sites. Red-headed Woodpeckers and Purple Martins nested again at Montezuma NWR. Worm-eating Warbler was holding territory again at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Louisiana Waterthrush fledged young at Cayuta Gulf. There was a pair of Mourning Warblers at Hammond Hill State Forest. Cerulean Warbler was on territory at Montezuma NWR. Orchard Oriole fledged young at Salt Point. While nesting was not observed, Prothonotary Warbler was reported from four locations at Montezuma.

PHOTO GALLERY SUMMER 2015



Bald Eagles have returned to Long Island as a breeding species, as detailed in an article on pp. 274-279.

Fig. 1. Juvenile Bald Eagle at Mashomack Preserve, *Suffolk*, 29 July 2015, © Jim Colligan.



Bald Eagles on Long Island (pp. 274-279).

Fig. 2 (top): Mashomack Preserve, *Suffolk*, 28 Jul 2015, © Jim Colligan.

Fig. 3 (bottom): William Floyd Estate, *Suffolk*, 26 Apr 2015, © Steve Schwarz.



Fig. 4 (top): Female with chick, William Floyd Estate, *Suffolk*, 7 May 2016, © Steve Schwarz.

Fig. 5 (bottom): Fledged eaglet looking at the moon, William Floyd Estate, *Suffolk*, 2 Aug 2016, © Steve Schwarz.



Black-capped Petrel, near Hudson Canyon, 31 Aug 2015, © Sean Sime. Black-capped Petrels were found repeatedly in the far-offshore waters of several states in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England during summer 2015.



Arctic Tern, offshore *Suffolk*, 1 Jun 2015, © Doug Gochfeld. Although presumed to occur regularly as a northbound migrant far offshore, very few such records have been documented in NYS waters. At least four were photographed on the See Life Paulagic overnight to Hudson Canyon, 31 May to 1 Jun 2015, including this unusually long-billed individual.



The See Life Paulagics overnight trip to the Hudson Canyon area yielded at least five South Polar Skuas on 1 Jun 2015. Photos © Sean Sime.



Clay-colored Sparrow, Fort Edwards Grasslands, *Washington*, 14 Jun 2015, © Scott Stoner.



Bobolink, Fort Edwards Grasslands, *Washington*, 14 Jun 2015, © Scott Stoner.



Juvenile Mallards, Garnet Lake, *Warren*, 3 Jul 2015, © Denise Hackert-Stoner.



Piping Plovers nested along the Lake Ontario shore of New York State for the first time in 30 years. See Article, pp. 285-286.

Figure 1 (top): Adult Piping Plover on nest, with one hatched chick, Lakeview WMA, *Jefferson*, 25 Jul 2015, © Elizabeth Truskowski, DEC.

Figure 2 (bottom): Two Piping Plover chicks, Lakeview WMA, *Jefferson*, 30 Jul 2015, © Adam J. Bleau.

Rare passerines included Clay-colored Sparrow on the Cornell University campus and another in the Town of Ulysses. A **Dickcissel** appeared on the last day of the season at Stewart Park in Ithaca.

CONTRIBUTORS

Patricia Aitken, Janet Akin, Jessie Barry, Sue Barth, Nick Bayly, Doug Battie, Linda Clark Benedict, Steven Benedict, Stephen Berlyant, Elizabeth Bevins, Anne Booth, Li Boyang, Inga Brennan, Caio Brito, Della Brown, Edward Buckler, Ken Burdick, Mike Cadman, Doug Cameron, Ethan Chaffee, Teresa Clare, Jeremy Collison, Michael B. Cooper, David Craig, Dave Czaplak, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Abby Darrah, Ian Davies, Mark DeDea, Branwin Delongpre, Andrew Dreelin, Nandu Dubey, Gates Dupont, Sarah Dzielski, William Earley, Andrew Eckerson, Jonathan Eckerson, Jody Enck, Jennifer Fee, Debra Ferguson, E. First, Martha Fischer, John Fitzpatrick, Brendan Fogarty, Alexandra Class Freeman, Benjamin Freeman, Ozzerina Gall, Joshua Galpern, Jeff Gerbracht, Lindsay Glasner, Nathan Goldberg, Luis Estuardo Gonzalez Martinez, Jane Graves, Derek Green, Keith Gregoire, Conan Guard, Michael Gullo, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Scott Haber, Matty and Benjamin Hack, JoAnn Hackos, Samantha Hagler, David Hayes, Sam Heinrich, Eric Heisey, Henning Heldbjerg, Ember Hobbs, Wesley Hochachka, Sean Holt, Dick Horsey, Jim Hoyt, Dan Hubbard, W. Larry Hymes, IBA Monitoring, Marshall Iliff, Ryan Jaco, Carolyn Jacobs, Barbara Jacobs-Smith, Matthew Janson, Nicholas Kachala, Steven Kahl, Logan Kahle, Steve Kelling, Kenneth Kemphues, Dave Kennedy, Bob Koehler, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, Alexis Lamek, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Daniel Lebbin, Tim Lenz, Donna Loomis, Garrett MacDonald, Amy Maltzan, Brian Maltzan, Lauri Mattle, Mary Maxwell, Grace McCutchen, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Matthew D. Medler, Jim Miles, Joe Minor, Ann Mitchell, Jennifer Moiseff, Beth Moorhead, Celeste Morien, Brooke Morse, Diane Morton, Andrea Mott, Frank Murphy, Lukas Musher, David Nesbitt, David Nicosia, Dave Nutter, William Olenek, Mariel Ortega, James Osborn, Bill Ostrander, Teresa Pegan, Madison Plunkert, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Jessica Prockup, M Repenning, Matthew Rice, Thomas Riley, Dave Robertson, Paul Rodewald, Ken Rosenberg, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Ian Ruppenthal, Thomas Ryan, Livia Santana, Kelly Schaeffer, Mark Scheel, Mark Schilling, Peter Schoenberger, Tom Schulenberg, Luke Seitz, Nathan Senner, Tom Shepard, Dominic Sherony, Eric Sibbald, Maria Smith, Sarah M. Smith, Joshua Snodgrass, Kimberly Snyder, Robert Spahn, Timothy Spahr, Dave Spier, George Strothmann, Noah Strycker, Kimberly Sucy, Jim Tarolli, Russell Taylor, Michael Tetlow, Larry Therrien, Jeffrey Thomas, Peter Thompson, Wendy Tocci, Sarah Toner, Diane Traina, Brian Tuttle, Lee Ann van Leer, Brad Walker, David Weber, David Wheeler, Alex Wiebe, Carole Winslow, Jordan Wolf, Chris Wood.

ABBREVIATIONS

CU – Cornell University; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MyPt – Myers Pt, TOMP; QCM – Queen Catharine Marsh, SCHU; RGF – Reynolds Game Farm, TOMP; StP – Stewart P, TOMP; SW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 5 Canandaigua L, Mud Lock CAYU 20 Jul-23 Aug.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R3): arr Mud Lock CAYU 23 Aug (DNu, RT, AMi!), early.

Trumpeter Swan: max 12 MNWR 16 Jun (IBA), high.

TUNDRA SWAN (R3): last Chemung R, T Elmira 10-11 Jun (BO), late, only report.

Wood Duck: max 341 MNWR 17 Jul, high.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R3): MNWR 1 Jun-2 Jun (KB!), only report.

N. Shoveler: arr 3 MNWR 3 Aug (MC), early max 50 MNWR 28 Aug (JO), high.

N. Pintail: max 12 MNWR 21 Aug (IBA), high.

GREATER SCAUP (R3): arr Holiday Harbor ONTA 8-9 Aug (CJ), ph, early.

LESSER SCAUP (R3): max 2 MyPt 2 Jun (mob), ph, high.

BUFFLEHEAD (R3): last Jetty Woods TOMP thru 10 Jun (mob!); arr & max 2 StP 29 Aug (KSn), high.

COM. GOLDENEYE (R3): max 4 Seneca L SP 1 Jul (EF!), high.

Hooded Merganser: max 16 MNWR 30 Jun (IBA), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: Seneca L SENE 5 Jun (TL); Cayuga L CAYU 3 Jul (JMc), only reports.

Ruddy Duck: max 6 MNWR 1 Jun.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Whitlock Preserve SENE 6 Jun; T Hector 17 Jun (TL); T Groton 14 Jul (CWo); only reports.

Com. Loon: max 4 Cayuga L TOMP 3 Jun & Cayuga L SENE 6 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 166 MNWR 24 Jul, high.

HORNED GREBE (R3): MyPt 3 Jun-5 Jun (JMc, LSA), ph.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 470 Jetty Woods TOMP 25 Aug, high.

BROWN PELICAN: Cayuga L 5 Jun-9 Jun (mob), ph.

Am. Bittern: max 3 MNWR 27 Jun-22 Aug.

Least Bittern: max 4 QCM 8 Aug.

BLACK VULTURE (R3): max & arr 2 T Enfield 29 Aug (PR!), early.

Turkey Vulture: max 121 Auburn 24 Jun (DNe), high.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: max 21 MNWR 7 Aug (IBA), high.

N. Goshawk: max T Erin 13 Jun (WE), only report.

Bald Eagle: max 48 MNWR 16 Jun (EHe), high.

Com. Gallinule: max 112 MNWR 28 Aug, high.

Sandhill Crane: max 19 MNWR 2 Aug (JMc, DNu, LSA), high.

Black-bellied Plover: last & max 15 MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 1 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 4 Aug (MT, DSh), early.

Semipalmated Plover: last 5 MNWR 12 Jun; arr 5 MNWR 16 Jul; max 90 MNWR 7 Aug (JC), high.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 MNWR 18 Jul, high.

Solitary Sandpiper: last MNWR 19 Jun (BD), late; arr 2 Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 11 Jul, RGF (KM); max 25 MNWR 15 Jul, high.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 3 Taughannock Falls SP 6 Jun (WO), late; arr MNWR 19 Jun (BD), early; max 77 MNWR 14 Aug.

WILLET (R3): arr MNWR 21 Aug (mob), ph, early, only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 24 MNWR 1 Jul; max 740 MNWR 18 Jul (KR), high.

Upland Sandpiper: max 8 T Seneca Falls 2 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 2 StP 1 Jun-3 Jun & MyPt 5 Jun (TL, JMc, LSA); last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 15 Jul (NK), early.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 13 Jul; max 16 MNWR 1 Aug.

Sanderling: arr MNWR 17 Jul; max 2 MyPt 20 Aug-31 Aug.

Dunlin: last 14 MNWR 2 Jun; max & arr 30 MNWR 15 Jul (NK), early.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 28 Aug; max 4 MNWR 29 Aug-31 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 10 MNWR 2 Jun; arr MyPt 10 Jul max 800 MNWR 18 Jul (KR), high.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 2 MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 13 Jul; max 13 MNWR 15 Aug.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MNWR 11 Aug (mob), early max 6 MNWR 31 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 6 MNWR 13 Jul; max 40 MNWR 9 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 5 Myers Pt 8 Jun; arr MNWR 13 Jul; max 450 MNWR 2 Jun, high.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 6 MNWR 13 Jul; max 26 MNWR 21 Aug-27 Aug.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 MNWR 1 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: max 12 MNWR 15 Aug.
Wilson's Phalarope: last & max 2 MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 26 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 28 Jul (DNu), early; max 2 MNWR 9 Aug-27 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 MNWR 21 Jul; max 5 MNWR 2 Aug (JGK), high.
LAUGHING GULL (R3): Hog Hole TOMP 13 Aug-28 Aug (mob!).
Herring Gull: max 80 RGF 24 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (R3): Elmira Dam CHEM 2 Jun-3 Jun (BO!, MPo), only report.
Great Black-backed Gull: arr Sunset P TOMP 19 Jun; max 16 StP 11 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.
Caspian Tern: max 129 MNWR 1 Aug (JO), high.
Black Tern: max 34 MNWR 2 Jun.
Com. Tern: max 32 Frontenac Harbor Marina CAYU 2 Jun (JMc), high.
ARCTIC TERN: CayL 2-10 Jun (KM!, MI, TSc, JMc), ph.
FORSTER'S TERN (R3): Seneca L SCHU 12 Aug (ID), ph.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Com. Nighthawk: arr T Covert 19 Aug; max 2 Riley Tree Farm CAYU 23 Aug.
Belted Kingfisher: max 8 LPBP 22 Aug (ACF, BFr), high.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 MNWR 27 Aug (EG, GL, CM), high.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 Cayuga Nature Center TOMP 26 Aug (TL), Catharine Valley Trail SCHU 30 Aug (ID), high.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 14 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 5 Jul (CWo), high.
Downy Woodpecker: max 20 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 10 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.
Merlin: max 2 QCM 2-19 Aug; 3 locations TOMP.
Peregrine Falcon: arr MNWR 31 Jul; max 2 MNWR 21 Aug-23 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Durland Preserve TOMP, SW 18 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr T Ithaca 8 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: max 4 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 22 Jun.
Blue Jay: max 30 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.
Fish Crow: max 21 RGF 22 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 8 T Veteran 19 Jul.
Barn Swallow: max 6580 QCM 5 Aug (ID), high.
Tufted Titmouse: max 20 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 MNWR 28 Aug (JO), high.
Brown Creeper: max 6 Mossy Bank P STEU 17 Jun (EHe), high.
Marsh Wren: max 50 MNWR 11 Jul (CW), high.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 11 Jul (JMc, LSa), high.
Swainson's Thrush: arr T Ithaca 22 Aug; max 5 T Ithaca 23 Aug (JMc), high.
Am. Robin: max 330 QCM 28 Jul, high.
Gray Catbird: max 44 QCM 5 Aug (ID), high.
Brown Thrasher: max 5 Newtown Battlefield SP 13 Jun (BO) & T Avoca 20 Jun (LMu) & LPBP 24 Jun (MSche), high.
N. Mockingbird: max 10 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.
European Starling: max 12,180 QCM 29 Jul (ID), high.
Cedar Waxwing: max 100 Park Preserve TOMP 20 Aug (DNu), high.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 25 Finger Lakes Trail STEU 22 Jun.
Worm-eating Warbler: Danby SF 15 Jun, only report.
"Brewster's" Warbler (hybrid): Summerhill SF CAYU 6 Jun, only report.
"Lawrence's" Warbler (hybrid): max 2 QCM 7 Aug (ID, DLe, TSc), high, only report.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 LPBP 6 Jun (EC) & Newtown Battlefield SP 12 Jun (MSchi), high.
Prothonotary Warbler: MNWR at 4 locations 3 Jul-13 Aug.

Tennessee Warbler: arr LPBP 29 Jul; max 3 CU 25 Aug, high.
Nashville Warbler: max 3 Summerhill SF 22 Jul (DBr), high.
Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Dryden L 22 Aug (JMc, LSa), early; max 3 T Lansing 24 Aug (GMa), high.
Cerulean Warbler: max 2 MNWR 6 Jun-14 Jun, Mud Lock CAYU 14 Jun & MNWR at 2 locations 14 Jun & MNWR 16 Jun.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max & arr 2 CU 23 Aug, Sullivanville Dam CHEM 23 Aug (mob).
Blackpoll Warbler: last T Wayne, Ithaca Tompkins Airport TOMP 1 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 30 Aug; max 2 MNWR 30 Aug & T Catlin 31 Aug (MPo).
Pine Warbler: max 7 Coon Hollow SF SCHU 12 Jul (ID), high.
Wilson's Warbler: last T Lansing 3 Jun; arr MNWR 29 Aug; max 2 Keuka L Outlet Trail YATE 30 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 T Benton 18 Jun.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 T Newfield 24 Aug (MF), high.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3): CU 4 Jun-11 Jul; T Ulysses 6 Jun-3 Jul (mob).

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Mt Pleasant TOMP 5 Jul.
Song Sparrow: max 80 Finger Lakes NF SCHU 2 Aug (TL, GMa), high.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 16 Bare Hill Unique Area YATE 21 Jun (CJ), high.
N. Cardinal: max 18 MNWR 28 Aug-30 Aug.
DICKCISSEL (R3): arr StP 31 Aug (JMc), early, only report.
Bobolink: max 8500 MNWR 29 Aug (JMc), high.
Com. Grackle: max 29,374 QCM 19 Aug (ID), high.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1165 QCM 29 Jul (ID), high.
Orchard Oriole: max 4 Salt Pt TOMP 3 Jul.
Baltimore Oriole: max 19 QCM 5 Aug (ID), high.
House Finch: max 20 SW 1 Jul (JGa) & T Dryden 1 Jul (BMa), high.
Purple Finch: max 8 C Ithaca 19 Jun.
Pine Siskin: max 2 T Ithaca 10 Jun & T Ithaca 6 Jul (TSc).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received this season.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Matt Perry

3787 Dawes Ave., Clinton, NY 13323
mperry63@roadrunner.com

David Wheeler

20 Waterbury Dr., North Syracuse, NY 13212
tigger64@aol.com

In terms of temperature, the summer 2015 season was the epitome of average, with each month varying from the norm by less than a degree. June was the wettest month by far and in Syracuse nearly 10 inches of rain fell, which is over 6.5" above average for the month. Over 2.5" of precipitation came down in a

single storm on 30 June. The same weather system produced even more rain in other parts of the Region. This resulted in flash flooding which damaged property and disrupted bird habitat. After June, precipitation amounts varied somewhat across the Region with the eastern half experiencing a much drier July and August. Syracuse was also down over 1.5" of rainfall in August.

Flooding at the end of June surely must have affected breeding birds, but few specific instances of lost or damaged nests were reported. In Old Forge in northern Herkimer County, Gary Lee wrote that many Common Loons lost their nests due to flooding and most went on to re-nest. By August a mild drought was beginning to take hold, and Delta Lake in Oneida County was being drawn down. The appearance of mudflats gave rise to the perennial hope that shorebirds would come. Some did, but compared to Delta's heyday of two decades ago, the turnout could at best be described as modest. Low water levels at some other lakes and reservoirs (including Hinckley Reservoir) attracted some shorebirds, but no significant or unusual records came of it.

Wild food production was close to uniform across the Region, with most areas producing fair to good amounts of mast in deciduous forests. Beech and Red Oak weren't very prolific, while White Oak and Hickory were well laden. Birch species all seemed to be loaded with seed, as were some maple family members like Box Elder and White Ash. Both Bill Purcell and Ken Burdick referred to the White Ash in their areas (Hastings and Skaneateles respectively) as experiencing a "last hurrah", as the species succumbs to the scourge of the Emerald Ash Borer which is poised to overtake the Region and deprive it of a significant habitat tree. Cone crops were mixed across the Region, with spruce species producing fair amounts in some areas and next to nothing in others.

By contrast, the fruit crop was impressive Region-wide. Reporters spoke of a great bounty of apples, crabapples, black cherries, nannyberries, elderberries and wild grapes. The more reliably producing buckthorn and American Mountain Ash trees did especially well. This should bode well for wintering fructivores like American Robins and Cedar Waxwings. Jays and woodpeckers should also be among the beneficiaries of such a well-stocked forest pantry. Birch catkins and ash seeds should satisfy some finches, but if they turn their attention to spruces, at least in much of the Region, they are likely to be disappointed.

A novel mix of waterfowl apparently neglected their breeding grounds and were found in a variety of places across the Region. A lingering Snow Goose is hardly a surprise anymore, especially given the sizable flocks that overfly the Region in spring. A few are bound to remain due to injury, disease or advanced age. A pair of Green-winged Teal found at a pond in southern Herkimer County on 25 July were probably early fall migrants. This was not likely the case with two adult male Redheads found on the Oswego River in Phoenix. They lingered into the first half of June and one continued through the end of the period. A sighting of a Ring-necked Duck at Woodman Pond on the fourth of July shouldn't come as too much a surprise, again, given the large numbers of the

species which traverse the Region in spring. It is perhaps harder to explain the presence of the female **Black Scoter** that Sam Hough found on 21 June at a pond in West Eaton, Madison County. The interesting seasonal rarity remained at the site for two days.

Pied-billed Grebes were difficult to come by this summer, but lack of effort could be partially responsible for the low number of reports. An American Bittern nestling found in Camden on 15 July and brought to Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center (KKWC) in Pennellville was reportedly the sole survivor of its nest. The property owner where the orphan was found claimed the nest had been destroyed by a land predator—possibly a coyote. A single report of a Least Bittern for the period could be another example of a lack of diligence in covering marshlands. A good maximum number of 80 Great Blue Heron came from a known heronry in Richfield Springs on 4 July. Ted Buhl reported that the number broke down to about 30 adults and 50 nestlings. On 21 July during a brief stop at an obscure pond near Richfield Springs, alert birders, Louise Gomez and Lynne Vanderwater, spotted a juvenile **Little Blue Heron**. The next day at an adjacent pond, the excellent rarity was seen in the company of another Little Blue. Donning identical plumage, this was perhaps a sibling of the first bird. The two were seen again on the 23rd, but not relocated after that.

A single **Black Vulture** was reported during the period. It was in the company of a flock of Turkey Vultures at Ditch Bank Road on 23 August. No Northern Goshawks were reported for the period, but likely no one made a concerted effort to locate any either. A Bald Eagle nestling found beneath a nest at Otisco Lake on Independence Day was found to be suffering from West Nile Virus (WNV); the bird also tested positive for hepatitis and was blind (the blindness is a common symptom of WNV). According to wildlife rehabilitator Jean Soprano, the unfortunate eaglet was treated at KKWC, but didn't survive long. An unconfirmed report of a second eaglet in the same nest prompted speculation that the sick bird had been ejected from the nest by its sibling. During the summer a Broad-winged Hawk and three Red-tailed Hawks brought to KKWC were also determined to have WNV. None of the infected raptors survived. A Broad-winged Hawk nest situated in a tree only a few feet from a Mexico residence was the cause of great concern to the owners of the house. After the young birds hatched the aggressive parents would scream and swoop down at anyone coming to or leaving the house! The summer produced no meaningful raptor flights from Derby Hill, either first year birds in June or post-breeding dispersals in August. Lack of strong south wind days may have been partially responsible, as well as limited observer coverage.

Virginia Rail numbers were low, and there was only one report of a Sora for the period, which unfortunately seems to be the norm. The presence of **Piping Plovers** during the breeding season at Sandy Pond is an exciting development and the species' status as a confirmed breeder only a short distance up the lakeshore in Jefferson County (Reg. 6) is encouraging. Three birds were noted—two male siblings banded last summer in Michigan and eventually an

unbanded female bird. Whether these birds attempted to nest at Sandy Pond is unknown. On 14 June, Dave Cesari confirmed the breeding of Upland Sandpipers in the Town of Deerfield, Oneida County, where he's been monitoring a small colony for several years. There, Amish farmers' method of field cultivation is proving friendlier to grassland birds, as it allows them to complete their breeding cycles. Despite the relative abundance of good habitat, by mid-summer, shorebird numbers were low and species diversity was unimpressive. A few reports of single Whimbrels from the Lake Ontario shoreline in late August were welcome if not entirely unexpected. Kevin McGann's count of 257 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Fair Haven on 1 June, outdid the period's next highest count by almost 250 birds! On 30 August, at Oneida Lake at Constantia, Dave Wheeler spotted a Lesser Black-backed Gull, which is a good find for the summer period. Tim Lenz came up with the season's only Forster's Tern at Fair Haven on 21 June.

Had it not been for the well-documented activities of the Utica Peregrine Falcons, we would have considered cuckoo numbers to be down this summer. It's important to note that no appreciable invasion of tent caterpillars was reported in the Region, and so a lack of cuckoo sightings was not surprising. But interestingly, Utica's adult male falcon had no trouble at all finding cuckoos and securing them as prey. A breeding season total of at least 15 (mostly Black-billed) were brought to the nest and fed to the eyases. Presumably the cuckoos were taken from the riparian grove-type habitat that is part of the Mohawk River corridor, which passes within a mile of the falcons' urban nest site. The reasons why cuckoos are being disproportionately exploited as prey has been a topic of continuing speculation. Their method of flight is relatively slow and direct, and their long tails perhaps make them an easy target as they fly from one side of the river to the other. At the top of the Utica Peregrine's menu, cuckoos are only outranked by European Starling and Rock Pigeon.

Only the three common owl species were reported this period and there were precious few of them. Most of the reports of Screech Owls came from Jean Soprano, who treated several at KKWC. A fledgling screech that came into the center from Camillus on 12 June had a badly deformed leg. After examining the shape of the nest cavity the owl came from, which was deep and very narrow at its base, Soprano hypothesized that the birth defect was caused by the egg the nestling hatched from having been wedged in a crevice and not turned during incubation. She's seen similar abnormalities in waterfowl that were caused by uneven incubation. Catherine Loomis reported that a pair of nesting Great Horned Owls in south Utica successfully fledged three young. In the Town of Salisbury, Herkimer County, Larry and Barbara Hall provided the Region with a respectable count of five E. Whip-poor-wills on 7 June. Otherwise there was little encouraging data to suggest that species is turning around its fortunes.

On 20 July, outside of Baldwinsville, a Belted Kingfisher was found wrapped in fishing line and suspended above a river. With much effort, the bird, which was still very much alive, was rescued and brought to KKWC. The

miraculously undamaged bird was able to be released the next day. On the first of August another kingfisher was found in a similar state—tied up in fishing line and hanging from a bridge over the Salmon River. Fortunately this bird too had sustained little damage and was able to be released. Two other cases of fish-eating birds becoming entangled in discarded fishing line were reported this period. Obviously there needs to be more responsibility instilled in the fishing community. They should be compelled to reign in their own bad actors and institute more site clean-ups. Birders and other conservation minded people are encouraged to collect and properly dispose of abandoned fishing gear whenever possible, since it poses such a menace to birds.

Red-headed Woodpeckers appear to be persisting in two locations in Oswego County, both near lake shores. Mandi Roggie provided our Region's sole Black-backed Woodpecker report from the Adirondacks, where it is expected. American Kestrels continue to be found in good numbers in the southern half of Herkimer County, where there is still an abundance of open farmland habitat. A recently fledged Merlin brought into KKWC from Rome on 25 June indicates that the species successfully bred in that vicinity. After being treated for two weeks the Merlin was able to be released back into the wild. Both the Syracuse and Utica Peregrine Falcon nests produced young this season. Close observation of the Utica birds post-fledging, revealed interesting family dynamics; most notably there was an instance of one fledgling going out of its way to feed and care for a sibling that had been neglected by the parents.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Sterling Nature Center on 25 July was probably an early migrant. There were only three other reports of the species, all in August. This season the Nature Center also boasted its first breeding Acadian Flycatchers. Jim D'Angelo, the center's Director, reported finding three Acadians there on 11 July and a nest was located eight days later. At Three Rivers WMA in Lysander, Gregg Dashnau found a single Sedge Wren on 4 June. Two of the elusive species were found at the same location on 14 June, but none subsequently. Jay McGowan's high count of 16 Blue Gray Gnatcatchers on 12 June is intriguing, and it came about during his survey of a three mile stretch of swampy woodlands along the Seneca River in northeastern Onondaga County. During the course of his visit he played recordings to attract rails and Cerulean Warblers, but none responded.

Gregg Dashnau's report of five Louisiana Waterthrush at Pixley Falls State Park near Boonville is potentially significant and could be an indication of a growing population at the northern periphery of the species' range. This may be happening even as the birds' hold in the southern half of our Region seems to be steadily weakening. Dashnau suggested that a more intensive survey of the gorges in that area would result in more Louisianas being found. There were only two reports of Golden-winged Warblers this period and one was an August migrant. "Winged" warblers in general were not so plentiful this summer. However, on 13 June, Wayne Fidler observed a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Great Bear Recreational Area in Fulton. The rare hybrid was never relocated. A single

report of a **Prothonotary Warbler** came from Howland Island, which is part of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge complex and the most likely place in the Region to find that species. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** which was brought to KKWC on 7 August defied diagnosis. The bird had been found in Pennelville and was unable to fly. It later expired.

From the beginning of the period through 22 July a maximum of four Clay-colored Sparrows were found singing on their breeding grounds at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland. Until this season the small colony was limited to one early successional field; as of this summer the species has adopted another similar field about 0.5 miles away. So far only one singing male has been found at the new site, but continued occupation over a period of many weeks indicates more than a passing interest on his part. Grasshopper Sparrows were reported at five separate sites, though there was no indication of how persistent their presence was at those sites or if any breeding took place. There were a few reports of Pine Siskins during the period, and only a single report of Evening Grosbeaks. Siskins were believed to have nested in a spruce tree at Derby Hill and likely other places as well.

The editors of this report would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Dorothy Crumb. She was a committed birder and conservationist as well as a gifted artist and author. Long-time readers of this journal will remember her as a former Region 5 editor. Dorothy was always generous with her time and willing to share her wealth of knowledge with birders of all stripes and skill levels. She was a good natured mentor and her legacy continues on in the form of a heightened appreciation of birds and bird habitat in all those she encountered. She will be greatly missed.

This season a total of 206 species and one hybrid was reported, which is four above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: Trumpeter Swan, Redhead, **Black Scoter**, **LITTLE BLUE HERON**, Black-crowned Night-Heron, **Black Vulture**, Sandhill Crane, **PIPING PLOVER**, **Whimbrel**, Ruddy Turnstone, Stilt Sandpiper, Black-backed Gull, **Forster's Tern**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, **Sedge Wren**, "Lawrence's" Warbler, **Prothonotary Warbler**, and **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**.

Summer 2015 produced 41,683 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 226 people.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dennis Anderson, Betty Armbruster, Don Bemanot, Brenda Best (BB), Sue Boettger, Carla Bregman, Joseph Brin (JB), Ted Buhl, Ken & Rose Burdick (KRB), Andrea Burke, Bernie Carr (BC), Jerry Case (JC), David Cesari, Audrey Chambers, Bill Chambers, Jay Chapman, Richard Cohen, Abby Darrah, Jim D'Angelo, Greg Dashnau (GD), Rose DeNeve, Michael DeWispelaere, Wayne Fidler (WF), Elizabeth Frascatore, Louise Gomez, Bill Gruenbaum, Michael

Gullo, Robert Guth, Barbara & Larry Hall (BLH), Gerry Hawkins, Lynne Hertzog, Teri Holland, Sam Hough, Gene Huggins, Marshall Iliff, Martha Krieger, Joshua LaCelle (JaL), Josiah LaCelle (JhL), Robbie LaCelle (RL), Gary Lee (GL), Tim Lenz, Catherine Loomis, Mark Magistro (MaM), Mary Magistro (MM), Kevin McGann (KM), Jay McGowan (JM), Gary Meyers, Wilma Mount, David Nash (DN), Michele Neligan, Mitch Nusbaum (MNU), Matt Perry (MP), Jay Powell, John Pumilio, Bill Purcell (BP), Paul Richardson, Mandi Roggie, Margaret Rusk (MR), Chris Sagnoli, Linda Salter (LS), Livia Santana (LSa), Cheri Sassman, Mickey Scilingo (MS), Tony Shrimpton (TS), Gerald Smith, Jean Soprano (JS), Chris Spagnoli (CS), Tom Sutcliffe, Paul Swigart, Jim Tarolli (JT), Judy Thurber, Andrew VanNorstrand, Tom Vawter, Matt Voelker (MV), Drew Weber (DWE), David Wheeler (DW), Brian White, Robert G. Williams III (RW).

ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Bville – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; DL – Delta L, ONEI; Dolge – Dolgeville, HERK; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; GLSP – Green Lakes SP, Manlius, ONON; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, Canastota, MADI; Ham – Hamilton, MADI; Hast – Hastings, OSWE; HV – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; KW – Kirkland Woods, Clinton, ONEI; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk, Syracuse; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; 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; VB – Verona Beach SP and vicinity; WH – Whiskey Hollow; WP – Woodman Pond, Hamilton, MADI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Mallory 1 – 6 Jun; Bville 14 Jul thru; Hast 7 Aug.
Brant: 30 SH 4 Jun (CS, BA), only report.
Canada Goose: max 250 Blossvale 24 Aug.
Mute Swan: max 7 FH 25 Jul.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 BLNC 14 Aug, only report.
Wood Duck: 38 TR 15 Jun; max 80 DL 15 Aug.
Am. Black Duck: max 6 DL 12 Aug.
Mallard: max 230 OLC 17 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: max 15 FH 21 Aug; 4 SNC 11 Jun; 4 Richfield 16 Jun, 17, 24 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 2 Richfield Springs 25 Jul (LG), unusual this early; max 8 WP 26 Aug;

one other loc.

Redhead: 2 Phoenix 2 – 17 Jun (GD), one remained thru.
Ring-necked Duck: WP 4 – 5 Jul; only reports.
Black Scoter: West Eaton 21 – 22 Jun (SH!, ph); unusual in summer.
Hooded Merganser: max 19 Big Moose, ADK 17 Aug; reports from a dozen locs in Jun – Jul.
Com. Merganser: max 15 OF 1 Jul, ad f. with 14 young.
N. Bobwhite: max 6 GSC 23 Aug; released at site.
Ring-necked Pheasant: singles from 6 locs.
Ruffed Grouse: max 9 Norway 29 Jun; 6 Skan 20 Jun.
Wild Turkey: max 24 North Winfield 22 Aug.

Com. Loon: 2 Const 5 – 14 Jun; 5 max Big Moose, ADK 25 Jul, 17 Aug; ad. WP 12 Jul – 5 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 TR 2 Aug, 5 Ham 27 Aug; relatively low counts.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 307 OnonL 28 Aug.

Am. Bittern: Camden 15 Jul (JS), nestling, intro; singles 7 other locs.

Least Bittern: SP 27 Jun, only report.

Great Blue Heron: max 80 Warren, s. HERK 4 Jul, nesting colony; Minetto 6 Aug (JS), dies from WNV.

Great Egret: 3 GSC 27 Jul; max 4 Jordan 30 Aug; 3 DL 25, 29 Aug.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R5): Richfield 21 Jul; max 2 same loc 22, 23 Jul (LG!, ph, mob), *intro*.

Green Heron: 7 West Eaton 18 Aug; max 9 TR 23 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Camden 12 Jul; max 3 OLC 9, 28 Aug; Jordan 27 Aug.

BLACK VULTURE (R5): DB 23 Aug (SH, GM).

Turkey Vulture: max 72 Little Falls 5 Aug; 70 DH 5 Aug.

Osprey: max 4 DH 5 Aug & VB 13 Aug.

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Harrier: max 2 Deerfield 1 Jul; most reports from n. ONEI, HERK; relatively few reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 WP 22 Aug, 2 SFNS 26 Aug; few reports.

Cooper's Hawk: max 4 BLNC 29 Jul; 2 DH 20 Aug.

Bald Eagle: 5 SNC 11 Jun; Otisco Lake 4 Jul (JS), nestling, WNV, *intro*; max 7 DL 22 Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles at 8 locs; few reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: Mexico 10 Jul (JS), breeding; 5 Ham 16 Aug; Cleveland 1 Aug (JS), WNV; max 54 DH 19 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: 4 Dolge 25 Jun; max 15 DH 19 Aug; 3 die from WNV.

Virginia Rail: max 5 WP 21 Jun; 4 Madison 25 Jun; low numbers.

Sora: TR 26 Jul, only report.

Com. Gallinule: 4 Volney 20 Jul; max 6 TR 27 Jul.

Am. Coot: max 6 HI 22 Aug; singles at 2 other locs.

Sandhill Crane: 8 Loop Rd, TMontezuma 30 Jun (LH); singles DB 23 – 27 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: Deerfield 10 Jun; FH 21 Aug; only reports.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr & max 23 SHTF 23

Aug; 10 SHTF 31 Aug; all sightings from same loc.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 18 Jul; 5 DL 15 Aug; max 8 Hinckley Reservoir 21 Aug.

PIPING PLOVER: SP 2-9 Jul (BP); max 3 SP 7 Jul (JT); 2 thru at least 29 Jul; *intro*.

Killdeer: max 175 SHTF 23 Aug; 45 SFNS 31 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 8 OLC 14 Jul & 8 SP 16 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr SFNS 13 Jul; max 8 West Eaton 24 Jul & 8 Richfield 3 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr OLC 15 Jul; max 6 OLC 23 Aug & 6 DL 15 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 SP 4 Jul; max 17 DB 19 Jul; 9 DL 29 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Deerfield 10 -16 Jun; Deerfield 14 Jun, fledgling; 2 Oswego Airport 5 Jun.

Whimbrel: arr FH 22 Aug (DW); max 2 DH 24 Aug (DW); only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: last & max 31 FH 1 Jun (KM); 4 FH 27 Aug (BP).

Stilt Sandpiper: DB 19 Jul, only report.

Sanderling: last & max 9 SP 2 Jun; arr SP 7 Jul; 4 DL 12 Aug.

Dunlin: last & max 3 FH 2 Jun, only report.

Least Sandpiper: arr OLC 14 Jul; max 60 DL 15 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: SP 2 Jun, only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr West Eaton 24 Jul; singles at 4 other locs.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 8 Bville 11 Jun; arr DB 19 Jul; max 257 FH 1 Jun (KM), impressive number.

Wilson's Snipe: max 2 Poland 10, 16 Jun, 1 Jul, 2 Fairfield 18 Jul, 2 Richfield 4, 10 Aug; most reports from n. ONEI & s. HERK.

Am. Woodcock: 2 TR 2 - 12 Jun, 15 Aug; 2 SFNS 24 Jun; Salisbury 18 Jul.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 FH 25 Jun; max 10 Const 30 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: max 300 OnonL 23 Jul; 250 FH 30 Aug.

Herring Gull: 45 SP 1 Aug; max 87 FH 27 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Const 30 Aug (DW).

Great Black-backed Gull: 5 Const 5, 11 Jun; max 8 FH 21 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 100 Oswego 28 Jun; max 165 SP 1 Aug; good numbers.

Black Tern: 3 SP 29 Jul; max 5 FH 27 Aug. singles and small numbers at 6 other locs.

Com. Tern: 35 SB 2 Jun; max 95 SP 1 Aug.

Forster's Tern: FH 21 Aug (TL).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 90 Phoenix 19 Aug; 50 Skan 21 Aug; 50 Tully 22 Aug.

Mourning Dove: max 100 Richfield 23 Aug; 38 Dolge 27, 29 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 BLNS 21 Jun; 2 HI 22 Jun; 2 GB 10 Jul; singles widespread.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 GLSP 7 Jun; 2 Hast 16 Jul; max 4 Kirkville 3 Jul; *intro*.

E. Screech-Owl: Oswego 11 Jun, fledgling; Camillus 12 Jun; fledgling; 2 SP 29 Jul, only reports.

Great Horned Owl: 2 SNC 29 Aug; max 3 s. Utica 4 Jun, all fledglings at known nest site; reports of singles from 5 other areas.

Barred Owl: 2 OF 13 Jun; 2 Vienna 16 Jun, 9 Aug, 2 Salisbury 28 Jul; 2 New Haven 13 Aug.

Com. Nighthawk: 6 TR 22 Aug; max 16 Ham 23 Aug; 5 New Haven 28 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: Camden 4 Jun; Const 7 Jun; max 5 Salisbury 7 Jun; only locs.

Chimney Swift: max 40 Bville 2 Aug; 58 Syr 14 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 6 WH 20 Jul; max 7 Volney 2 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: max 5 Richfield 10 Aug; 4 SNC 22, 29 Aug; two caught in fishing line 20 Jul, 1 Aug, *intro*

Red-headed Woodpecker: Const 20 Jun; max 3 FH 25 Aug; only 2 locs.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 GLSP 7 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 8 Redfield 24 Jun; 4 SFNS 1, 25 Jun, 2 Jul, 30 Aug; 5 ADK 5 Jul.

Downy Woodpecker: max 8 Bville 16 Aug.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Dolge 26 Jun.

Black-backed Woodpecker: ADK 19 Jul (MR).

N. Flicker: max 6 SFNS 7 Jun, 30 Aug & 6 CM 20 Jul.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 GLSP 7 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: max 12 Richfield 11, 21 Aug; 5 Fairfield 12 Aug; good numbers from HERK.

Merlin: Rome 25 Jun, fledgling, rehab at KKWC; 2 Waterville 16 Jun; max 3 Bville 26 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: 3 fledged from Utica nest, 15-20 Jun, *intro*; 2 fledge from Syr nest. 5 reports of singles away nest sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: SNC 25 Jul, early migrant?; Redfield 13 Aug; TR 15 Aug; SNC 29 Aug; only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 12 Bville 12 Jun & 12 VB 4 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 2 Hast 14 Aug; 4 more reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: singles WH thru 10 Jul; max 3 SNC 11 Jul (JDA), new breeding loc, *intro*.

Alder Flycatcher: max 7 TR 28 Jul.

Willow Flycatcher: max 6 TR 6 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 7 Redfield 2 Jun.

E. Phoebe: max 11 Trenton 21 Aug.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 6 Bville 12 Jun; max 9 CM 20 Jul.

E. Kingbird: max 8 HI 14 Jun; 7 Cicero 16 Jul.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 6 HI 14 Jun; 4 WP 5 Jul.

Blue-headed Vireo: 3 Redfield 2 Jun; max 6 OF 13 Jul.

Warbling Vireo: max 10 Camillus 6 Jun & 10 HI 14 Jun, 10 WP 5 Jul, 10 Bville 9 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Ham 16 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 12 SFNS 3 Jun, 2 Jul; max 27 HV 10 Jun; 12 Westdale 5 Jun.

Gray Jay: Bald Mountain 5 Aug (EF), only report.

Blue Jay: max 15 SFNS 26, 31 Aug.

Am. Crow: 34 Poland 10 Jun; max 102 Dolge 1 Jul; 13 Aug Pennellville, KKWC, dies from WNV.

Fish Crow: 2 Bville 7 Jun – 27 Jul; TR 12 Jun; Cazenovia 18 Jul; OnonL 12 Aug; 2 VB 13 Aug.

Com. Raven: max 6 West Lyden 3 Jun; 5 Salisbury 23 Jun; widespread reports.

Horned Lark: 2 Tully 12 Jun; Fabius 4 Jul; 2 Waterville 3 Aug; max 8 SHTF 31 Aug; only 4 locs.

Purple Martin: max 25 Const 3 Jun; 23 Cicero 16 Jul; 15 TR 23 Aug.

Tree Swallow: max 175 GSC 7 Jun.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 20 Belgium 7 Jul, 20 Richfield 24 Aug.

Bank Swallow: 24 Mallory 30 Jun; max 60 FH 27 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: 15 Pulaski 6 Jun; max 20 Phoenix 17 Jun; 7 Fairfield 29 Jul; somewhat more widespread reports this season.

Barn Swallow: 50 FH 5 Jun; max 150 SHSF 21 Aug.

swallow species: max 400 SHTF 25 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 18 VB 4 Aug.

Tufted Titmouse: max 11 Const 27 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 Ham; best numbers from MADI.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 Phoenix 31 Aug.

Brown Creeper: 4 HI 14 Jun; max 6 Williamstown 15 Aug.
House Wren: max 10 SFNS 10, 13 Aug.
Winter Wren: max 3 SH 14 Jul; low numbers.
Carolina Wren: 2 Manlius 11 Jul; 2 Skan 28 Aug.
Sedge Wren: arr TR 4 Jun (GD); max & last 2 TR 14 Jun.
Marsh Wren: max 5 HI 14 Jun; 4 Pulaski 27 Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 16 Belgium 12 Jun (JM), three miles surveyed; 6 HI 14 Jun; 6 VB 14 Aug.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 Cold Brook 13 Jun; max 4 Brookfield 5 Jul; 3 SH 9 Jul; singles at 5 other locs.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Ohio 11 Jul (BLH), only report.
E. Bluebird: max 5 Pulaski 6 Jun, 5 GSC 7 Jun, SFNS 10 Jun.
Veery: 8 SFNS 3 Jun; 10 TR 20 Jun; max 14 BLNC 21 Jun; 8 Cicero 22 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: singles ADK, ADK foothills & Tug Hill 2 Jun- 25 Jul; max 2 Redfield 24 Jun; 7 reports.
Hermit Thrush: 3 Cold Brook 13 Jun; 3 HV 13 Jun; max 9 OF 5 Jul, including 6 juv; 3 SH 25 Jul.
Wood Thrush: 15 Belgium 12 Jun; 7 WH 5 Jul; 8 SFNS 2 Jul.
Am. Robin: max 100 Phoenix 29 Aug.
Gray Catbird: max 31 CM 22 Jun; 20 UM 7 Jul; 20 VB 5 Aug.
Brown Thrasher: max 4 GLSP 6 Jun & 4 Van Buren 13 Jun & 4 Dolge 9 Jul & 4 West Winfield 26 Jul.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 Cazenovia 8 Aug, 3 GLSP 8 Aug.
European Starling: max 320 TR 15 Aug.
Cedar Waxwing: max 548 DH 19 Aug; 300 TR 23 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 12 HV 13 Jun; 11 SH 17 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Boonville 3 Jun, high count for loc; 4 other reports of singles, none after 7 Jun.
N. Waterthrush: max 3 Cazenovia 10 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: Fulton 13 Jun; BLNC 23 Aug; only reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 3 Ham 15 Jun & 3 Hast 30 Jun; relatively poor numbers.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: GB 13 Jun (WF!).
Black-and-white Warbler: 2 Fulton 6 Jun; 2 VB 7 Aug; 2 Const 13 Aug; 2 Phoenix 24 Aug;

2 Hast 28 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: HI 14 Jun (JM), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Hast 13 Aug; max 3 Hast 28 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: 2 Cold Brook 13 Jun; 2 GB 28 Aug; 2 Hast 28 Aug; 2 BLNC 29 Aug.
Mourning Warbler: max 4 WH 20 Aug, 4 Ham 16 Aug.
Com. Yellowthroat: 15 TR 14 Jun; 15 Bville 14 Jun; max 20 VB 14 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: 5 Kirkland Woods 4 Jun; 5 Pompey 7 Jun; 5 WH 11 Jun; max 8 Williamstown 21 Aug.
Am. Redstart: 9 Redfield 2 Jun; max 10 Westdale 5 Jun, 10 HI 27 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: arr Hast 22 Aug; max 4 Hast 28 Aug; singles same loc.
Cerulean Warbler: max 9 HI 14 Jun (JM); 2 Cicero 22 Jun; one other location, none after 29 Jun.
N. Parula: Cold Brook 13 Jun; OF 3, 5 Jul; Moss Lake 12, 13 Jul; only reports.
Magnolia Warbler: max 4 Cold Brook 13 Jun, 4 OF 13 Jun; 4 GB 28 Aug; 4 TR 29 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Phoenix 28 Aug, only report.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 5 Redfield 2 Jun; 3 Lake Rondaxe, ADK 13 Jul; 3 SH 20 Aug; 3 Hast 12 Aug.
Yellow Warbler: max 27 DH 25 Jul; 16 Bville 2 Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 7 Hast 12 Jul & SH 14 Aug;
Blackpoll Warbler: last SFNS 2 Jun.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 OF 3 Jul; 3 SH 9 Jul; 3 Williamstown 23 Aug; low numbers in south half of REG.
Pine Warbler: max 4 Vienna 4 Jun & 4 Redfield 24 Jun; 3 OF 3 Jul; 3 GB 28 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 Lake Rondaxe, ADK 13 Jul; relatively few reports.
Prairie Warbler: HV 6 Jun (DW, MV); 2 HV Jun 10; max 3 WP 9 Jul (RW); FH 14 Aug (DW, JT).
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 6 OF 3, 19 Jul; 3 Gray 6 Aug; generally poor numbers.
Canada Warbler: max 3 Cold Brook 13 Jun & 3 SH 2 Jul; 2 TR 16 Jul; 2 Hast 28 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Phoenix 24 Aug; reports of singles from Dolge and Hast.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R5): Pennellville 7 Aug (JS), brought to KKWC, expires.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 8 TR 1 Jul; 7 Hast 16, 27 Jul; 7 GB 3 Aug; 7 Eldridge 17 Aug.

Chipping Sparrow: max 16 Dolge 11 Aug; 15 Bville 23 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 4 SFNS 2, 13 Jun, 6 Jul; singles TR, Const; *intro*.

Field Sparrow: 5 SFNS 3 Jun; max 9 TR 12 Jun; 6 GLSP 26 Jun; 5 Hast 10 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: Salisbury 4 Jul; max 2 Richland 5 Jul; Fairfield 18 Jul; Dolge 8 Aug; Bville 16 Aug; only reports.

Savannah Sparrow: 7 Little Falls 5 Jun; 5 DB 24 Jul; max 8 Canastota 24 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Salisbury 2 Jul; max 3 Richland 5 Jul; 2 DB 24 Jul; singles TR, Poland.

Song Sparrow: max 25 DB 6 Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 ADK 25 Jul, only report.

Swamp Sparrow: max 12 Tully 13 Jun; 10 UM 7 Jul; max 17 CM 20 Jul.

Dark-eyed Junco: 8 New Hartford 7 Jul; max 16 OF 5 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: 3 SH 2 Jul; max 4 Cold Brook 13 Jun; 3 OF 4, 5 Jul.

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Kirkland Woods 4 Jun & 5 WH 11 Jun.

N. Cardinal: 10 SF 5 Jul, 26 Aug; max 11 n. Syr 6 Aug.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 5 SFNS 3 Jun, 10,

30 Aug; 6 Belgium 12 Jun; max 7 North Winfield 8 Jul.

Indigo Bunting: max 8 Hast 16 Jul; 6 Deansboro 16 Jul; 6 Van Buren 30 Aug.

Bobolink: 40 TR 18 Aug; max 58 Richfield 21 Aug; 35 SFNS 26 Aug.

Red-winged Blackbird: 150 Richfield 29 Jul; max 200 DL 21 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: max 4 Oswego Airport 20 Jul, 4 DB 24 Jul.

Com. Grackle: max 350 TR 27 Jul; 230 Hast 28 Aug.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 75 Dolge 23 Jun.

Orchard Oriole: max 6 GLSP 20 Jun; 2 Chittenango 24 Jul; 3 Dolge 27 Jul.

Baltimore Oriole: 9 Camillus 6 June; 9 Camden 12 Aug; max 10 BLNC 16 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 12 Dolge 3 Aug; most reports from east half of Reg.

House Finch: 7 Blossvale 25 Jun; max 20 Bville 9 Aug.

Pine Siskin 2 Dolge 3 Jul; 2 Ham 5 Jul; DH 20 Jun.

Am. Goldfinch: max 53 Blossvale 11 Jun; 40 SFNS 18 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Manheim 29 Jun, only report.

House Sparrow: max 57 Const 20 Aug.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617

jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

Summer started cool and wet, with temperatures rising and precipitation dropping through the season. June was about 1-3° F below normal throughout Region 6, with temperatures falling into the 30s on several nights early in the month. July's mean temperature was about normal and August was very slightly warmer than normal. The 5.7" of precipitation that fell on Watertown in June was exactly double average and was probably needed after a series of months with below normal precipitation. July and August were both drier than average, with Watertown receiving about 1.5" below average for the two months combined.

Although the summer started wet, there was little indication that June's rainfall had a negative effect on nest success. Several observers commented on a

relative abundance of Ruffed Grouse broods compared with the previous two years when cool and wet springs apparently led to poor nest success. Many also felt that Wild Turkeys were less abundant than they have been for several years and attributed declines to the effects of two consecutive hard winters. However, there was no shortage of turkey broods this summer. The wet June contributed to but was probably not the only reason for very high water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River that persisted through the summer.

Waterfowl numbers were about average with a few unusual sightings. There was one each Snow Goose and Brant report, which is now typical for the summer season, although the late July date for the Brant is unusual. Northern Shovelers were well reported at three Wildlife Management Areas, with probable breeding at Perch River and confirmed breeding at Ashland Flats. An adult male Bufflehead at Perch Lake all summer may have been an injured bird.

Pied-billed Grebes were not as numerous as usual at Upper and Lower Lakes and especially Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Areas, the two sites that usually have the Regional high counts for this species. The low numbers at Wilson Hill were probably one result of a drop in water levels for vegetation management conducted this spring, but there was no obvious reason for the reduced numbers at Upper and Lower Lakes. In contrast, more Pied-billed Grebes nested on a small marsh at Fort Drum than had been observed during any year in the nearly two decades this site has been observed, and Common Gallinules were also relatively abundant at this site.

Least Bitterns were reported from four WMAs and three other sites, but, given the large number of observers in the field this season, it seems like more should have been found. On 5 July, Lee Ellsworth counted 63 Black-crowned Night-Herons flying out of Perch River WMA at sunset for the highest tally I am aware of from this location. Great Egrets were also better reported from Jefferson County than during most summers, but I received few reports from northeast St. Lawrence County, where this species has been most abundant in recent years, and suspect that low observer effort accounts for this drop in sightings.

This season's shorebird tally is the highest in many years, thanks primarily to NYSDEC management at Perch River WMA, where the Stone Mills Pool was drained during the late spring creating numerous pools of shallow water during the summer. These pools attracted hundreds of shorebirds of at least 18 species, including the highest tallies reported in the last ten years for most regularly occurring species. The only true rarity at this site was **Western Sandpiper**, observed on 10, 13, and 28-29 August, although it is not clear whether these sightings represent one or two individuals. Other noteworthy shorebirds at Perch River included at least three Stilt Sandpipers, several Sanderling, just one White-rumped Sandpiper on 12 August, single Baird's Sandpipers on several dates with a high count of five 28 and 29 August, and Red-necked Phalaropes on 13 and 21 August. NYSDEC also partially drained several pools at Wilson Hill WMA this spring, attracting northbound shorebirds through at least the first

week of June, including the season's only Ruddy Turnstone on 8 June. By July extensive vegetation had grown up in these pools, making shorebird observation very difficult for the rest of the summer.

The shorebirding was unusually good at Perch River by Region 6 standards, but the best shorebird of the season was a pair of **Piping Plovers** that successfully raised one chick at Lakeview WMA. First noticed by Diana Whiting in early June, word of the Piping Plovers took a while to get out, but finally on 27 June Greg Lawrence, Liz Truskowski, and Michal Weaver from NYSDEC found a nest with two eggs. Unfortunately this nest was lost, probably during strong storms later that day, but only two days later a group led by Irene Mazzocchi found the female on a second nest about a mile south of the first one. Two chicks eventually fledged from this nest, with one surviving to independence. This was the first nest attempt on the New York shore of Lake Ontario since the early 1980s (see article, pp. 285-286).

The other avian highlight of the summer was an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** that spent two days at Eileen Cardinal's feeders in the town of Hopkinton. Few birders were able to see this hummingbird, but fortunately Nick Leone and Eileen Wheeler were able to document the bird and get some photos. Rounding out the season's rarities was a **Nelson's Sparrow** Nick Leone heard singing on the night of 19 June at French Creek WMA. Although there are very few records of Nelson's Sparrow in Region 6, it seems possible that this species could occur with some regularity and is simply missed because of the scarcity of birders and an abundance of potential habitat.

Once again this summer, numerous Golden-winged Warblers with very few Blue-winged Warblers were found in the lake and ridge country of northeastern Jefferson County and adjacent St. Lawrence County, but Blue-winged Warblers outnumbered Golden-winged Warblers to the south and west. It certainly appears that Blue-winged Warblers will soon entirely replace Golden-winged Warblers in southern Jefferson County, but there is some hope that the Indian River Lakes area may act as a refugium for Golden-winged Warblers. Other notable warbler sightings included a Louisiana Waterthrush at the Lake of the Woods, in an area where this species has apparently occurred for several years, and a very late, well-seen Louisiana Waterthrush at Lakeview WMA on 28 August. An apparent pair of Wilson's Warblers Dennis Vroman found at Stony Point on 28 June seems out of place, but there have been several summer Wilson's Warbler reports from the Lake Ontario shoreline the past few years that were thought to have been misidentifications; in light of this year's report, it is worth considering the possibility that this species may be nesting in small numbers in western Jefferson County.

Rare grassland birds were something of a mixed bag this summer, with every species that regularly nests in Region 6 present but some in very low numbers. Upland Sandpipers were especially scarce and seem to be barely holding on as a breeding species, with about five pairs total noted from Ashland Flats WMA and Fort Drum and just one other sighting before late July. Three

pairs of Short-eared Owls nested on Fort Drum, with at least one and almost certainly two pairs fledging young, for the first confirmed breeding in Jefferson County in several years. At least 21 Sedge Wrens were found at five locations, of which 13 territorial males were on Fort Drum. Henslow's Sparrow surveys turned up high counts of 13 males at Perch River WMA, 11 at two privately owned fields enrolled in a NYSDEC landowner incentive program, and seven at Fort Drum.

The four Orchard Oriole reports this summer include one confirmed and two probable nesting records, and, in combination with observations from the past few years, clearly indicates an increasing population. Orchard Orioles are now firmly established in western Jefferson County and appear to be moving up the St. Lawrence River. No Rusty Blackbirds were reported in Region 6 this summer, but coverage in the St. Lawrence County portion of the Adirondacks was poor except for Massawepie Mire, which always attracts numerous visitors, and Cranberry Lake Biological Station. A few Pine Siskins were reported from the Adirondacks, and presumably Red Crossbills were present as well, although the only crossbills I know of were seen on Fort Drum during early June.

Notable this summer was the presence of an unusually large number of birders and bird biologists in Region 6. A Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology project looking at Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler genetics on Fort Drum brought half a dozen field ornithologists to the Region for the summer, and two more biologists studied Whip-poor-wills on the installation. Greg Lawrence studied grassland birds on the St. Lawrence River for a graduate project, in the process turning up a good number of interesting birds. Noah Strycker even spent a day in Jefferson County as part of his quest to set a new global big year record. He was accompanied by Marshall Illiff and Tom Schulenberg from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on a successful visit for Henslow's Sparrow.

For the season I received reports of 215 species, easily besting any previous summer tally during the dozen years that I have been the full-time Region 6 editor. The combination of an unusually robust shorebird list thanks to the low water at Perch River, a better than usual mix of rarities, and the presence of numerous visiting birders accounts for the high species tally. Although there were several options to choose from as the season's best bird, the return of Piping Plover as a breeding species to the Lake Ontario shoreline has to be the absolute highlight of the season, and it is hoped that this species is back to stay.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jesse Anderson, Alan Belford, Adam Bleau, Jeff Bolsinger, Richard & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Eileen Cardinal, Dan Ceravolo, Maria Ceravolo, Sharon Ceravolo, Jay Chapman, Joan Collins, Mary Curtis, Nick Curtiss, Benjamin Dixon, Jacob Drucker, Starr Durant-Rason, Wayne Fidler, Lee Ellsworth, Lee Harper, David Hodkinson, Marshall Illiff, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Nick

Leone, Tim Lenz, Pat Lindsay, Tristan Lowery, Irene Mazzocchi, Brian McAllister, Kevin McGann, Daniel Miller, Shai Mitra, Eugene Nichols, Fred Ossman, Bill Purcell, Mandi Roggie, Linnea Rowse, Bryan Sabourin, Tom Schulenberg, Glenn Seeholzer, Gerry Smith, Kim Spiller, Noah Strycker, John & Pat Thaxton, Elizabeth Truskowski, Linda Tucker, Dennis Vroman, MaryBeth Warburton, Jesse Warner, Michal Weaver, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Diana Whiting, Thomas Williams, Colleen Williams.

ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; CB – Chaumont Barrens preserve, T Clayton; CV – T Cape Vincent; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; JCSP – Jacques Cartier SP; KC – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; LGI – Little Galloo I; LPt – Leonard Pd trail, T Colton; LRUD – Low’s Ridge-Upper Dam trail, T Piercefield; LWMA – Lakeview WMA, T Ellisburg; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Point Peninsula; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WISP – Wellesley I SP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: T Clayton 3 Jun (NL), only report.

Brant: apparently injured PtPen 25 Jul (EN, ph!), only report.

Mute Swan: up to 7/day PRWMA thru; 5 T Clayton 27 Jun, only other location.

Trumpeter Swan: 2-3/day PRWMA thru; max 4 ULLWMA 5 Jun; only locations.

Wood Duck: max 34 PRWMA 7 Jun.

Gadwall: max 6 WHWMA 15 Jun.

Am. Wigeon: 4 PRWMA 27 Jun, only report before Aug; max 12 PRWMA 22 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: broods JCSP & PRWMA.

Blue-winged Teal: 1-2/day Jun & Jul AFWMA, PRWMA, & WHWMA; no other reports until Aug; max 23 PRWMA 29 Aug.

N. Shoveler: sev reports 1-5 PRWMA thru; 2 WHWMA 8 Jun (GL); f with 5 yng AFWMA 26 Jun (DM).

N. Pintail: 2 PRWMA 12 & 13 Aug; 2 WHWMA 23 Aug; only reports.

Green-winged Teal: max 29 WHWMA 16 Jun, high; other reports from AFWMA, PRWMA, & Ogdén Island.

Redhead: 70 WHWMA 30 Aug, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 64 ULLWMA 29 Aug; sev Jun & Jul reports PRWMA where breeding has not been documented.

Bufflehead: ad m Perch Lake thru (mob).

Com. Merganser: PRWMA 2 Jul, unusual summer location.

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CV 5 Jun, only report.

Ruffed Grouse: many broods reported suggesting high productivity after dismal nest success previous two breeding seasons.

Spruce Grouse: MM 3 Jul (PL, SM), only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 24 ULLWMA 29 Aug, low; also unusually scarce at WHWMA where water levels lowered for vegetation management; 19 Matoon Marsh FD 7 Aug, high count, more than usual.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2264 nests LGI 19 Jun.

Am. Bittern: 2-6/day in damp old fields FD; many reports AFWMA & PRWMA.

Least Bittern: reports from AFWMA, FD, PRWMA, ULLWMA, WHWMA, Wilson Bay Marsh, & and one private marsh.

Great Egret: 1-2/day AFWMA thru 4 Aug; 1-2/day PRWMA Jun & Jul increased to 5-11/day Aug; max 14 O’Neil Road swamp T Norfolk 6 Aug.

Green Heron: max 6 PRWMA 16 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 63 PRWMA 5 Jul (LE).

Turkey Vulture: max about 100 T Wilna 8 Jun.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 8 reports.
Cooper's Hawk: 11 reports.
N. Goshawk: nests FD & LPt, only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 9 reports from all portions of Region.
Virginia Rail: max 5 ULLWMA 14 Aug.
Sora: max 3 AFWMA 7 Jun.
Com. Gallinule: max 30 PRWMA 7 Jun; other high counts include 19 AFWMA 26 Jun & 19 FD 7 Aug.
Am. Coot: AFWMA 7-10 Jun; 2 PRWMA 29 Jun - 5 Jul; only reports.
Sandhill Crane: T Hammond (JB, GL), only report.
Black-bellied Plover: last 8 WHWMA 6 Jun; 1-3/day PRWMA 2 Aug thru.
Am. Golden-Plover: sev reports PRWMA 19-27 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last WHWMA 8 Jun; max 60 PRWMA 3 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER: pr fledged 1 yng LWMA, first nesting Lake Ontario since 1984 (IM, GL, ET, mob).
Killdeer: max 185 PRWMA 19 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 40 PRWMA 3 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 70 PRWMA 3 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: at least 3 pr FD & 2 ad AFWMA, only Jun reports; T Ogdensburg 4 Jul, only other report before late Jul; 2 T Madrid 31 July, certainly migr; T Clayton 7 Aug, possibly migr but in traditional nesting area.
Ruddy Turnstone: WHWMA 8 Jun (GL), only report.
Stilt Sandpiper: PRWMA 13-16 Aug; 2 PRWMA 22-26 Aug.
Sanderling: 4 PRWMA 19 Aug; max 11 LWMA 22 Aug; WHWMA 23 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: single juv PRWMA 7, 13, 22 & 27 Aug; max 5 PRWMA 28-29 Aug (JB, mob).
Least Sandpiper: max 367 PRWMA 21 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: ad PRWMA 12 Aug, only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 31 PRWMA 13 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 WHWMA 8 Jun; WHWMA 23 Jun; max 69 PRWMA 19 Aug.
WESTERN SANDPIPER: juv PRWMA 10, 13, 28-29 Aug (JB, NL, ph!).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 5 rep 1-2 PRWMA 23 Jul - 26 Aug; max 4 WHWMA 30 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: PRWMA 13 & 21 Aug, only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 PtPen 21 Jun; 2 Lakeview WMA 27-29 Jun; next report 2 WHWMA 31 Jul.

Herring Gull: max 784 nests LGI.
Caspian Tern: 2084 nests LGI, 15% lower than record-high count in 2014.
Black Tern: high counts 40 PRWMA 7 Jun; 31 ULLWMA 3 Jul; 7 AFWMA 9 Jul.
Com. Tern: modern record-high 1552 nests SLR between Lake Ontario and Massena, all but 77 on NYS side river (LH); 30+ nests LGI Jun, included at least one with chicks.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 12 rep, more than usual for a year without a major tent caterpillar outbreak.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 1-3/day FD.
E. Screech-Owl: 6 rep, more than usual likely reflecting increased observer effort.
Com. Nighthawk: WHWMA 4 Jun & Ogden Island 7 Jun, possibly late migr; 2-8/day FD Jun & Jul, only other rep before Aug; about a dozen rep migr 15 Aug thru; max 87 Antwerp & Gouverneur 22 Aug.
E. Whip-poor-will: max 38 on 10 stop survey route FD 26 Jun (KS); 26 on approx 10-mile route Macomb & Theresa 9 Jul (JB).
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Hopkinton feeder 22-23 Jul (EC, NL, EW, ph!, reports to NYSARC).
Red-headed Woodpecker: T Clayton 10 Jun; LWMA 2 Jul; only reports away from FD where 9-10 pairs nested.
Merlin: more than 50 rep; well established as a breeder throughout.
Peregrine Falcon: nest with 3 chicks Payne Lake 7 Jun (JB, GL); several reports SLR in locations suggesting number of nesting pairs along river increasing; family group hazing PRWMA shorebirds frequently Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last T Gouverneur 7 Jun; MM 16 Jul only Jun or Jul report from breeding habitat; FD at about 800 feet elevation 5 Aug, likely early fall migr or wanderer rather than local breeder; late Aug reports from Tug Hill & Cranberry Lake.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: < 10 reports from breeding sites, probably reflecting poor coverage of Adirondacks and Tug Hill.
Philadelphia Vireo: Wanakena BBS 6 Jun, only rep before late Aug; Tug Hill 26 Aug, only other report.

Horned Lark: singles PRWMA & T Lyme 7 Jun & FD 8 Aug; only reports.

Sedge Wren: T Dekalb 7 Jun (GL, JB); 13 territorial males FD thru; NYSDEC personnel found 4 PtPen, 1 Chaumont, & 2 Hammond.

Carolina Wren: FD 4 Jun; WISP 5 Jul; only reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 12 rep, about typical.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: LRUD 12 Jun; T Childwold 31 Jul; only reports.

N. Mockingbird: 1-2/day FD; singles BI 26 Jun, LWMA 27 Jun, WISP 13 Aug, & KC 22 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: only 6 Adirondack & Tug Hill rep indicates scanty coverage of breeding areas; migr LWMA 22 Aug & ICNC 29 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Lake of the Woods T Theresa 9 Jul (JB); LWMA 28 Aug (JB!), late.

Golden-winged Warbler: one-day max 18 Indian River Lakes area 7 Jun (JB, GL), where only 2 Blue-winged Warblers reported all season.

Blue-winged Warbler: continuing to increase S & W Jefferson County including FD, *intro*.

Tennessee Warbler: arr T Hammond 6 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: Winona SF 14 Jun, only report.

Cape May Warbler: arr MM & Cranberry Lake 22 Aug; FD 24 Aug, only other report.

Cerulean Warbler: 4 Whetstone Gulf State Park 12 Jun (MR); max 8 Indian River Lakes area 7 Jun (JB, GL); 5 Long Pond Lewis County 4 Jul (MR); 5 FD early Jul (JB); more than usual.

N. Parula: arr ICNC 29 Aug; only report outside Adirondack breeding area.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr ICNC 29 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Ogden Island 15 Jun.

"Yellow" Palm Warbler: 5 LRUD 12 Jun; max 27 MM 12 Jul; only reports.

"Western" Palm Warbler: arr WHWMA 23 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 1-5/day CB Jun & Jul; T Hammond 6 Jun, new loc; max 10 FD 26 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: pr StPt 28 Jun (DV, *intro*); arr ICNC 29 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: one-day max 44 FD 5 Jul, would have been more had thunderstorms not cut survey effort short (JB); 3 Galop Island 2 Jun (GL); T Leray 5 Jun (JB); up to 4/day CB and nearby Vanalstyne Road Jun thru 5 Jul (mob); CV 2 Jul (NL).

Vesper Sparrow: 10-30/day in open sandy areas FD thru; CV 3 Aug & WISP 9 Aug, only other reports (DM).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 6-20/day in open sandy areas FD thru; 1-3/day PRWMA Jun & Jul; 2 Galop Island 2 Jun (GL); Ogden Island 22 Jun (GL).

Henslow's Sparrow: max 13 on NYSDEC surveys PRWMA; 11 in 2 fields enrolled in NYSDEC landowner incentive program Jefferson County; 7 FD thru; no other reports.

NELSON'S SPARROW: nocturnal song French Creek WMA 19 Jun (NL).

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 15 MM 3 Jul; only 1 other report reflecting scanty coverage Adirondacks.

Dark-eyed Junco: Coyote Flats WMA 7 Jun (MI, TL, TS); CB 9 Jun (JD); FD 12 Jun (LT); 5 WISP 8 Aug (JA); more rep than usual from outside Adirondack and Tug Hill.

Orchard Oriole: Galop Island 2 Jun (GL); FD 12 Jun (JB), PRWMA 29 Jun (JB); pr + 2 yng & 2nd ad m T Ellisburg 24 Jul (SDR); well established near Lake Ontario & increasing along St. Lawrence River.

Baltimore Oriole: many moving early Aug; max 23+ in one tree FD 6 Aug; scarce by end Aug.

Red Crossbill: Fort Drum 5 & 11 Jun, only reports.

Pine Siskin: Cranberry Lake 6 Jun, CB 7 Jun, FD 11 Jun, & MM 3 Jul; only reports.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

No report was received this season.

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534

wyandik@hotmail.com

Summer 2015 began wet but dry conditions persisted in many parts of the Region throughout the season, with warmer than average temperatures. June was a wet month, ending with 2.91 more inches of rain than average with seasonal temperatures. At Albany, 19 days in June had more than a trace of precipitation, with the most significant rainfall occurring during the first and third weeks of the month. July dried out significantly. Albany logged in 0.7 fewer inches of rain than average, although rainfall was patchy throughout the Region. Areas that missed pop-up thunderstorms recorded zero rainfall for the month. July ended 1.2° F warmer than average. August was very warm, ending 3° above average and 0.8" of rain above average. As with July, rainfall was not evenly distributed and the several localized storms at the Albany weather recording station masked very dry conditions elsewhere in the Region.

Regular visits by area birders to Cohoes in Albany County, one of the Region's most reliable places for unusual shorebirds during migration, yielded some good results. Among the usual peeps and yellowlegs, observers found several Short-billed Dowitchers and a Willet that hung around in August long enough for several to see it.

Tom and Colleen Williams organized an interesting group of local birders to step outside each evening in mid-August to watch for migrating Common Nighthawks. Their five-day total of 154 birds near Albany was slightly down compared with previous years of similar effort.

Observers found an Acadian Flycatcher in Middleburgh, Schoharie County in June. Another birder on eBird listed one just to the south in Greene County this summer. A ten-year search of this species suggests two areas of northward expansion for this species—from the southwest from the Allegheny plateau and western Catskills and another northward from the lower Hudson Valley. *The Second Atlas of the Breeding Birds in New York State* showed that Acadian Flycatcher has slowly been recolonizing the lower southwestern half of the state but it has not been found north of the northern Catskills and Columbia County. With dozens of sightings just to our south in Dutchess and Ulster counties, this is a species to watch for in the next decade, in particular in concert with the third Atlas. I suspect that many birders in the Region are simply not primed to be on the look out for this species or are unfamiliar with its song, which can be lost in a mid-morning chorus of other vocal and familiar breeding forest species. For example, the 2011 Columbia County record from Olana was barely picked up by a single listener, Tim O'Conner, from a group that had organized a local field trip to that area. The scientific literature is comparatively poor regarding the ecology and specific habitat requirements of Acadian Flycatcher so recording its

breeding season locations would be more than an interesting list tick, but a potential contribution to ornithology as well.

John Kent reported and photographed a Lark Sparrow in the pine barrens at Wilton Wildlife Preserve, Saratoga County. We can count on 2-3 of this species a decade in Region 8. Our last sightings occurred just last year across the Hudson near Fort Edward, Washington County.

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, Jody Hildreth, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Kelly McKay, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Rich Nord, Paul Novak, Tim O'Connor, Mike Peterson, John Piwowarski, 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

FtE – Fort Edward grasslands, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; VF –Visher's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Saratoga L SARA 10 Jun.

Least Bittern: Carter Pd WASH 5 Jul; Niskayuna SCHE 17 Jul.

Great Egret: max 12 VF 1 Aug.

Black Vulture: Canajoharie FULT 1 Aug, new location.

HAWKS – LARIDS

N. Goshawk: Voorheesville ALBA 7 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Wilton SARA 6 Jun.

"Kriider's" Red-tailed Hawk: Pine Bush ALBA 10 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: Greenwich WASH 7 Jun; 3 Hudson Falls WASH 18 Jul.

Black-bellied Plover: Cohoes ALBA 21 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 5 Cohoes ALBA 16 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 Cohoes ALBA 26 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: 6 Cohoes ALBA 16 Aug.

WILLET (R8): Cohoes ALBA 12-21 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 14 Cohoes ALBA 14 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: W Ames MONT 7 Jun; FtE 11 Jun.

Sanderling: Lock 2 HR SARA 21 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 21 Cohoes ALBA 19 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Stillwater SARA 4 Jun.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 2 Cohoes ALBA 26 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Cohoes ALBA 15-21 Aug.

Black Tern: Cohoes ALBA 18 Aug.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Com. Nighthawk: Bethlehem ALBA 10 Aug; max 9 Colonie ALBA 18 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: Taconic State Park COLU 3 Jun thru, new location.

FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 23 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: Middleburgh SCHO 7-13 Jun.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R8): Livingston COLU 8 July.

Philadelphia Vireo: Cohoes ALBA 9 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: 2 Hudson Falls WASH 9 Jun.

Bicknell's Thrush: max 26 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Putnam Station WASH 25 Jun-2 Jul.

Mourning Warbler: max 9 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 26 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

Canada Warbler: Bog Meadow SARA 2 Jun; max 5 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Five Rivers ALBA 4-7 Jun; FtE 11-20 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Saratoga Airport SARA 26 Jun.

LARK SPARROW (JK, ph): Wilton Wildlife Preserve SARA 5-6 Jul, very rare for date, a first summer record for the State, *intro*.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Saratoga Airport SARA 26 Jun thru; FtE 29 Jun.

Purple Finch: max 10 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

BochnikM@cs.com

June had average temperatures and rainfall, with no days above 90° F. July was very dry, with only 1.95" of rain, 2.7" below normal. There was a minimal heat wave from 19-21 July, which brought the average temperature for the month to 1.3° above normal. August was also dry, with only 2.2" of precipitation, and hot at 2.5° above normal. The season did not see any extreme heat waves. The maximum temperature for Poughkeepsie for the entire season was only 96° on two days in July.

Osprey first attempts at breeding in Ulster County have failed over the past few years. They were finally successful, when on 5 July Nancy Ebel observed and photographed two nestlings in a nest high up in a deciduous tree on Chodikee Lake in the Town of Lloyd. This is the first confirmed modern-day breeding record for the county. On 12 July, participants on a John Burroughs Natural History Society field trip observed one Osprey nestling in a nest on a channel marker in the Hudson River off Kingston Point in the City of Kingston, representing a second confirmed breeding record for the county.

Successful Common Gallinule breeding was noted outside of the Bashakill in two places. On 2 August, Frank Murphy observed one dependent juvenile with one adult Common Gallinule in the southern end of The Great Vly WMA marsh, representing the first recent confirmed breeding record for Ulster County. Previously, during the 2000-2005 NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, it was recorded as a

probable breeder in this location. The marsh along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Amenia in Dutchess County had three broods of young. Chicks were photographed. On 7 August Dorothy Fleury found nine young with two adults, the youngest (tennis-ball sized) of the broods.

An American Avocet was found on Piermont Pier 13 June and photographed by Evan Edelbaum. A few other lucky birders also got a view. This is the third time in four years this species has appeared here.

Matthew Danihel and Stefanie Jenkinson reported a Lesser Black-backed Gull while crawling in traffic on Tappan Zee Bridge on 14 June and gave a good short description. This is the first summer record for Region 9 for this species with ever increasing numbers.

A Merlin has been regularly observed at Forsyth Nature Center in Kingston during the breeding season for the past two or three years. Mark DeDea observed one adult daily through July of this year. On 23 July, Mark observed one adult and one dependent juvenile begging for food, representing the first confirmed breeding record for Ulster County. Mark later observed a maximum of five individuals (age not specified) at this location during August.

Yellow-breasted Chats were observed in four counties. Mark DeDea, Wendy Tocci, and Jessica Prockup observed an adult carrying food to a nest site on 27 June, in a field off SR 28 and Jockey Hill Road in the Town of Ulster. On 23 July, Mark DeDea and Wendy Tocci observed one or two juveniles at the same location.

Other notable species include: Mississippi Kite, Willet, Whimbrel, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, Scott Baldinger, Kyle Bardwell, Nigel Bark, Steve Bauer, Michael Bochnik, Tom Burke, Daniel Brill, Barbara Butler, Sean Camillieri, Anthony Ciancimino, Rebekah Creshkoff, Matthew Danihel, Mark DeDea, Peter Dorosh, Nancy Ebel, Evan Edelbaum, Andrew Farnsworth, Debra Ferguson, Dorothy Fleury, Karen Fung, James Gmelin, Frances Greenberg, Timothy Guida, John Haas, Ken Harris, David Hayes, Carole Hughes, Liz Jamison, Stefanie Jenkinson, Deborah Kral, Paul Lewis, William Liljeroos, Barbara Mansell, Todd Manister, Evan Mark, Alan Mart, Mack Meller, Karen Miller, Frank Murphy, Karen O'hearn, Dixon Onderdonk, Jim Owens, Peter Polshek, Carena Pooth, Adrienne Popko, Jessica Prockup, Bill Purcell, James Reynolds, Steve Ricker, Susan Rogers, Polly Rothstein, Matthew Rymkiewicz, Peter Schoenberger, Hilary Seiner, Stephanie Seymour, Eric Stone, Anne Swaim, Jory Teltser, Wendy Tocci, Kevin Topping, Larry Trachtenberg, Alan Wells, Dan Whalen, Jim Yates, Eric Zawatski, 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

Brant: Piermont Pier 23 Jun (EE).
Blue-winged Teal: Amenia 15 Aug (DK)
Greater Scaup: Lake Tiorati 10 Jun (AW).
Hooded Merganser: f Van Amirage Millpond, Rye 6 Jun (AF); Cary Institute 30 Jun, 8 Jul (AP, BB, DK); Crum Elbow Creek, Hyde P 7 Jul (KH, DH); Lake Tappan 12 Jul (DB); Alder Lake, Ulster 17 Jul (AM).
Ruffed Grouse: 3 Slide Mt 3 Jun (MD).
C. Loon: Delaware R, Callicoon 21 Jun (RC).
Pied-billed Grebe: Esopus Meadows 27 Jul (JY).
Am. Bittern: 3 yg Amenia 3 Aug (AP, BM), ph.
Least Bittern: Great Vly 11 Jul (PS).
Great Egret: 1-2 Pine Plains 9-29 Aug
Snowy Egret: 8 Esopus Meadows 15 Aug (JY); 5 Kingston Pt 15 Aug (MG).
Tricolored Heron: MC 16 Jun (TB).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: nest with 2 yng Chodikee L 5 Jul (NE), 1st modern-day breeding record for ULST.
Mississippi Kite: ph SGNWR 31 Jul (StB)
Golden Eagle: Giant Ledge, Shandaken 30 Jun (JR).
Clapper Rail: 2 MC 21, 29 Jun, 2 Jul (TB).
Sora: Sharon Station Rd, Amenia 22-24 Aug (SJ), ph.
Com. Gallinule: juv with ad The Great Vly WMA marsh 2 Aug (FM); 9 yg, 2 ad Amenia early Aug, *intro*.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 Millbrook 10 Aug.
Am. Avocet: Piermont Pier 13 Jun (NB, EM, KF), ph, 3rd time in 4 years.
Am. Oystercatcher: 2 MC 2 Jun, 1, 5 Jul, 5, 18, 21 Aug; max 6 MC 7 Jul; 2 EGR 20 Jul.
Willet: 1-3 MC 2, 16, 18, 22, 24, 29, 30 Jun, 1, 5, 8, 10 Jul; 2 ad 2 chicks Hen Island 9, 23 Jun (TB).
Upland Sandpiper: 1-2 Blue Chip Farm 6, 7, 9 Jun; ph CPP 27 Jul (AS, JG, WL, MM, FG).
Whimbrel: Piermont Pier 10 July (EE).
Sanderling: Kingston Pt 25 Aug (MD).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 6 MC 6 Jul; MC 5 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Tappan Zee Bridge, Rockland side 14 Jun (MDa, SJe), good description, 1st Reg summer record.
Caspian Tern: 2 Sleightsburgh Spit 14 Jun (DO); Kingston Point 8 Aug (MD).
Black Tern: Ashokan Res 21 Aug (PP).
Forster's Tern: 1-3 MC 2, 3, 4, 16, 21 Jun, 6 Jul.
Black Skimmer: ad MC 8 Jul (TB).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Town of Gardiner 27 Jul, dehydrated young, rehabilitated and released.
Com. Nighthawk: 45 Wingdale 16 Aug
E. Whip-poor-will: Gardiner 30 Jun (MG).
Red-headed Woodpecker: Muscoot Farm 1, 10, 22, 23 Jun, 3, 19 Aug (ES, PL); 2 Elks Memorial Park, Port Jervis 6, 8, 13, 14 Jun (KM, MZ); 3-7 Weston Swamp 18 Jun, 17 Jul, 9, 10, 13 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: becoming less rare in Westchester in summer; 2 Mountain Lakes Park 5 Jun (PL); Bedford 16 Jun (MM); 2-3 Mt. Holly Sanctuary 5, 16, 18, 24 Jun, 10, 22, 23, 24 Jul (BP); Franklin-Fels Nature Sanctuary, North Salem 6 Jul (TG).
Merlin: juv begging for food Forsyth Nature Center 23 July (MD), *intro*; 5 Forsyth Nature Center Aug (MD).
Monk Parakeet: 8 with large nest Yonkers 10 Aug, a new nest sight in WEST.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 25 Sep (SBa); Woodstock 24 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 Slide Mt 3, 25 Jun (MD, EZ); Ulster Park 27 Sep (JY).
Acadian Flycatcher: 3 Mianus R. Gorge 7 Jun; Hurley 1 Jul; Gardiner 5 Jul; Warwarsing 11 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: CPP 7 Jun (KT); Chappaqua 7 Jun (JA).
E. Kingbird: 18 CPP 7 Aug (AS).
Blue-headed Vireo: 8 Minnewaska SP 9 Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: Esopus Meadows 27 Jul (JY); Bashakill 22 Aug (ScB).
Brown Creeper: 2 Mianus River Gorge 7 Jun.
Winter Wren: 2 Mianus River Gorge 7 Jun.

Marsh Wren: 2 MC 10, 16, 22, 24, 30 Jun, 1, 8, 10, 28-31 Jul, 2, 24 Aug; 3 MC 27 Jul
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Slide Mt 14 Jun (SC).
Bicknell's Thrush: 8 Slide Mt 7 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: becoming scarcer 1-2 MC 16 Jun, 4 Jul

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Buttercup 30 Aug (MR).
Prothonotary Warbler: Scarsdale 29 Aug (TM).
Nashville Warbler: Teatown L 16 Aug (LT).
Mourning Warbler: Grahamsville 12 Jul (FM, DFe).
Hooded Warbler: CPP 24 Aug (FG).
N. Parula: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 5 Jun (KO, PD).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Rockefeller SP 22 Aug (EE).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Mianus River Gorge 7 Jun.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Hopeland Sanc, Staatsburgh 4-18 Jun (StB, DW, SRo); Ironwood Rd, Sterling Forest 6 Jun (JT); Teatown L Reservation 25 Jun (HS); Jockey Hill Road, carrying food for yg Town of Ulster 27 Jun (MD, WT, JP); 2 juv Town of Ulster 23 Jul (MD, WT); CPP 26- 29 Aug (LT, KB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 CPP 7, 22, 29 Jun, 17 Jul (KT, LT).
Blue Grosbeak: Ironwood Rd, Sterling Forest 7 Jun (CH, SS); Walkill R NWR 21, 22, 24, 27-30 Jun (JH); Garrison 5 Jul (JO).
Baltimore Oriole: 26 CPP 7 Aug (AS); 20 CPP 27 Aug (LT, KB).
Purple Finch: Buttercup West 5 Aug.
Pine Siskin: Westmoreland Sanc 10 Jun (SRi); Lake Minnewaska 30 Jun (LJ); Purchase 24 Aug (PR).

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REGION 10—MARINE

Patricia J. Lindsay

28 Mystic Circle
Bay Shore, NY 11706
pjilindsay@optonline.net

S. S. Mitra

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

The summer was pleasant and dry—even drought-like by the end of the season. Perhaps due to an increasingly strong El Nino system building in the Pacific, there were no hurricanes this season, and tropical storms stayed well to the south. June's mean temperature at Central Park was 71.2° F, just 0.2° below average. The warmest temperature of the month was 90°, recorded at Central Park on 23 June. Precipitation was 4.79", 0.38" above normal. July's mean was 78.8°, 2.3° above average, with precipitation totaling 3.98", only slightly below normal at Central Park despite a 1.95" rainfall on the 30th, but just 1.74" at Islip, 1.69" below average. Temperatures in the 90s were recorded on five days in July, but never lasted more than a day or two. August was hotter and drier than normal. Central Park's mean temperature was 3.8° above average at 79°, and

precipitation was 2.09" below average at 2.35". Islip recorded even drier conditions, with precipitation at 1.48", 2.50" below normal.

The breeding season provided a number of positives, including a new station for Common Eider, at Great Gull Island (see note by Joe DiCostanzo elsewhere in this issue). Joe also reported a Manx Shearwater at Great Gull. Whereas this species is highly pelagic and very seldom reported from land in New Jersey and elsewhere to our south, Long Island has enjoyed a strong pattern of inshore occurrence for decades. It is conceivable that this bird was prospecting a potential nesting site, as has been suspected for Leach's Storm-Petrels netted at Great Gull in the past. The ongoing increase in Bald Eagles, including confirmed nestings, is one of the most heartening developments of recent years. An article summarizing recent nestings can be found elsewhere in this issue. Another exciting development involves Cliff Swallows nesting near Pelham Bay Park. Black Vultures are now quite regular in the westernmost counties of Region 10 (Richmond, New York, and Bronx), and Pileated Woodpeckers continue to be reported regularly from Staten Island.

Sea watching from shore was generally lackluster, but a series of highly productive offshore trips were the excitement of the summer. John Shemilt and associates made several runs out to the shelf break, recording a **Fea's Petrel** on 18 August, a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** on 21 August, and **11 (!) Black-capped Petrels** on 29 August. See Life Paulagics bracketed the summer season with two spectacular overnight trips out of Brooklyn: 31 May to 1 June (aptly nicknamed "Skua-palooza" as at least **5 South Polar Skuas** were observed closely) and 30-31 August (**60 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**, **5 (!) Black-capped Petrels**, and much more).

Jamaica Bay's West Pond remained breached and sterile, but at least a plan is in place for restoring this regionally critical freshwater feature. More disturbingly, staff once again failed to properly monitor the water level on the East Pond, and shorebirds were basically absent through July. It wasn't until Andrew Baksh once again lit a fire under NPS that faulty equipment was discovered, and emergency repairs were undertaken. By the time water levels finally dropped in early August, shorebird migrants began using the area, but the numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, and other species that traditionally feed as well as roost on the East Pond remained alarmingly low.

On a much more positive note, the flats and bars associated with the recent breach at Old Inlet are developing into superb habitat for shorebirds, terns, and other species. There was some informal discussion that this newly attractive site might have drawn off some abundance and diversity from the nearby Moriches Inlet flats, but verifying such an effect poses many analytical problems. It seems just as likely that multiple high quality sites in an area might enhance each other's productivity. The Moriches Inlet flats enjoyed at least one day of stunning variety on 14 June, when Derek Rogers and many others enjoyed an

eight-tern-species day, including Sandwich, Arctic, and the scarce-in-context Caspian, but lacking the expected Royal. Although we believe there have been previous 8-tern days, the particular combination of 14 June 2015 was surely unique.

Apart from some of the pelagic species mentioned above, the rarest birds of the season by far were two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at Nickerson Beach 21 July. In the not really rare, but seldom seen from land category, a Pomarine Jaeger was photographed sitting on the beach at Jones Beach West End 24-25 August, and a female Red Phalarope in full breeding plumage visited the West End swale ponds two weeks in mid July. Photos revealed that this was an individual lacking one foot that had been present earlier at Plum Island, Massachusetts.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, Pat Aitken, Deb Allen, Bob Anderson, Richard Aracil, Dominic Auld, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Catherine Barron, Rob Bate, Ed Becher, Dick Belanger, Bill Belford, Matthieu Benoit, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlingeri, Shane Blodgett, Brent Bomkamp, Ardith Bondi, Ron Bourque, Adrian Burke, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace; Keith Cashman, Cesar Castillo, Steve Chang, Anthony Ciancimino, Anthony Collerton, John Collins, Mike Cooper, Jim Cullen, Dale Dancis, Robert DeCandido, Joe DiCostanzo, Patrice Domeischel, Kathy Drake, Alan Drogen, Jacob Drucker, Tim Dunn, Andrew Farnsworth, Ken & Sue Feustel, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Richard Fried, Karen Fung, Doug Futuyama, John Gaglione, Ed Gaillard, Arie Gilbert, Joe Giunta, John Gluth, Douglas Gochfeld; Isaac Grant, Tim Green, Bob Grover, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Bill Hanley, Tim Healy, Mike Higgiston, Joel & Margaret Horman, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Tom Johnson, Rich Kelly, John Kent, Brendan Keogh, Gus Keri, HJ Kim, Marie King, Dave Klauber, Stephen Knox, Artie Koppelman, Jane Kosovsky, Robert J. Kurtz, Dave LaMagna, Mary Laura Lamont, Anthony J. Lauro, Patricia J. Lindsay, Rob Longiaru, Heydi Lopes, Tristan Lowery, Joshua Malbin, Peter Martin, Michael McBrien, Mike McBrien, Hugh McGuinness, Stacy & Kurt Meyerheinrich, Mari Michealis, Eric Miller, Shai S. Mitra, Tom Moran, Pete Morris, Michael Mulqueen, Lukas Musher, Sally Newbert, Mary Normandia, NY Rare Bird Alert; Russ Ogden, Todd Olsen, Pat Palladino, Bob Paxton, Anders Peltomaa, Aiden Perkins, Tom Perlman, Stephane Perreault, Sarah Plimpton, Jacqueline Poblete, Will Pollard, Peter Post, Tom Preston, Bob Proneiwych, Joan Quinlan, Kier Randall, Ricki Ravitts, Mike Resch, Ari Rice, Derek Rogers, Enrico Rosati, Bob Rosetti, Jack Rothman, Emily Runnells, Mike & Lynne Scheibel, Steve Schellenger, Sy Schiff, Jim Schlickeneider, Michael Schrimph, Eileen Schwinn, John Sepenoski, Michael Shanley, John Shemilt, Sean Sime, Lonnie Somer, Jordan Spindel, Lloyd Spitalnik, Jonathan Stocker, Lee Stocker, Taylor Sturm, Anne

Swaim, Robert Taylor, Steve Terr, Ken Thompson, Kevin Topping, Phil Uruburu, Richard R. Veit, Lance Verderame, Joe Viglietta, Steve Walter, Bob Washburn, Drew Weber, Alex Wilson; Angus Wilson, Russell Winter, Heather Wolf, Seth Wollney, Byron Young, Michael Yuan.

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pond P; BNL – Brookhaven National Laboratory; BP – Breezy Pt; CCP – Cupsogue County P, SUFF; CemRes – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CICrP – Coney I Creek P, KING; CLP – Clove Lakes P, Staten I; CP – Central P, NEWY; CRESLI – Coastal Research & Environmental Society of Long Island; CRSP -- Connetquot R SP, SUFF; EPCAL – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FkP – Freshkills P, RICH; GGI – Great Gull I, SUFF; G-WCem – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; HudCan – Hudson Canyon, pelagic; JamBay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE/KING; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End, NASS; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; LCPier – Lemon Creek Pier, RICH; LI – Long Island; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; NB – Nickerson Beach, NASS; NYRBA –NY Rare Bird Alert; PlumB – Plum Beach, KING; Plum I – Plum I, SUFF; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RPNWMA -- Rocky Point Natural Wildlife Management Area, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet; SLP – SeeLife Paulagics trips; TPt – Timber Pt County Marina, Great River, SUFF.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 2 NB 21 Jul (R. Longiaru, mob; ph).

Mute Swan: max 160 JamBay 27 Aug.

American Wigeon: Mill Pd, Centerport, SUFF 31 Jul, first southbound report.

Blue-winged Teal: TPt 31 Jul, first southbound report.

Northern Shoveler: 5 JamBay 13 Aug, first southbound report.

Northern Pintail: JamBay 29 Aug, first southbound report.

Green-winged Teal: LCPier 28 Jul first southbound report.

Ring-necked Duck: CRSP 28 Jun, unusual date.

Greater Scaup: sev reports of singles around the Brooklyn waterfront during Jun and Jul, and at Captree I, SUFF 5 Aug.

Common Eider: 2-20 present GGI all season as usual in recent yrs; f with 6 ducklings here 1 Jul, first NY record away from Fishers I (JDI); see note elsewhere in this issue; sev reports of small numbers from south shore and North Fork of LI Jun-Aug, max 26 Shinn 11 Jul & 61 MP 16 Aug.

Surf Scoter: sev reports of 1-2 birds Jun-Aug from south shore and north fork LI.

White-winged Scoter: a few reports of small numbers from south shore and north fork LI; max 14 Sound View Dunes P, Southold 2 Jun, 11 Amagansett, SUFF 6 Jun.

Black Scoter: numerous reports of small numbers from south shore and north fork LI, Plum I, GGI; max 328 MP 6 Jun, 52 Democrat Pt, SUFF 6 Jun.

Long-tailed Duck: lingering inds CICrP 10 Jun; 2 PlumB 12 Jun; Shinn 14 Jun; Calvert Vaux P, KING 20 Jun-10 Jul; Little Creek, Cutchogue, SUFF 3 Jul.

Bufflehead: Great Kills Park, RICH 28 Jun, only report.

Hooded Merganser: 2 Terrell R CP, SUFF 13 Jun; Wertheim NWR, SUFF 19, 20, 29 Jun, 16 Aug; only reports.

Red-breasted Merganser: 7 widespread reports of 1-2 birds Jun-Aug.

Ruddy Duck: lingerers Marine P, KING 2-6 Jun; PP 4 Jun; 1-3 JamBay 17 Jun-15 Aug.

Northern Bobwhite: singles Mattituck, SUFF 15 Jun; Planting Fields Arboretum, NASS 19, 21 Jun; Uplands Farm Preserve, SUFF 20 Jun,

poss 2 here 22 Jun; MP 4 Jul; 2 Gardiner's I, SUFF 14 Jul.

Red-necked Grebe: alt Page Ave Beach, RICH 6 Jun (ACi, M. King).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 11 offshore SUFF 29 Aug (JSh, RF, AnW); 5 SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

FEA'S PETREL: Rabbit Ears, offshore SUFF 18 Aug (JSh, ph).

Cory's Shearwater: 310 SLP trip HudCan 1 Jun (mob); typically 1-15 from south shore LI seawatches 1 Jun-1 Jul, but 129 RMSP 28 Jun (TWB, GB, ABk) and 61 RMSP 30 Jun; 50 local CRESLI Whale Watch trip 26 Jul (PU); singles CCP and Old Inlet, Bellport Bay, SUFF 23 Aug; 81 SLP trip HudCan 31 Aug (mob); present around GGI end Aug (JDi).

Great Shearwater: 70 SLP trip HudCan 1 Jun (mob); typically 1-9 from south shore LI seawatches 1-30 Jun; Tiana Beach, SUFF 18 Jul (S. Newbert), only report from land after Jun; 33 SLP trip HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

Sooty Shearwater: 465 SLP trip HudCan 1 Jun (mob); typically 1-6 from south shore LI seawatch 1-28 Jun.

Manx Shearwater: 9 SLP trip 1 Jun (mob); singles BP 10 and 14 Jun, RMSP 16 and 27 Jun, CCP 24 Jun; max from land 5 RMSP 28 Jun (TWB, GB, ABk) and 30 Jun (P. Morris); GGI 8 Jul, possibly first record for the island (JDi), *intro*.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 5 SLP trip 1 Jun (mob); 3 offshore SUFF 21 Aug (JSh); 19 SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 215 SLP trip 1 Jun (mob); low numbers from south shore LI seawatches mainly through Jun, fewer reports Jul-Aug, with max 37 RMSP 28 Jun (TWB, GB, ABk); 75 local CRESLI Whale Watch trip 26 Jul (PU); 260 SLP trip HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: Fishtails 21 Aug (JSh).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: 26 SLP trip 1 Jun HudCan (mob); 4 Rabbit Ears, offshore SUFF 18 Aug (JSh); 6 The Claw, offshore SUFF 29 Aug (JSh, AnW, RF).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: at least 4 McMaster Canyon, offshore SUFF 29 Aug (JSh, AnW); 60 SLP trip HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

Brown Pelican: no reports.

Least Bittern: ad Arshomomack Pres, Southold, SUFF 6, 19, 21 and 26 Jun (JSep), bred here previously; 1-2 (ad, juv) River Road, RICH 24 Jun -27 Aug (mob).

"GREAT WHITE HERON": JFK Sanctuary, Tobay, NASS 16 Jul (PMA); decent description of this mega-rarity, but no photos.

Tricolored Heron: much scarcer than formerly, needs monitoring.

Cattle Egret: Shore Pkwy, KINGS 3 Jun (J. Collins); JamBay West Pd 30 Jul (R. Kelly).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: ad Captree I, SUFF 18 Jun-14 Jul (A. Gilbert, PU, mob).

HAWKS-LARIDS

BLACK VULTURE (R10): Southards Pd P, SUFF 24 Jun (P. Morris); 2 Fort Washington P, NEWY 13 Aug (A. Farnsworth), poss same 2 seen at CP during same week.

Bald Eagle: 30+ reports from 20+ locations NYC to MP; breeding records for season incl fledging of one eaglet at William Floyd Estate, SUFF (MLL, ph); yg confirmed Wertheim NWR, SUFF; 3 yg confirmed Mashomack Pres, Shelter I, SUFF; failed attempt Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF; ads present on Gardiners I, SUFF where nest active for several yrs but access is restricted. See article this issue.

Northern Harrier: ad male Teddy Roosevelt Nature Center, JBWE 11 Jul vocalizing and carrying moss in talons, (A. Bondi), interesting behavior, though late for an active nest.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2 CP 3 Jun (S. Knox); CemRes 2, 3, 22 Jul (ACi); 2 Manhattan 23 Jul (E. Rosati); juv Plum I 14 Aug (JSep); Bronx Zoo 21 Aug (T. Olsen); 2 Inwood Hill P, NEWY 30 Aug (E. Gaillard); Goethel's Bridge Pd, RICH 29 Aug (ACi).

Sora: JamBay East Pd. 30 Aug (mob), only report.

Common Gallinule: River Rd, RICH 4 Jul (ACi).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): 2 Napeague SP, SUFF 7, 8 Jun (R. Winter, mob, ph).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Shirley Marina CP, SUFF 6-7 Jun (M&L Scheibel, mob).

American Avocet: JamBay East Pd 12-21 Aug (ABk, mob).

American Oystercatcher: max 360 JBWE 30 Aug (A. Guthrie); 20 Old Inlet 28 Aug & 28 CCP 29 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: 54 Old Inlet 21 Aug & 125 CCP 29 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: arr RMSP 22 Aug (K&SF); Cedar Beach CP 22 Aug (J. Kosovsky); Shelter I 23 Aug (HMcG); Mattituck 25-27 Aug (K. Cashman); Southold 26 Aug (M. Scheibel), all SUFF.

Semipalmated Plover: max JBSP 450 21 Aug; max JamBay 405 15 Aug; max BP 285 4 Aug;

max CCP 135 29 Jul ; max Old Inlet 73 14 Aug (DR).

Piping Plover: 24 Old Inlet 5 Aug (DR) & 17 CCP 5 Aug (B. Young).

Spotted Sandpiper: 6 broods during survey Richmond Ave mound at FkP 16 Jul (RRV).

Greater Yellowlegs: 17 Old Inlet 5 Aug & 27 CCP 23 Aug.

Willet: 60 Old Inlet 13 Jul (DR) & 76 CCP 5 Aug (B. Young); max inornata 8 CCP 10 Aug (K&SF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: very low numbers, i.e.: JamBay East Pd max just 40 on 16 Aug (CF), whereas 100s are expected in this context; *intro*: 15 CCP 5 Jul (SSM), large number for this site.

Whimbrel: 22 CCP and Moriches In, SUFF 21 Jul (NYRBA); 4 Old Inlet 5 Aug (DR).

Marbled Godwit: JamBay 14 Aug (TWP, GB, mob); PlumB 14 Aug (S. Blodgett, H. Lopes); Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 22-25 Aug (P. Aitken, mob); Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF 23 Aug (J. Gluth); CCP 26 Aug (S. Walter).

Ruddy Turnstone: 700-800 JBWE 9 Aug (RJK), very large number; 55 Old Inlet 5 Aug & 20 CCP 9 Aug.

Red Knot: 36 Old Inlet 23 Aug & 32 CCP 9 Aug

Stilt Sandpiper: arr TPT 28 Jul, JamBay 30 Jul; very low numbers, i.e.: max 20 JamBay East Pd 15 Aug (J. Kent, T. Lowery); *intro*.; 8 other reports of 1-5 inds from other sites 29 Jul-30 Aug.

Sanderling: est 2000-3000 BP 4 Aug (DG); 1750 roosting on shore at JBWE 2 Aug (RJK); 416 Old Inlet 2 Aug & 100 CCP 23 Aug.

Dunlin: 4 CCP 16 Jun, 3 SY; 2 SY persisted there thru.

Baird's Sandpiper: ad PlumB 3-6 Aug; juv PlumB 8 Aug, unusually early, (mob); JBWE tidal pools 17-22 Aug (mob); JamBay East Pd 22 Aug; Twin Lakes, Wantagh, NASS 29 Aug (PMA).

Least Sandpiper: 125 JamBay 12 Aug, approx. half juvs; 43 Old Inlet 24 Jul & 80 CCP 25 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 5 Old Inlet 23 Aug & 5 CCP 9 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: JBWE 30 Aug (BAn), 2 here 31 Aug (mob); CCP 31 Aug (L. Stocker, J. Cullen, D. Belanger, DR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1600 JamBay 12 Aug (SSi), fewer than 50 juvs; 243 Old Inlet 24 Jul & 200 CCP 25 Jul & 29 Aug.

Western Sandpiper: arr JamBay 15 Aug, mult reports thru at this loc with max 33 30 Aug (DG, D. Weber, T. Johnson); PlumB 21 Aug, 2

25 Aug; JBWE 21-23 Aug; 2 Sagaponack Pd, SUFF 21 Aug (HMcG).

Short-billed Dowitcher: very low numbers, i.e.: 40 max 200 JamBay Terrapin Pt 8 Aug (J. Malbin); just 15 JamBay East Pd 17 Aug (A. Burke); *intro*: 303 Old Inlet 24 Jul & 155 CCP 5 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: TPT (PJJ, SSM); ad PlumB 11 Aug (S. Blodgett, W. Pollard); CCP 29 Aug (PJJ, SSM).

Wilson's Phalarope: JamBay 14 Aug (TWP, GB), only report.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 CRESLI whale watch trip from Montauk 26 Jul; JamBay East Pd 8 Aug (I. Grant), 27 Aug (CF); 4 SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

RED PHALAROPE (R10): alt f JBWE 10-24 Jul (BAn, mob), missing left foot.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 5 SLP trip HudCan 1 Jun (mob, ph), another distant bird was most likely this sp as well.

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 SLP trip HudCan 1 Jun (mob); JBWE 24-25 Aug, on beach (R. Taylor, BAn, ph); 11 SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

Parasitic Jaeger: small numbers (1-2 birds) reported from south shore LI seawatches RMSP to Shinn throughout Jun; GGI 13 Jun (J.Di); Sagaponack Pd, SUFF 21 Aug (HMcG).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 2nd calendar yr ind SLP trip HudCan 1 Jun (mob); Amagansett, SUFF 6 Jun (AnW); BP 16 Jun (SSi, DG, ph), first record for QUEE and NYC; 3 SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

SABINE'S GULL (R10): imm BP 18 Jun (SSi, DG (ph, video).

Bonaparte's Gull: imm Old Inlet 28 Aug (DR).

Laughing Gull: 3 fresh juvs Great South Bay, SUFF 30 Jul (SSM), early so far east, relative to fledging at JamBay this year. For years breeding has been suspected in the area of Captree, Sexton, and East & West Fire Islands. Confirmation has not yet been obtained, but it is worth keeping in mind.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: cont from spring PlumB, last seen 2 Jun (DG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 30 shorefront Tobay to JBSP Field 6 7 Aug (PMA); 12 SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob); GGI 31 Aug, spotted by David Sibley, second record for loc (JDi).

BRIDLED TERN: HudCan pelagic 18 Aug (JSh); 5 HudCan pelagic 29 Aug (JSh, RF, AnW).

Least Tern: 2 well offshore, SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob); 175 Old Inlet 2 Aug & 47 CCP 25 Jul, incl 1 Juv, 3 SY, & 3 TY.

Gull-billed Tern: many reports of 1-3 around JamBay thru, incl 2 ads with juv at end of period; many reports 1-2 s NASS; Napeague Harbor, SUFF 6 Jun (J, Noordhuizen), unusual e of Jones Inlet.

Caspian Tern: Riis P, QUEE 8 Jun (DG); CCP 14 Jun (DR, mob), both unus dates and locs; Old Inlet 9 Aug (DR).

Black Tern: 96 Old Inlet 23 Aug & 18 CCP 29 Aug.

Roseate Tern: 11 Old Inlet 21 Aug & 2 CCP 11 Jul; getting scarcer central & western SUFF.

Common Tern: max 5000+ BP 4 Aug (DG); 650 Old Inlet 21 Aug & 370 CCP 11 Jul.

ARCTIC TERN: at least 4 SLP trip to HudCan 1 Jun (mob, ph), very few documented records from NYS' offshore waters; 2 ad/near ad CCP 7 Jun (PJL, SSM, ph); 1st summer NB 8 Jun (RJK, J. Viglietta, mob, ph); 1st summer NB 9-10 Jun (BAN, S Schiff); 1st summer CCP 11 Jun (SSM, ph); 2 (ad, 1st summer) CCP 13 Jun (ABk); ad CCP 14 Jun (DR (ph), mob); 2 CCP 15 Jun (J. Haas); 2 CCP 25 Jun (TWB, GB, ABk), 1st & 2nd summer; CCP 28 Jun (HJ Kim, B. Washburn, M. Yuan); private property Jamesport, SUFF 4 Jul (DG), very unusual on North Fork LI.

Forster's Tern: 29 CCP 29 Aug (SSM), large number for site and date.

Royal Tern: GGI 29 Aug (JDi), notable for site; late arriving on ocean coast and numbers low, e.g., 24 CCP 29 Aug.

SANDWICH TERN: CCP 14 Jun (DR (ph), mob); Ponquogue Bridge at Shinn 20 Aug (HMcG).

Black Skimmer: max 500 NB 25 Aug; 470 BP 13 Jun.

PIGEONS-PARROTS

Barn Owl: 1-3 JamBay nest box 7 Jun-4 Jul (mob); 2 FBF 30 Aug (H. Lopes).

Common Nighthawk: singles 3 Jun CP, Peconic, SUFF, and 6 Jun Southold, SUFF; widespread but sparse reports of 1-5 inds 13 Aug thru.

Chuck-will's-widow: singles Quogue 8 Jun; Watch Hill, Fire I 17 Jun; BNL 18 Jun; RPNRMA 18 Jun, all SUFF.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: reports 4 Jun-8 Jul from Edgewood Pres, Brentwood, (1), CRSP (2), Ridge Conservation Area (3), RPNRMA (2-7), Dwarf Pine Barrens, Westhampton (8), Flanders 8 Aug, all SUFF.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: ad BNL 30 Jun (A. Rice, T. Green).

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10):

CemRes 23, 26 Aug (ACi, ph).

Monk Parakeet: cont to increase as breeders along s shore LI; numerous reports from all counties east to West Islip, SUFF.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Swindler Cove/Sherman Park, NEWY 14 Aug; CP 15-28 Aug; Forest P, QUEE 16 Aug; Meadow Croft Estate, Sayville, SUFF 17-19 Aug, rare this far east; CLP 24 Aug; CP North End 26 Aug; PP 27 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 3 Jun; GGI 16 Jun (JDi); fall arr PP, Pelham Bay P, BRON, G-W Cem 22 Aug; GGI 26 Aug (JDi).

Acadian Flycatcher: CP 5 Jun (K. Topping, S. Chang); 2 Cunningham P, QUEE 6 Jun (CF, S. Perreault); Mt. Loretto P, RICH 19 Jun (ACi); Norman Levy Pres, NASS 30 Jun (B. Berlinger).

Alder Flycatcher: Orient, SUFF 2 Jun (JSep); Seatuck NWR, SUFF 6 Jun (D. Futuyma); CP 27-28 Aug (J. Drucker, mob).

Great Crested Flycatcher: GGI 23 Jun, late migr (JDi).

Eastern Kingbird: 223 migr Heckscher SP, SUFF 25 Aug, in groups up to 30 (K&SF).

Yellow-throated Vireo: CRSP 3 Jun; APP 7 Jun; 17 Jun Caumsett SP, SUFF; FBF 13 Aug, likely all migrs, no evidence of breeding reported.

Blue-headed Vireo: worn individual Plum I 14 Aug (JSep), early migr.

COMMON RAVEN (R10): reports continue to increase Reg.-wide, i.e.: around 30 reports of 1-3 birds from around the 5 boroughs; 15+ reports of 1-3 birds Nassau Co. east to Hampton Bays, SUFF with known nesting sites at Hampton Bays and BNL.

Purple Martin: SLP trip to HudCan 1 Jun (mob), approx. 8 mi from shore; 2 GGI 1 Jul, unus date for loc (JDi et al); 6 GGI 31 Aug, high number for loc (JDi et al).

Cliff Swallow: max 12 bridge near Pelham Bay P, BRON 7 Jun-10 Aug, incl nests with young, (M. Benoit, R. Aracil); active nest Orchard Beach, BRON discovered 12 Jul (B. Keogh), near one damaged and one empty nest in abandoned bath house; widespread reports of single migrs 27 Jun-29 Aug.

Barn Swallow: 2 SLP trip to HudCan 1 Jun (mob), 75 mi from closest point of land.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Stony Brook, SUFF 29 Aug (L. Somer), only report.

House Wren: family group GGI 25 Aug, first nesting record for loc (JDi).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Brooklyn Bridge P, KING 19 Aug (H. Wolf); CICrP 27 Aug (DG).

Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 CP 13 Aug (J. Spindel), early.

Hermit Thrush: Brooklyn Bridge P, KING 24 Jun (H. Wolf); CP 8 Aug (E. & Elena Gaillard), very early; imm retaining some juv feathers River Rd, Calverton, SUFF 8 Aug (JSep).

LONGSPURS-WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: CP 18 Jul, Van Cortland P, BRON 23 Jul, first southbound reports.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CLP 18 Jul, first fall report.

Northern Waterthrush: Lily Pond P, Nesconset, SUFF 3 Jun, last northbound report; Kings Point P, NASS 22 Jul, first fall rep.

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 12 Aug (T. Perlman); Hempstead L SP, NASS 21 Aug (B. Belford); f G-WCem 27 Aug (I. Grant).

Black-and-white Warbler: SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

Prothonotary Warbler: CRSP 3-5 Jun (K&SF, mob); Trout Pond P, Noyack SUFF 22 Aug (HMcG); f G-W Cem 27 Aug (NYRBA).

Tennessee Warbler: CP 6 Aug, PP 9 Aug, early southbound arrivals ahead of bulk of reports starting third week Aug.

Nashville Warbler: PP 15 Aug, first southbound report.

Mourning Warbler: Peter Detmold P, NEWY 5 Jun, last "summer" report; Wagner College, RICH 17 Aug, first southbound report.

Hooded Warbler: private loc near Manhasset, NASS 17 Jun, last "summer" report; f CP 9 Aug, first southbound report.

American Redstart: SLP trip to HudCan 31 Aug (mob).

Cape May Warbler: Lido Beach Natural Area, NASS 13 Aug, first southbound report, ph.

Northern Parula: PP 20 Jun, last summer report; PP 8 Aug, first southbound report.

Magnolia Warbler: JamBay West Pd 7 Jun, last "summer" report; CP 14 Aug, first southbound report.

Bay-breasted Warbler: G-WCem, CICrP 27 Aug, first southbound reports.

Blackburnian Warbler: PP 13 Aug, first southbound report.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Uniondale, NASS 1 Jun; CRSP 4 Jun, only Jun reports; apparently absent now from former breeding areas; PP 8 Aug, first southbound report.

Blackpoll Warbler: CP, Bronx Zoo 9 Jun, last "summer" reports; CP, G-WCem 29 Aug, first southbound report.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: PP 7 Aug, first southbound report.

Palm Warbler: "Eastern" JamBay 16 Aug, first southbound report.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Bablyon, SUFF backyard 7 Jun, only "summer" report; JBSP 13 Aug, first southbound report.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 3 CRSP 7 Jun-16 Aug, two singing males and a presumed female; PP 8-9 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: PP 2 Jun, last northbound; CP 15 Aug, first southbound.

Canada Warbler: RMSP 6 Aug, first southbound report.

Wilson's Warbler: CP 3 Jun, only Jun report; CP 15 Aug, first southbound report.

TOWHEES-WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Captree SP, SUFF 28 Aug (SSM ph, PJJ, mob), slightly early.

Vesper Sparrow: 1-3 Gabreski Airport, SUFF 4-27 Jun, only breeders reported in Region; JBSP 21 Jul (A. Swaim), migr; JBWE 2 Aug (J. Gaglione), migr.

Lark Sparrow: RMSP 21-23 Jul; RMSP 22, 26 Aug; CICrP 29 Aug (DG, T. Preston).

Savannah Sparrow: "hundreds" during survey Richmond Ave mound at FkP 16 Jul incl ~200 fledglings (RRV).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Gabreski Airport, SUFF 6 Jun (D. LaMagna); multiple reports from EPCAL area 6 Jun-10 Aug, with max 27 8 July (B. Berlinger); 60 during survey Richmond Ave mound at FkP 16 Jul incl 25+ singing males, 20+ fledged juvs (RRV).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bryant P, NEWY 3-5 Jun (A. Drogin, mob), unus date and loc.

White-throated Sparrow: singles lingering at Bryant P, NEWY to 4 Jul and at CP to 14 Jul.

Summer Tanager: ad m Planting Fields Arboretum, NASS 7 Jun-1 Jul (D. LaMagna, ph, mob); m 20 Jun. Blueberry Farm, Manorville, SUFF 5 Jul (J. Poblete, ph).

Blue Grosbeak: pair EPCAL, 27 Jun-9 Aug, presumed breeding; ad m Eastport Conservation Area, SUFF 9 Jun; CemRes 26 Jun, 24 Jul; BNL 1-30 Jul (3 here 30 Jul incl recently fledged juv); ad m CRSP 5 Jul; ad m RPNRMA 8 Jul; 4 Richmond Ave mound at FkP 16 Jul

(RRV); LCPier 20 Jul-19 Aug; Governors I, NEWY 31 Jul.

Dickcissel: RMSP 23-24 Aug (D. Futuyama, mob), this or another also reported 27-28 Aug; Kissena P, QUEE 27 Aug (C. Castillo, mob); CICrP 28 Aug (SSi, DG, L. Musher).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 8 EPCAL 17 Jun-10 Aug, only known breeding area in Region.

Boat-tailed Grackle: East River Pier #11, NEWY 17 Jul, poss juv m, unus loc (B. Cacace).

EXOTICS

Budgerigar: Sound Beach, SUFF 15 Aug (M. Schrimph, E. Runnells).



Juvenile Laughing Gull, Islip, *Suffolk*, 30 Jul 2015, © S. S. Mitra.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

Editor of *The Kingbird*

Shaibal S. Mitra—Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

Editor of *New York Birders*

Joan Collins—PO Box 556, Long Lake, NY 12847

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Send reports to:

Gary Chapin, Secretary for NYSARC
486 High St., Victor, NY 14564; nysarc44@nybirds.org

New York State Young Birders Club:

Carena Pooth, Chair—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

Publications:

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Research:

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Waterfowl Count:

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Web Site and Information Services:

Carena Pooth—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

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