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Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, *Albany*, 2 Jul 2016, © Scott Stoner.

OBSERVATIONS ON ESTUARINE BREEDING BIRD RICHNESS IN NEW YORK STATE

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Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways,
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Identifying and tracking the nesting locations of birds is an important part of the data that New York (NY) birders collect and report. These contributions have led to the completion of two breeding bird atlases spaced 15 years apart (Andrle and Carroll 1988, McGowan and Corwin 2008). The atlases provide a wealth of information, and ultimately enable researchers to track changes in nesting patterns over time. For each atlas (1980-1985 and 2000-2005), 5332 survey blocks covering all of NY were searched for evidence of breeding birds. This evidence included everything from simple presence of a species in suitable breeding habitat, to singing males, and nests with eggs. Depending on the strength of evidence, each species was then assigned breeding status as either "Possible," "Probable," or "Confirmed," based on objective criteria.

As environmental scientists located in a marine district of NY, we were particularly interested in the spatial trends for the bird species that are dependent on estuarine environments. As a first step towards understanding how marine ecosystems support associated bird species, we investigated the changes in the species that require a functioning marine ecosystem to feed and raise their chicks. To do this, we measured breeding bird richness, i.e., the total number of species in a survey block, on Long Island, NY.

We used data from the above-mentioned New York State Breeding Bird Atlases (BBA) and analyzed spatial trends for 22 species of breeding birds characteristic of NY estuarine environments (Table 1). These are species that breed in and around salt marshes and rely heavily on estuarine prey in salt marshes, tidal flats or coastal waters. We excluded species that mostly breed around fresh water or confine their activity to surrounding habitats such as barrier beaches, brackish marshland or high marsh. For example, we excluded the Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*) and Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) because they readily breed and forage around freshwater, and are not restricted to the marine environment (McGowan and Corwin 2008). We also excluded Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) because the former are scavengers feeding heavily in urban areas far from estuarine areas, and the plover is often dependent on ephemeral pools and

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Table 1. Species used in the richness analysis, conservation status in New York State, number of Breeding Bird Atlas blocks occupied by atlas year, and the change in blocks between the first and second atlas.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	1985	2000	% Change
Ardeidae	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret		18	26	+44.4
	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	Special Concern	4	0	-100
	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron		8	12	+50
	<i>E. thula</i>	Snowy Egret		30	22	-26.7
	<i>E. tricolor</i>	Tricolored Heron		7	5	-28.6
	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		18	18	0
	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night-Heron		50	52	4.0
Emberizidae	<i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i>	Saltmarsh Sparrow		58	48	-17.2
	<i>A. maritimus</i>	Seaside Sparrow	Special Concern	44	26	-40.9
Laridae	<i>L. marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull		33	33	0
	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	Laughing Gull		3	5	+66.7
Pandionidae	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	Special Concern	61	105	+72.1
Rallidae	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Virginia Rail		9	8	-11.1
	<i>R. longirostris</i>	Clapper Rail		36	33	-8.3
Rynchopidae	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Black Skimmer	Special Concern	25	21	-16
Scolopacidae	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	Willet		36	61	+69.4
Laridae	<i>Gelocheidon nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern		3	4	+33.3
	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern	Endangered	17	10	-41.2
	<i>S. forsteri</i>	Forster's Tern		1	9	+800
	<i>S. hirunda</i>	Common Tern	Threatened	55	56	+1.8
	<i>S. antillarum</i>	Least Tern	Threatened	73	69	-5.5
Threskiornithidae	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis		24	17	-29.2

wrack along the ocean edge, areas that are not usually dependent on estuarine productivity (Pierotti and Annet 1991; Elias *et al.* 2000).

We re-created the sampling grid used by the atlas, truncated to include only blocks that overlapped any land portion of Kings, Queens, Nassau, or Suffolk Counties. We then visually inspected each BBA map for our target species and noted the locations in which the breeding status was recorded as either “Confirmed” or “Probable.” We excluded “Possible” designations due to the inherent uncertainty of the category. These data were visualized in a geographic information system, and we calculated the total number of confirmed and probable breeders for each survey block (richness), as well as the differences between both atlases for each block.

The total number of survey blocks occupied by breeding waterbirds increased from 613 to 640 during the 15 years between atlases. However, this change was not evenly distributed, with some species dramatically increasing, e.g., Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), and some species dramatically decreasing (Table 1). In addition, these changes differed by family, with herons, gulls, and terns remaining relatively static; sparrows, skimmers, and ibises decreasing; and shorebirds and raptors increasing (Table 2). The top five blocks for each atlas were different, with a single exception (Table 3). Slightly more blocks gained species than lost species (Fig. 1, p. 295), and the blocks that gained species did so to a greater degree (Table 4). All blocks noted in Tables 2, 3, and 4 are depicted in Figure 2 (p. 296).

There was no clear pattern among species or families for changes in breeding occupancy. For example, of the five species of terns analyzed, Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougallii*) decreased from 17 blocks to 10 blocks, while Forster’s Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) increased 800%, from one breeding block to nine. The most precipitous declines were that of the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), which disappeared entirely between the first and second atlases, the Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*), which decreased by over 40%, and the aforementioned Roseate Tern. All three of these species are of conservation concern (Table 1), and their population trends should be monitored carefully.

The blocks with the highest waterbird richness were located along the marshes of the south shore of Long Island for both atlas periods. In 1980-1985, the top five blocks were all located around Hempstead Bay. In 2000-2005, these expanded to include parts of Moriches Bay. Both bodies of water differ from the other bays by having more salt marsh, very shallow flats, and being highly eutrophic (Barlow *et al.* 1963, Oviatt *et al.* 1989, Swanson *et al.* 2009, Wallace and Gobler 2011), in addition to other factors that may enhance their ability to support upper trophic levels. For example, increases in nutrient availability may positively influence seabird productivity in some other systems (Monticelli *et al.* 2007).

Table 2. Changes in breeding bird occupancy by taxonomic family presented as percent change in number of blocks occupied.

Family	Species	1980-1985	2000-2005	% Change
Ardeidae	7	135	135	0.0
Emberizidae	2	102	74	-27.5
Laridae	2	36	38	+5.6
Pandionidae	1	61	105	+72.1
Rallidae	2	45	41	-8.9
Rynchopidae	1	25	21	-16.0
Scolopacidae	1	36	61	+69.4
Laridae	5	149	148	-0.7
Threskiornithidae	1	24	17	-29.2

Table 3. The top five ranked blocks with the highest breeding bird richness from each atlas, including the change in richness for the corresponding block between the 1980-1985 and 2000-2005 atlases.

Atlas	Block	Rank	Richness	Change
1980-1985	6249B	1	16	-7
	6249A	2,3,4 (tied)	14	+1
	6349A	2,3,4 (tied)	14	-4
	6350D	2,4,4 (tied)	14	-8
	6049D	5	13	+4
2000-2005	6149A	1	19	+7
	6049D	2	17	+4
	6851A	3	17	+10
	6149B	4,5 (tied)	16	+6
	6851B	4,5 (tied)	16	+9

CONCLUSION

Birds are excellent indicators for the general assessment of the health of an ecological system (Landres *et al.* 1988, Montevicchi 1993), and additional environmental factors and more years of detailed survey data will have to be included in future studies. We hope this introductory analysis will prompt interesting questions among birders, citizen scientists, and professional scientists.

Table 4. The five blocks with the greatest richness gains and losses, including the richness of each block noted in the 2000-2005 atlas, and the change between the 1980-1985 and 2000-2005 atlases.

Block	Rank	2000-2005 Richness	Change
6851A	1	17	+10
6851B	2	16	+9
6150B	3, 4, 5 (tied)	7	+7
7152A	3, 4, 5 (tied)	13	+7
7052C	3, 4, 5 (tied)	15	+7
6149A	3, 4, 5 (tied)	19	+7
6350D	1	6	-8
6249B	2	9	-7
6450B	3	1	-6
6551D	4	0	-6
6550B	5 (tied)	2	-5
6449A	5 (tied)	0	-5
6350B	5 (tied)	0	-5
7252D	5 (tied)	3	-5

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GULLS ESTABLISH BREEDING COLONY ON SQUAW ISLAND, CANANDAIGUA LAKE

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Abstract—2016 was the eighth consecutive year that gulls have bred on Squaw Island in Canandaigua Lake. Breeding Ring-billed Gulls were first observed and documented in 2009. Their numbers have increased steadily and dramatically each year after. Herring Gulls possibly began breeding in 2014, were probable in 2015, but breeding by this species was not confirmed and photo-documented until 2016.

Squaw Island, located in the northeast corner of Canandaigua Lake is one of only two islands in the eleven Finger Lakes. The other is Frontenac Island in Cayuga Lake near Union Springs. Squaw Island is designated a NYS Unique Area, and at 0.25 acre, the smallest in NYS. The island is protected from erosion by large rocks (rip-rap) placed around its shoreline. Vegetation on the island consists of two large Cottonwoods about 40 feet, a few Black Locusts, one Basswood, one Box Elder, one Willow, and vines—Virginia Creeper and Morning Glory (Bindweed).

CONFIRMED BREEDING OF RING-BILLED GULLS—2009

In spring of 2009, Carolyn Jacobs, a resident on Canandaigua Lake, and a birder and kayaker, heard calls described as begging whines. To investigate, she kayaked around Squaw Island. She observed six adult Ring-billed Gulls standing on the rip-rap, then others—juveniles, smaller with downy brown plumage. Returning later with her camera, she photographed a downy chick and two eggs. She observed a total of 11 adults, five juveniles and two eggs. Three nest sites were observed, one of which held the unattended eggs. This was the first confirmation of breeding gulls on Canandaigua Lake (Figs. 1 and 2, p. 297).

The proximity of the island to human habitation makes this an unlikely spot for gulls to nest successfully. As soon as the weather warms, the sand bar adjacent to the island becomes a popular boat parking area. Although climbing over the rocky barrier is not inviting or easy, people do go onto the island. Nevertheless, the gulls have prevailed.

CONFIRMED BREEDING OF HERRING GULLS—2016

While kayaking 4 June, 2016 on Canandaigua Lake, Doug Daniels observed several age-stages of Herring Gulls breeding on Squaw Island: first, two adult

birds carrying nesting material to the island, second, two different adult birds on nest and finally, an adult feeding a chick standing next to it. Due to very windy conditions for several days, photo-documentation of the breeding was not possible until 10 June (Figs. 3-6, pp 297-298).

SUMMARY OF BREEDING GULLS ON SQUAW ISLAND

The following is a summary of eBird data reported by Doug Daniels and Carolyn Jacobs while kayaking around Squaw Island.

2009 16 July – 11 adult Ring-billed Gulls (RBGU), 3 juvenile, some with downy plumage.

19 July – 8 adult RBGU, 5 juvenile, 2 eggs, 3 nests. Photo documentation.

2012 12 adult RBGU, 13 juvenile.

2014 150 adult RBGU, estimated 25 juvenile nesting on island. Possible breeding of Herring Gull (HERG) on 10 August. By 24 August, all the nesting gulls, both RBGU and HERG had left the island.

2015 12 June, an estimated 450 RBGU on Squaw Island plus 50 fledged juveniles; 6 HERG were reported with one adult believed to be on nest.

2016 10 June – eBird report (Doug Daniels): “kayaked around the Squaw Island three times, taking accurate counts and photographing the birds. From a photograph of the east shore of the island, zoomed in and counted 186 RBGU. The west shore is similarly populated and the center of the island has even greater numbers; therefore, estimated the total number of adult RBGU to be 600 adults with 75 young (more to hatch with adults on nest). A second circling was done to count the HERG—48 adults (many still on nest) and 14 young.

15 June – a fairly accurate count of 750 gulls (both RBGU and HERG) was made. The entire island was covered with gulls during the breeding season and some even occupied the dense coverings of Virginia Creeper five to ten feet above ground level. From the various counts taken between 4 June and 12 July, the maximum number of fledged RBGU was 100 and the maximum number of fledged HERG was 15. Of interest, the nesting HERG occupied both ends of the island while the RBGU occupied the shore lines and center of the island. By 12 July, all the RBGU were fledged and all adults and immature birds were gone from Squaw Island; 25 adult and 12 juvenile HERG remained. By 22 July, ALL gulls were gone from Squaw Island.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

From his comprehensive record of bird life in New York State, E.H. Eaton (1910) described Ring-billed Gull as a “rare and transient visitant” in Ontario County, stating, “On Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes, I have found it decidedly less common than Herring and Bonaparte Gulls.” Since then, Ring-billed Gulls have proliferated in NYS in the latter half of the 20th Century which may be tied

to their opportunistic feeding at waste disposal sites and parking lots (Richmond, 2008, *The Second Breeding Bird Atlas of NYS*). Seneca, Ontario and Monroe Counties each have a huge landfill which accepts garbage from seven states and Canada.

Communicating with birders who are regional reporters, regional coordinators of the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas 2000-2005 and a former editor of *The Kingbird*, the following data should be enlightening regarding the breeding events reported above.

There have been no previous reports of gulls breeding on Canandaigua Lake. A few pairs have bred in the Chemung River in downtown Elmira but when Ring-billed Gull numbers increased to about 1,000 pairs, the city undertook to discourage them annually by collecting their eggs.

There has been confirmed breeding of gulls on Seneca Lake on the break wall in Watkins Glen.

There are no records of breeding Herring Gulls in Region 2.

IMPLICATIONS

The progression of RBGU, HERG and then Double-crested Cormorants on the Galoo Islands in the St. Lawrence River and in the Niagara River has been rapid. “The breeding birds took over at an alarming rate and created huge conflicts with recreation, fishing, boating, etc.” (pers. comm., Gerry Rising).

“No matter what we may think of the implications from effects on other bird species, fish, human health or olfactory perceptions, gulls are a federally protected species and actions must come from state or federal authorities. There have been similar issues around breeding gull colonies at Kodak Park, a store in Batavia and the ‘borrow pits’ in the parking lot at Market Place Mall in Henrietta.” (pers. comm., Bob Spahn).

The DEC was involved in 2014 when a man attempted to disrupt the breeding of Ring-billed Gulls on Squaw Island. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 does include gulls and cormorants. When birds have created disturbances to the balance between communities and said species, permits may be granted to those communities to take action to remove or disrupt the breeding of those cormorants.

While cormorants have not bred on Squaw Island, both Carolyn Jacobs and Doug Daniels have observed increasing numbers in both spring and late summer on and around the island. The highest count on Squaw Island was 37 on 15 May, 2016. They have not bred on Canandaigua Lake as of 2016.

In the September 2, 2016 issue of *The Democrat & Chronicle* (Rochester’s daily newspaper), the front page and feature article was about Double-crested Cormorants in Irondequoit Bay. In 2015, the landowners, Robert and Janice Frank, reported that 1,000 birds roosted on Fish Island (a 1.2 acre property) near the western shore. The owner reports 10,000 birds in 2016 are destroying his property and claims he has a permit to kill them. “Frank may hold the first so-

called depredation permit issued to a private party in the area. US Fish & Wildlife Service spokesperson, Terri Edwards stated that the permit, reissued each year, requires non-lethal means first; if unsuccessful, up to 50 cormorants may be shot a day to a total of 300 per year.”

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Special thanks to Carolyn Jacobs who first observed and documented breeding Ring-billed Gulls on Squaw Island and has continued to observe and report her findings to eBird. Her data and assistance with the writing of this article is greatly appreciated.

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Herring Gull with downy young, Squaw Island, *Ontario*, 6 Jun 2016. © Doug Daniels.

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE: ADDITION OF SIX NEW SPECIES TO THE NEW YORK CHECKLIST

Extraordinary times call for an extraordinary report. The following six additions to the Checklist of the Birds of New York State were reviewed and accepted under NYSARC's Accelerated Review Policy that prioritizes well documented sightings of species not previously recorded in the state. A total of 37 submissions were evaluated, seven from 2013 and 30 from 2014. All six records were accepted, and this brings the state list to 489 species. Full details of the sightings and criteria for acceptance are provided in the narratives below.

We are grateful to the 28 contributors who provided written reports, photographs, sketches and/or video recordings. The Committee also wishes to thank Jeremy Kirchman (New York State Museum, Albany, NY), Paul Sweet (American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY), Peter Pyle (Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, CA), Shaibal Mitra (College of Staten Island, NY), and Michael O'Brien (Cape May, NJ) for information that was used during the review process or preparation of this report.

2014 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*)

2014-8-A/H One, Point Peninsula, Town of Lyme, Jefferson, 24-27 Apr (Kevin McGann, Derek H. Rogers, Kimberly Sucy, Arie Gilbert, Mark Magistro Jr., William Watson, Bernie Carr, Jeff Bolsinger; ph K. McGann, D. H. Rogers, K. Sucy, A. Gilbert, M. Magistro Jr., J. Bolsinger; field sketch B. Carr)

This was a most unexpected discovery, causing much excitement within the birding community. Eugene Nichols discovered the ptarmigan on the shore of Three Mile Bay, Jefferson, NY on 24 Apr and, after sharing an iPhone photo with Derek Rogers on Long Island, established the tentative identification. Eugene alerted local birders, including Jeff Bolsinger, and together they refound the bird the next day. It's estimated that upwards of 300 people visited between 25-27 Apr alone, a remarkable number for this remote location. The nearly all-white ptarmigan frequented the shoreline, where it was noted eating ice, but also spent time in nearby scrub and woodland, where it consumed buds mainly from willow trees. Based on the written descriptions and near point-blank photos, the identification as a male Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) in predominantly basic plumage (winter whites) was well established. The less-likely White-tailed Ptarmigan (*L. leucura*) can be readily ruled out by the presence of black outer tail feathers. Separation from Rock Ptarmigan (*L. muta*), a possibility that has wandered to southern Quebec, is more challenging, but a male would be

expected to show black feathering on the lores and behind the eye, along with a daintier bill.

The ptarmigan was not seen on 28 Apr but, as explained in Jeff Bolsinger's report, had simply moved on to private property, where it remained. Sadly, on 24 May the property owners Tom and Wendy Weaver found the ptarmigan dead. David Klauber, who had traveled up from Long Island to search for the bird, advised them to freeze the carcass, which was shipped by Jeff Bolsinger to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). Analysis by Jeff Groth and Paul Sweet at the museum found it to be a male with moderately enlarged testes and beginning pre-alternate molt. Plant material was found in the stomach. The skull showed clear evidence of blunt force trauma, almost certainly the cause of death. The fat reserves were low but otherwise the bird seemed in good health. The skin is now in the AMNH collection (AMNH 840211), and the carcass and skull will be provided to the DEC.

A tundra and birch/willow scrub resident, Willow Ptarmigan has an extensive circumpolar distribution, which in North America extends from western Alaska to Labrador. They are especially abundant in northern Quebec, the most likely source for the NYS bird. Not considered a migratory species, there are relatively few records from the lower-48. That said, there is a clear precedent for occasional southward vagrancy, most notably by a series of occurrences from Maine (Apr 1892, May 1951, Dec 1954, May 1977, Apr 1988, May 1990, and May 2000), with late-spring dates consistent with the discovery of the NYS bird (Applegate 1996). Looking further back, Willow Ptarmigan were fairly regular south to Montreal, Quebec—only 160 miles northeast of Point Peninsula—into the 1800s, and there have been several irruptions extending to the St. Lawrence River in more recent times. Indeed, it has been argued that occurrences in southern Ontario also represent birds from the Quebec population following the St. Lawrence River valley and north shore of Lake Ontario (Pittaway and Iron 2011). Vermont added its own first record with a bird in northeastern Caledonia County in May 2015 (Vermont Bird Records Committee).

This 2014 sighting adds Willow Ptarmigan to the New York State Checklist. As an interesting addendum, there is reference in the literature to a Willow Ptarmigan killed on 22 May 1876 near Watson, Lewis County, NY that was given to local collector, Romeyn B. Hough (Coues 1878; Merriam 1881). According to John Bull (1974)—who listed the species as 'Hypothetical'—the identification was not confirmed by an independent source and, more to the point, the whereabouts of the specimen was no longer known. Bull also considered the date as 'suspiciously late' but in fact it matches several of the Maine specimen and sight records. Although separated by 139 years, Watson is only 44 miles from Three Mile Bay, and the 1876 bird was described as a male transitioning from basic to alternate plumage. The similarities between these two encounters seem difficult to ignore. In fact, these might not be the only instances of ptarmigan reaching the area because, as Hough later indicated in a letter to C.

Hart Merriam, local lumbermen had seen ‘white partridges’ which he presumed were also ptarmigan. A number of specimens originally belonging to Hough were incorporated into Elon Howard Eaton’s collection housed at the NY State Museum, Albany, NY. There is no mention of receiving a ptarmigan in Eaton’s inventory; however, a number of the Hough items were later listed as ‘damaged, discarded’ (per Jeremy Kirchman).

Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*)

2014-48-A/B One, at sea over the outer Hudson Canyon (39° 24' 36" N, 72° 10' 0.011" W), Pelagic, 12 Aug 2014 (Doug Gochfeld, Sean Sime; ph D. Gochfeld, S. Sime)

Just before 8 AM on 12 Aug 2014, an already successful overnight pelagic trip out of Freeport, Nassau, organized by See Life Paulagics, jumped to the next level when a *Pterodroma* petrel belonging to the feae-complex flew by the mostly-stunned observers. The encounter lasted about a minute, but dozens of photos were taken, some of them of excellent quality. Both the field observations and the photographs leave no doubt that this was a member of the feae-complex, but separation of the various taxa within the multi-species complex is notoriously difficult (Robb et al. 2008; Flood et al. 2013). Most authorities recognize the “feae-complex” as comprising three taxa, which the current American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) treats as two species: Fea’s Petrel (*P. feae*) and Zino’s Petrel (*P. madeira*). Fea’s Petrel is considered polytypic with two subspecies: nominate Cape Verde Petrel (*P. feae feae*) and Desertas Petrel (*P. feae deserta*). Some authorities consider each to be a full species, but this is not universally accepted. Only recently has the AOU accepted Fea’s and Zino’s as more than ‘hypothetical’ (see Hess 2008). Regardless, all of the feae-complex are rare in terms of the number of individuals, with some estimates pegging the combined world population at only 3,000 birds! More specifically, *P. f. feae*, breeding on multiple islands within the Cape Verde archipelago, is the most numerous, followed by *P. f. deserta* with 150-200 pairs, breeding only on Bugio in the Desertas Islands. Lastly, Zino’s Petrel (*P. madeira*) has a population of only ~65-85 pairs that nest on the volcanic summit of Madeira. Specific field identification of birds within the complex, especially away from breeding islands, is fraught with difficulty, as most of the differentiating characteristics are subtle and have some overlap across the three taxa.

Despite the large number of observers and photographers onboard that day, only two reports were provided to the Committee. Fortunately, these included a full suite of photographs showing the bird from various angles. Additionally, the reports provided helpful discussion of the identification, and most importantly, laid out the arguments for why the bird could be identified as a Fea’s rather than the very similar Zino’s Petrel. The chief differences between these two species are the overall structure, bill size and shape, and the amount of white showing

on the primary and secondary coverts of the underwing. The literature indicates that molt timing can also be useful, although this is less helpful for birds in August. The submitted photographs allowed for critical assessment of all of these features. Images showed a relatively long and heavy bill, with an obvious and reasonably steep notch between the nasal tube and the bulbous tip. As a stand-alone feature, the shape of the bill was contraindicative of Zino's. The underwing coverts showed some restricted white, but again this was outside the range for most Zino's Petrels but well within the normal range for Fea's Petrel (more so for those from Desertas, apparently). The color of the underwing coverts alone did not rule out Zino's, but was clearly supportive of Fea's. Likewise, the thick-bodied, long-winged appearance seemed very typical of Fea's, lacking the short, thick neck and comparatively small head appearance of Zino's. The Committee was unable to make any recommendation as to which population of Fea's this bird could be referred to. Although identification criteria are being developed, any differences are subtle, and the extent of individual variation is not well enough understood. With the photographs safely archived, this could be revisited in the future.

The Committee's deliberations were centered on the photographic evidence, supplemented by written descriptions, and ultimately the members voted to accept this as a Fea's Petrel, excluding Zino's Petrel. It is important to point out that in 2012 Anthony Collerton and charter skipper Max Kramer encountered a *Pterodroma* belonging to the feae-complex just a few miles southeast of Montauk Point, Suffolk Co. As is typical of these enigmatic seabirds, this earlier sighting also involved a very brief flyby, and thankfully a handful of photographs were secured. After extensive review, the earlier sighting was accepted as a Fea's/Zino's Petrel (NYSARC 2012-35-A), with the Committee concluding that the photographs that showed the bird already moving away were not sufficient to firmly distinguish between these two species. The 2014 sighting from the Hudson Canyon described here therefore replaces this dual species entry on the NYS Checklist without changing the total number of species.

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)

2014-62-A/N One, West Village, New York, New York, 23 Dec 2014-3 Jan 2015 (Zack Winestine, Joanne Pawlowski, Richard Guthrie, Angus Wilson, Jamie Koufnan, Thomas W. Burke, Doug Gochfeld, Shawn Billerman, Arie Gilbert; ph or video Z. Winestine, R. Guthrie, Phil Uruburu, Ardith Bondi, J. Koufnan, Cathy Weiner, Gail Benson, Lloyd Spitalnik, Pat Dubren, D. Gochfeld; audio Klemens Gasser)

Joanne Pawlowski glimpsed this kingbird several times near her lower Manhattan apartment in the two months leading up to the Christmas holidays and recognized it as something unusual. On 23 Dec 2014, her husband, Zack Winestine, managed to study it more closely and suspected it might be a Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*) based on likelihood. On Christmas Day

Winestine obtained photographs, which he shared with Gabriel Willow, who concluded that it was most likely either a Tropical (*T. melancholicus*) or Couch's (*T. couchii*) Kingbird. Winestine's impression of the bird's vocalizations seemed a better fit for Couch's. This prompted Willow to post the location details to a local listserve, and the news was further disseminated by Andrew Baksh. Many birders were onsite the next morning and soon refound the bird, which was extensively photographed. Vocalizations were also heard, confirming the identification as a Couch's Kingbird. Although the kingbird was seen at multiple locations, it favored a tiny green space (known locally as a 'vestpocket park', on account of being even smaller than a 'pocket' or 'micro' park), featuring several deciduous trees, ornamental shrubs, and a fountain. The kingbird also frequented surrounding apartment buildings, using balconies and fire escapes as perches from which to sally after flying insects.

Couch's Kingbird has been on the radar as a possible vagrant to New York for some time, although the reasoning for this prediction has not been clearly articulated. Compared to Tropical Kingbird, Couch's has a rather restricted range, namely the eastern slope of Mexico from the Texas border down to the Yucatan Peninsula, including Belize and Guatemala (Brush 1999). While some authors considered it to be essentially non-migratory, Howell describes it as partially migratory, retreating from the northern end of the range, especially Texas and higher elevations in Mexico, during the winter (Howell and Webb 1995). However, there are a scattering of extralimital records, including a few to New Mexico and northern Texas, as well as California, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida. Most relevant to the NY sighting, there are accepted records from Michigan (Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., 26-28 May 2007; Putnam 2010), Maryland (eBird 11-24 Nov 2014), Massachusetts (Plum Island, 7 Sep 2001; Rines 2002) and Nova Scotia (16 Oct 1997; Field Notes 52:23). There are also a few Tropical/Couch's extralimital records where the identification to species level remains uncertain. The exact date for when Pawlowski first noticed the kingbird is uncertain but was probably at the beginning of November and thus close to the discovery of the Maryland bird. Seen by hundreds of birders and local residents, the kingbird was last reported on 9 Jan 2015 after a series of very cold nights.

The kingbird was extensively photographed and a number of video recordings were made. These show the bright sulfur yellow underparts, white throat, greenish wash across the upper breast and greener back. The tail was brown and noticeably forked, unlike the tail of Western Kingbird, which is square-tipped and black with white outer edges. Although broad, the bill was not as long as would be expected for the very similar looking Tropical Kingbird, and the sharp call note was very different from the noisy drawn out twittering calls of Tropical. Careful study of feather wear indicates an adult, although there were competing opinions as to whether it was a male or female as judged by the shape of the primary tips. Even after review by Peter Pyle of specimens at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley, this remains ambiguous.

Tropical Kingbird seems more prone to vagrancy than Couch's, occurring regularly up the west coast of North America as far as British Columbia and with a broad scattering of records across the Great Plains (MO, IL), the Great Lakes (PA, MI and ON), the Northeast (three times to MA, ME, and QC), the Atlantic coastal states (MD, DE, GA and NC) and even the oceanic island of Bermuda. In purely statistical terms, Tropical Kingbird is the more likely possibility but so far has not been found in NYS. For further discussion of Tropical/Couch's Kingbird vagrancy into North America, see Mlodinow 1998. Prior to the Manhattan bird, our closest brush with this species was the apparent Couch's x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrid (NYSARC 2003-60-A), extensively photographed near Geneseo in Livingston County in November 2003 (McGowan and Spahn 2004).

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

2014-19-A/F One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, Monroe, 1 Jun 2015 (William Watson, Kimberly Sucey, Dominic Sherony, Glenn Miller, Patricia Martin, Andy Guthrie; ph K. Sucey, D. Sherony, G. Miller, A. Guthrie)

This singing male Kirtland's Warbler was amply documented with many photographs and several written descriptions. The original finder, Andy Guthrie, first noticed its emphatic song as he pulled into the State Park ahead of a pre-arranged meeting with other birders. Aware of this species as a potential spring vagrant, he had deliberately familiarized himself with the song and recognized it almost immediately. Once he had visual confirmation and had captured a few photographs, Guthrie called other birders, including Jim Pawlicki, who promptly forwarded the news to the Genesee Birds listserve. These timely postings, additional phone calls, tweets, and repostings, brought numerous observers to the park within hours, and the warbler was followed off-and-on throughout the day. Unfortunately, most of the new migrants departed the area that night, including the Kirtland's Warbler, which was not seen again.

The Committee found no concerns about the identification, based on the many excellent photographs. The late spring date fits with the expectation for birds returning from their wintering grounds to the main stronghold in northern Michigan or satellite colonies, including those in Ontario, north of Lake Ontario. Interestingly, the Hamlin sighting was delayed compared to scattered sites in Ontario, where several migrants were discovered during a four-day window between 10 and 13 May (Burrell and Charlton 2016).

With a world population of no more than 5,000 individuals and with limited breeding and wintering ranges, Kirtland's Warbler is classified as 'Near-Threatened' (BirdLife International 2017). At its lowest point, a comprehensive census found only 432 singing males (Mayfield 1953), prompting an intensive program of conservation efforts led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that began in the late 1980s and continue to this day. These active measures include the creation of appropriate nesting habitat and control of the brood-parasite,

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). This has resulted in the steady growth of the core population nesting in extensive stands of jack pine re-growth forest in Michigan's Au Sable River drainage and in the establishment of new colonies elsewhere in Michigan, Wisconsin and Ontario. With increased numbers, the likelihood of birds being encountered on migration either traveling from or to the wintering grounds in the Bahamas should increase. The Hamlin bird was presumably one such example, deviating only slightly from a straight line path between Michigan and the Bahamian wintering grounds.

As noted in the 2010 Annual Report, there were a handful of historical reports of Kirtland's Warbler from western New York, spanning the years 1918 to 1943 (Taylor 1985), that for unknown reasons have disappeared from the more recent literature. Perhaps these reports faced skepticism in the absence of specimen evidence and increasing scarcity of the species. Now, with the benefit of hindsight, these old reports, along with the single-observer sighting on 18 May 2010 some 70 miles to the west of Hamlin along the lakeshore (NYSARC 2010-45-A), seem more credible. Regardless, the good news is that Kirtland's Warbler now takes a firm place on the Checklist of the Birds of New York State. If the population growth continues, there is a good chance that this beautiful warbler will become an annual visitor to NYS, and perhaps ultimately a breeding species.

2013 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

2013-91-A One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, **Monroe**, 14 Aug 2013
(Andy Guthrie; ph A. Guthrie)

Without supporting photographs, acceptance of this flyby seen by a single observer would have been problematic. The photographs show a smaller cormorant traveling with a flock of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and they document the difference in the relative length of the tail compared to the body, the more compact profile, slimmer and shorter neck and, most importantly, key details of the head, including the feathered area above the lores. Kudos to the observer, Andy Guthrie, for having his camera ready whilst lake watching and for managing to capture these essential shots.

Neotropic Cormorants are becoming more widespread in the southern states, including Arizona, Texas and Louisiana, and there is an emerging pattern of regular dispersal up the Mississippi Valley into the center of the continent. Neotropic Cormorants now breed regularly in Oklahoma and sometimes as far north as Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. There are now several records from Ontario associated with the Great Lakes (Crins 2006, Tozer and Milsom 2006). Ohio's first was recorded in Sandusky in April 2014 at the mouth of a river flowing into the western end of Lake Erie, and there have now been multiple sightings on the US and Canadian sides of the lake. Thus, the fact that this first

sighting comes from western NYS rather than coastal areas makes sense despite the very large numbers of cormorants that migrate up and down the Atlantic coast. That said, the first for New Jersey was found on a lake in Clinton, Hunterdon Co. in early April 2014 and stayed into the summer, likely returning the following year (Brown et al. 2015). Thus, Neotropic Cormorant could occur anywhere in the state. Since the Hamlin record, there have been additional sightings of Neotropic Cormorants in western NYS (Chautauqua and Erie Co., pending NYSARC review). It is likely there will be more, and observers are encouraged to pay close attention to cormorants, making every effort to photograph any birds that appear slightly smaller than Double-crested Cormorants.

Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*)

2013-55-A/F One first-summer/second-cycle, Cupsogue Beach County Park, **Suffolk**, 3, 7 July (Andy Guthrie, Brendan Fogarty; ph A. Guthrie, B. Fogarty); Tiana Beach Recreation Area, **Suffolk**, 4-6 July (Brett Glietsmann, Angus Wilson, Thomas W. Burke, Arie Gilbert; ph B. Glietsmann, A. Wilson, T. W. Burke, Gail Benson)

On 28 June 2013, Arie Gilbert posted a message to the NYSBirds listserv describing a medium-sized orange-billed tern that he and others observed the day before on the flats at Cupsogue Beach County Park. In his message he described an orange-billed tern with a bill that appeared “*long and orange*” and “*not quite right*” for a Royal Tern. Gilbert considered Elegant Tern as a possibility, but unfortunately the views did not allow for a positive identification. No further sightings of the mystery bird were made until the afternoon of 3 July when Andy Guthrie, Andrew Baksh, and Michael Scheibel, who had just finished observing a continuing Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) on the Cupsogue flats, photographed an orange-billed tern that they cautiously identified as a first-summer Elegant Tern. The next day, after unsuccessfully searching for the tern at Cupsogue, Brett Glietsmann photographed what was almost certainly the same individual approximately 11 miles further east at the Tiana Beach Recreation Area. He spread the word, and the tern was studied and photographed by many observers over the next two days, with the last reported sighting occurring back at Cupsogue on 7 Jul.

A total of six reports were received by the Committee, nearly all of which contained photographs illustrating the Elegant Tern’s smaller body size, thinner and slightly down-curved bright orange bill, longer crest, and extensive black mask, features that easily separated this Pacific coast species from the larger Royal Terns. The combination of these features also helped distinguish it from the pale-billed ‘Cayenne’ subspecies of Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis eurygnatha*), which has been previously documented on Long Island (NYSARC 2000-33-A/B), as well as the similar Mediterranean subspecies of Lesser Crested Tern (*T. bengalensis emigrata*), an old world taxon

many consider as a potential vagrant to the Atlantic coast of North America. The combination of darker secondaries and primary coverts, the presence of gray spots on the tail and the winter-like crown were consistent with 1st-summer plumage transitioning to 2nd winter. The fact that the inner primaries and outer secondaries were already replaced might suggest that molt had been suspended during early summer.

Elegant Tern is found primarily along the west coast of North, Central and South America. The core range is from Southern California through Baja California to Nayarit in Mexico. Some 90-99% of the world population nest on Isla Rasa in the Gulf of California, and they occasionally wander north to Oregon and even British Columbia. After the breeding season the species exhibits an odd migratory pattern, first moving north up along the coast of California (Jun-Sep) and then back southward, wandering south as far as central Chile. Vagrants have been recorded on several Pacific Islands and, more surprisingly, a remarkable slew of 20+ records come from Western Europe (France [several], Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland [several], Spain, Belgium, England, Germany, and Denmark) as well as the Canary Islands and South Africa.

Starting in the late 1990s, sightings of Elegant Terns along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts have steadily increased, especially in Florida, where the species has been documented hybridizing with ‘Cabot’s’ Sandwich Terns (*T. s. acuflavidus*) (Paul et al. 2003, Shoch and Howell 2013). Mixed pairings are also known from California (Collins 1997) and from Baja Sur, Mexico (Velarde and Rojo 2012). There’s evidence that some hybrids are fertile, emphasizing the surprisingly close affinities of Elegant, Sandwich and Cabot’s Terns (Bridge et al. 2005). Sometimes F1 hybrids show limited black flecking in the bill, which was not evident on the NYS bird, and slightly reduced size compared to pure Elegant Terns, which would be very hard to assess in this context. Although the Committee found no evidence for a hybrid, these concerns underscore the importance of thorough documentation of any out-of-range sightings of orange-billed *Thalasseus* terns. Some of the European sightings have involved hybrids, and their identification has been quite controversial. However, at least three examples have been confirmed as Elegant Terns using molecular approaches (Dufour et al. 2016).

The Long Island Elegant Tern represents the first record for New York and follows closely on New Jersey’s first record that occurred within sight of NYS, a “subadult/non-breeding adult” present at Sandy Hook, Monmouth County from 2-22 Sep 2012 (Boyle et al. 2013).

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

Angus Wilson (Past Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Thomas W. Burke, Willie D’Anna (Chair), Doug Gochfeld, Andrew Guthrie, James Pawlicki, and Christopher L. Wood

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The summer of 2016 experienced drought conditions that lowered creeks and streams and negatively affected agriculture. A dry spring continued into June. The mean temperature was 67.6° F, 1.3° above average. Rain was sparse, with a total of 1.31" at the Buffalo airport, 2.35" below average. July was hot and dry, with an average temperature of 74.1°, 3.0° above normal. Rainfall at Buffalo was 1.80", 1.43" below average. It was the warmest August on record, with the mean temperature at 75.6°, 6.0° above normal. There was 4.17" of rain, 0.91" above average, which came mostly in the form of thunderstorms late in the month to break the drought temporarily. Weather data is excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

I did not find many comments regarding the impact on the breeding season from the unusually hot and dry weather. The uncommon and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report were again mostly found in their previously documented breeding areas.

Steve Dowlan submitted photos of two adult **Sandhill Cranes** with a colt to eBird in August with a note that they had been seen at the location in Kiantone for at least one month. This provides new breeding evidence for Region 1. It is suspected that cranes bred in the Oak Orchard WMA and/or Iroquois NWR areas again, with sightings of adults through the summer. Two summer sightings of one adult in Clarence warrant watching next summer.

Black Vultures remained throughout the summer in Lewiston, consistent with recent summers, while summer sightings in Genesee and Erie counties may have been wanderers from this group, if not evidence of expansion. **Upland Sandpipers** were again in Java, Tillman Road WMA, and Shelby. **Common Nighthawk** reports from Buffalo and Jamestown in June were more likely possible breeders than migrants, as these are the only remaining locations with recent breeding evidence. **Merlins** continue to increase in summer to the point that not all sightings can be included here. Those in June and July are more indicative of breeding. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Keeney Swamp SF in early July occurred at a date suggestive of possible breeding. A **Fish Crow** in Niagara Falls provided a rare summer record, although proof of breeding is still lacking for Region 1. **Sedge Wrens** were at Joseph Davis SP and Conewango Swamp WMA. **Prothonotary Warbler** was only found at Tonawanda WMA. **Clay-colored Sparrows** continued at Lakeside Beach SP and Krull Park in Olcott.

Jacqueline Walters and Connie Adams were conducting colonial waterbird monitoring in Buffalo Harbor for NYSDEC when they came across a female

Common Eider. The bird remained for several weeks but was not always accommodating, as it was believed to be making foraging trips out to Lake Erie. This was the first Regional record for summer and sixth overall. Two **Harlequin Ducks** lingered at Niagara Falls into early June; this marks the second straight summer with report of this species. A few summering diving ducks were reported from the Great Lakes, Niagara River, and Batavia WWTP. An **Eared Grebe** continued from the 31 May finding at Batavia WWTP, with a second that joined in early August; a nearly annual summer occurrence at this location.

Annie Wilcox-Swanson was assigned to check on a report to NYSDEC of an unusual heron hanging around an Eden yard which turned out be a **Wood Stork**. The bird was present throughout the day of 26 August and reportedly roosted that night and departed the next morning. This was the third record for the Region.

Just as rare was the Region's third **White Ibis** found by Matt Nusstein at Evangola SP on 15 July. Many birders trekked to see this rarity before it departed later in the day. What was very likely the same bird was found by Chris Kundl three days later at Gratwick Park in North Tonawanda.

The shorebird highlight was a banded **Piping Plover** discovered by Sue Barth at Woodlawn Beach SP 15-16 August. Following up on the band revealed the bird was hatched and banded at Wassaga Beach, Ontario on Georgian Bay in June. Fifteen **American Avocets** were sighted at Dunkirk Harbor along with two other reports in July at this location. The summer's lone **Willet** report was from Dunkirk Harbor in July as well. Joe Mitchell found a **Red Knot** in Buffalo Harbor on 29 August; records of this declining species have become scarce. A **Red-necked Phalarope** at Buffalo Harbor in August rounds out the summer shorebird highlights.

During a trip back home to Buffalo area, Jim Pawlicki found and photographed a **Long-tailed Jaeger** from the tower at Erie Basin Marina on 21 August. This marks the fifth Regional record and also the second in three years that Jim documented. Willie D'Anna had a jaeger on Lake Ontario from Fort Niagara SP that was either a Long-tailed or Parasitic on 30 August. Immature **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continue to be found in summer with increased regularity.

The southbound warbler migration included a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Buckhorn Island SP and a record early Palm Warbler on 22 August at Fort Niagara SP. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** documented at Amherst SP on 6 August by Jim Sawusch was a rare "fall" migrant record of this species for the Region.

Last but not least was an unexpected sighting of a young male **Summer Tanager** at Point Gratiot in July. Stuart Mackenzie initially heard the tanager "churpping"; this provides the first summer record of this species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; EvSP – Evangola SP, ERIE; FLC – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; JDSP – Joseph Davis SP, NIAG; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; SPWS – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach NP, ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TRWMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Mute Swan: N Harmony CHAU 18 Jul; Buffalo NR 25 Aug; only reports away from L Ontario shore.

Wood Duck: max 78 Tiff NP 7 Aug, 76 BWWTP 12 Aug.

Gadwall: max 8, 11 BWWTP 5 Jun, 1 Jul; 5 BufH 21 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: 3 INWR 2 Jun; 2 BWWTP 18 Jun; max 9 BWWTP 27 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: ad + 6 yg OOWMA 9 Jul; New Albion L CATT 10 Aug; arr 12 BufH 15 Aug; max 95 BWWTP 27 Aug (GL, EG).

N. Shoveler: 2, 3, max 10 BWWTP 12 Jun, 10 Jul, 27 Aug; INWR 4 Jul.

N. Pintail: INWR 30 Jul (CM), only report.

Green-winged Teal: 6, max 10 INWR 10, 12 Jul; 7 BWWTP 17 Jul.

Redhead: BWWTP 5 Jun – 13 Aug; Tiff NP 8 Jun – 17 Jul; 3 Ellery ChauL 10 Jun (GV); max 8 INWR 11 Jun (AG); Buffalo NR 12 Jun; NF 26 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: TWMA 19 Jun, 4 Jul (JiM, KS, BP, WD); DH 30 Jul -25 Aug (JG, GV); only reports.

Greater Scaup: BWWTP 27 Aug (GL, EG), only report.

Lesser Scaup: 4, 1 BWWTP 10-12 Jun, 29 Jun; BWWTP 1, 26 Jul, 11 Aug; only reports.

COMMON EIDER: BufH 3-21 Aug (JW ph., CA, mob), unexpected, 1st summer and 6th Reg record.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (R1): 2 NFSP 2 Jun (CK), continued from spring; second consecutive summer with NF record.
Bufflehead: N Collins ERIE 10 Aug (JPa, JoM), only report.
Com. Goldeneye: NFSP 9 Jul (JB), only report.
Com. Merganser: max 27 Sheridan CHAU 18 Jul; 16 DH 31 Jul; 25 Wilson NIAG 15 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: Ellery ChauL 11 Jun; DH 25 Jun; only reports.
Ruddy Duck: 23, 22, 25 BWWT 7 Jun, 24 Jul, 23 Aug, regular location in summer.
Com. Loon: AISP 1 Jun (AS, AM); max 3 Mayville ChauL 22 Jul (TL); Clarence ERIE 13 Aug; Wilson NIAG 14, 17 Aug; FNFP 30 Aug.
Eared Grebe: 1, 2 BWWT 1 Jun -7 Aug, 8 Aug thru (mob); annual location in late summer-fall.
WOOD STORK: Eden ERIE 26 Aug (AWS), 3rd Reg record.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1500 BufH 6 Aug.
Am. Bittern: max 2, 2, 2, 3 INWR 11, 19 Jun, 10 Jul, 14 Aug; Tift NP 3 Aug.
Least Bittern: 1-2 INWR 2 Jun - 10 Jul; not reported from other locations.
Great Blue Heron: max 115 INWR 2 Jun.
Great Egret: Portville ALLE 30 Jun; 29 NFSP; 20 Jul; 35, 76 OOWMA 31 Jul, 19 Aug; max 176 TWMA 18 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 15 INWR, 26 TWMA 18 Aug; uncommon away from NR.
WHITE IBIS: EvSP 15 Jul (MN!, mob); Gratwick P NR NIAG 18 Jul (CK ph.), most likely same bird; 3rd Reg record.
Black Vulture: 3, 4, 2 Lewiston NIAG 3 Jun, 1 Jul, 27 Aug, year round residents; Alexander GENE 11 Jul (ED!); WoBSP 12-19 Aug (SB, WD), 1st summer record for ERIE.

HAWKS-LARIDS

Osprey: well reported from known breeding locations.
Bald Eagle: well reported from known breeding locations; max 7 LBSP 7 Aug (DB).
Broad-winged Hawk: Somerset NIAG 22 Aug (WD), fall migrants are uncommon here.
Virginia Rail: 2, 2 BWWT 4, 26 Jun, 11 Aug; Fredonia CHAU 8, 11 Jun; 2 BMAC 15 Jun, 28 Jul, 1 Aug; TBNP 26 Jun (SS); TRWMA 10 Jul; Tift NP 18 Jul; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Sora: Jamestown CHAU 8 Jun; BWWT 26 Jun, 10, 24 Jul; only reports.

Am. Coot: 17 INWR 25 Jun, only regular summer location.
C. Gallinule: max 22 INWR 18 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 1, 1 Clarence ERIE 1 Jun, 14 Aug (MM, KLL, RG), unexpected location; 2 TWMA 6 Jun; 3, 1 INWR 12 Jun, 30 Jul; 2, 3 OOWMA 4, 9 Jul, 12 Aug, has bred at INWR/OOWMA in recent years; Kiantone CHAU 19 Aug (SD).
Black-bellied Plover: arr DH 16 Aug; BuSP 18 Aug; max 8, 5 Somerset NIAG 22, 23 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 Somerset NIAG, Carlton ORLE 23 Aug.
Sempalmated Plover: last 5 INWR, LBSP 2 Jun; arr Porter NIAG 15 Jul; 10 OOWMA 30 Jul; max 18 Tift NP 21 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER: juv WoBSP 15-16 Aug (SB ph!, mob), banded in Wassaga Beach, Ontario in June; 5th Reg record in last 50 years.
Killdeer: max 117 Grand I ERIE 21 Aug.
Am. Avocet: arr 15, 1, 6 DH 14, 18, 25 Jul (GV); only reports.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Birdsall ALLE, TRWMA, OOWMA 4 Jul; 11 LBSP 21 Jul; max 17 Lewiston NIAG 6 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: last BWWT 5 Jun (JoM!), late; arr BWWT 1 Jul.
Willet: arr DH 22 Jul (TL; GV); only report.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr BWWT 1 Jul; max 45 TWMA 25 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Medina ORLE 1 Jun (CM); 2 Java WYOM 17 Jun (TK); 1-4 TRWMA 18 Jun-6 Aug, regular location.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 DH 22 Jul; 4 BufH 22 Aug; 2 PB 26 Aug; only reports.
Red Knot: BufH 29 Aug (JoM), only report; reports have become scarce.
Sanderling: arr 3, 8 DH 14, 31 Aug; 11 WoBSP 20 Aug; 3 BWWT 20 Aug; 10 Hanover CHAU 21 Aug; 2 PB 26 Aug.
Sempalmated Sandpiper: 17 BWWT 11 Jun; last 2 LBSP 13 Jun; arr Porter NIAG 8 Jul; max 25 Pomfret CHAU 14 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: last 2 Porter NIAG, 2 INWR, LBSP 2 Jun; arr 3, 40 LBSP 3, 15 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last LBSP 6, 9 Jun (DB); arr LBSP 22 Aug (DB); only reports.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr John White WMA GENE 12 Aug; WoBSP 15 Aug; OOWMA 19 Aug; only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 19 TWMA 11 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 3 TWMA 19, 25 Aug; WoBSP 28 Aug; LBSP 30, 31 Aug; Lewiston NIAG 31 Aug; only reports.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr OOWMA 9 Jul; max 4 INWR 12 Jul.

Red-necked Phalarope: BuFH 8 Aug (JPa), only report.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: BuFH 21 Aug (JPa, ph!), 5th Reg record.

Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger: FNSP 30 Aug (WD).

Bonaparte's Gull: 5 Yates ORLE, BuSP 7 Jun; 3 BuFH 5 Jul; 3 Cold Spring CHAU 24 Jul (TL); max 42 BuFH 21 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1, 1, 3, 1, 1 NFSP 30 Jun, 2, 8, 24 Jul, 16 Aug (CK, WD); Porter NIAG 9 Jul (AG, BM); WoBSP 15-26 Aug; BuFH 15 Aug; Hamburg ERIE 21 Aug; continued increase in sightings Jun-Jul.

Great Black-backed Gull: 18 BuFH 12 Jun, mostly immatures.

Caspian Tern: max 40 N Harmony ChauL 30, 31 Jul; 34 BuFH 21 Aug.

Black Tern: max 32, 36 INWR 2, 11 Jun.

Com. Tern: max 300, 400, 300 BuFH 12 Jun, 5 Jul, 6 Aug; 90, 57 FNSP 9 Jul, 30 Aug.

Forster's Tern: no reports.

PIGEONS-PARROTS

Com. Nighthawk: Forestville CHAU 2 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 9 Jun; 2 Jamestown CHAU 12 Jun; 2 Charlotte CHAU 16 Jun (GV); arr 2 Shelby ORLE 23 Aug; max 4 Wellsville ALLE 25 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from 11 locations; max 8 FNSP 27 Aug (WD).

Merlin: Olean CATT 9 Jun; Birdsall ALLE 26 Jun; Alfred ALLE 30 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 30 Jun; reported from six loc in Jul and 16 loc in Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: Lockport NIAG 26 Jun; BWWTP 16 Jul; Shelby ORLE 30 Jul; only Jun & Jul reports away from known breeding areas; reported from seven loc in Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 AISP 3 Jun (RB); Keeney Swamp SF ALLE 4 Jul (GL, EG, JPo), date suggestive of possible breeding, 4th Jul record; arr Dunkirk CHAU, AmSP 22 Aug; three other Aug reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr AmSP 18 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: last 2 N Collins ERIE 10 Aug.

E. Kingbird: max 48, 21 DH 13, 17 Aug (GV, RS).

Fish Crow: NF 24 Jun (CK, ph, audio); summer is rarest season.

Purple Martin: 54 Medina ORLE 1 Jun; 96 Bethany GENE 18 Jun; 76, 193 INWR 28 Jun,

6 Jul; 90 Batavia GENE 6 Jul; max 1500 BuSP 25 Aug (AH), coming to evening roost at Grass I.

Tree Swallow: 120 BWWTP 23 Aug; max 140 Bethany GENE 29 Aug.

Bank Swallow: max 430 TWMA 18 Aug; 165 BWWTP 23 Aug.

Barn Swallow: max 4365 TWMA 18 Aug (JPa), estimated coming to evening roost in cattails; 125 BuSP 25 Aug; 210 Bethany GENE 29 Aug.

Sedge Wren: 1, 4, 1 JDSP 2, 3, 26 Jun (BP); CSWMA 20-22 Jun (TL); only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun; AISP 21 Jun; arr LBSP, AmSP 22 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr N Tonawanda NIAG 21 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from seven loc in Jun-Jul; last AmSP 6 Aug (JS ph!), rare fall migrant report, unusual location.

N. Waterthrush: arr WoBSP 2 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: BuSP 31 Aug (AH), only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: 4 Amity ALLE, 3 Angelica ALLE 26 Jun (AG); BMAC 17 Jul; arr WoBSP 15 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 2, 4 TWMA 4, 11 Jun; known breeding location.

Tennessee Warbler: arr FNSP 22 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: Alexander GENE 13 Jun; Ashford CATT 23 Aug; arr 2 FLC, Tiff NP 23 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr AmSP 22 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 9 Aug (WD, BP).

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Somerset NIAG 7 Jun; max 3, 4 INWR 21 Jun, 12 Jul; Elba GENE 28 Jun.

N. Parula: 2, 3 AISP 3 Jun, 25-30 Jul; arr Niagara NIAG 31 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr AmSP 17 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr NFSP, Newfane NIAG 28 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr TBNP 10 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr WoBSP 9 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr WoBSP 16 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Amherst ERIE 11 Jun (BK); 3 E Otto CATT 7 Jul; arr TBNP 25 Aug.

Palm Warbler: arr FNSP 22 Aug (KM), early.

Pine Warbler: arr FNSP 27 Aug

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr FLC 18 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: reported in ALLE, CATT, CHAU in Jun & Jul.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr AmSP 22 Aug.
Canada Warbler: BMAC 4 Jun; 2-5 WFWMA 10-29 Jun; 2 Portland CHAU 29 Jun; arr Tiff NP, Attica WYOM 17 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr FLC 24 Aug.

TOWHEES-WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 Olcott NIAG 6 Jun – 2 Jul; LBSP 9 Jun (DB); documented at these sites in previous summers.
Vesper Sparrow: max 3 Ashford CATT 1 Jun; Albion ORLE 1 Jun; Batavia GENE 7 Jun; only reports.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Lewiston NIAG 3 Jun; 3 Middlebury WYOM 16 Jun; max 4, 6

TRWMA 18 Jun, 2 Jul; 3 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 25 Jun; John White WMA GENE 17 Jul; Shelby ORLE 20 Jul.
White-throated Sparrow: last Wilson NIAG 1 Jun; Charlotte CHAU 16 Jun (GV); INWR 16 Jul (JB); last two locations unusual for dates.
SUMMER TANAGER: PG 7 Jul (SM); first summer record for Reg.
Bobolink: max 80 Attica WYOM 24 Aug (RR).
Orchard Oriole: W Seneca ERIE 6 Jun; Bethany GENE 24 Jun; 3 Farnham ERIE 1 Jul; SPWS 3, 21 Jul; only locations away from NIAG; last LBSP 6 Aug.
Baltimore Oriole: max 15 BuSP 19, 25 Aug (AH).
Pine Siskin: Wilson NIAG 1, 24 Jun; Ashford CATT 21 Jun; BMAC 12 Aug; only reports.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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The summer of 2016 was hot and dry, with drought deepening to severe drought through the season. It seemed like most of the season there was threat of rain, with storms approaching from the Midwest splitting just west of us to pass north over or north of Lake Ontario, or south well below the NY Thruway and then off to our east. The summer ended with temperatures averaging 4.0° F above normal and rainfall 4.10" below normal. Turning to the individual months, June temperatures averaged 67.5°, 1.3° above normal, with four 90° days and 16 days above 80°. Rainfall totaled 0.91", 2.43" below normal, with the only significant rain 0.49" on the 2nd. Lake Ontario remained cool, rising to 71° only on the last day of the month. July was hot and dry, with temperatures averaging 74.8°, 4.0° above normal, and precipitation totaling 1.22" was 2.11" below normal. It was the seventh warmest July on record but with no record highs. Add nine more 90° days, and note that half the rainfall total fell on the 7th-8th. Finally, August was the warmest on record for that month and the second warmest month on record for Rochester. Still it was not a month of extremes, just consistent hot days and warm nights. One record high was tied on the 12th and record high lows

occurred on the 12th and 13th. Also, ten 90° days is third on the all-time list and 29 days > 80° set a new record. Temperatures averaged 75.9°, 6.6° above normal. Precipitation at 3.91" was actually 0.44" above normal. It was the wettest month since September 2015 and the first above normal since May of this year. Nearly all of the rain fell in the second half of the month, with heavy rains in the last week bringing some local drought relief. There were no major pushes of migrants.

In general, it was a good season for birders and likely a good breeding season for most species. Clearly the drought added stress on plants and on agriculture with passing time, and the good growing conditions early allowed an early first hay cutting, possibly negatively affecting grassland species. Dry conditions yet high Lake Ontario levels limited shorebird habitat. The lack of major fronts passing led to weak counts for migrants. Numbers of reports submitted were high, as indicated by approximately 20,690, 17,689, and 19,578 eBird "records" for June, July, and August, respectively. The "approximately" is due to potential errors in my deletion of records from other Regions in shared counties from our Region 2 download and to differences in what one may define as a record. The download includes shared lists and different birders reporting the same bird at the same place and time on separate lists, maybe even labeling the site differently. Persons analyzing the data must study the raw data and handle such potential duplication as appropriate to the particular analysis. With good numbers of reports, we amassed good species counts, with 185 in June vs. a 10-year average of 179.9; 181 vs. 168.1 for July; and 198 vs. 191.0 for August.

Once more, I will stick with my approach of looking at this season as really containing three different bird seasons—the end of spring migration, most of the breeding season, and the start of fall migration. The starting point is the smallest, the tail of spring migration extending into about half of June. Results for this part are strongly affected by both weather and the schedules of the local bird banding and hawk counting efforts. This year there was official banding only to 3 June and no official hawk count after May. Late migrant waterfowl were very scarce. Only a few puddle ducks that breed irregularly remained into June mainly in the NMWMA, where breeding is most likely. Diving ducks were scarcer yet, with only Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser into June and Red-breasted Merganser on 25 June the only one into the second half of the month. The only late loon was Common Loon on 25 June.

At the hawkwatch, dihard observers caught a late movement on 20 June that included: an adult **Mississippi Kite**, 170 Turkey Vultures, 11 Bald Eagles, and 212 Broad-winged Hawks. The usual late shorebird movement did not include any notable counts and only five species to June departure dates, with four of these at one site on 14 June—Ruddy Turnstone and Least, White-rumped, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Similarly, there were no really good late counts of gulls and terns, though Caspian and Common Terns continued through most of the month and a lone Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted in Hamlin on

11 June. The usual Common Nighthawk passage early in the month was weak and only to 4 June. Among the passerines, there are a few species that typically continue migration well into June, some with peak banding numbers then. This year only relatively small numbers of Yellow-bellied and “Traill’s” Flycatchers were banded; no Gray-cheeked or Swainson’s Thrushes were caught; and only one Mourning, three Magnolia, three Blackpoll, one Canada, and two Wilson’s Warblers were banded among species not typically nesting nearby. A lone Lincoln’s Sparrow topped off the late migrant list.

The breeding season is the most difficult to assess without some special efforts underway, like a breeding bird atlas. One must try to glean tidbits from limited data from MAPS projects, BBS routes, notes from a few observers, and from the general observations. Most of this is in the June and July data, though birds clearly breed far to either side of this period. There were no particularly strong negative events flagged other than the possible effects of early hay mowing. Starting with the waterbirds, we find reports relatively few, driven mostly by dried ponds and abundant vegetation making it hard to see into even wetland areas in the NMWMA. Trumpeter Swan breeding sites reported were again few. Our regular breeders: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser all seemed to do reasonably well, though Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal numbers are low. Hooded Merganser broods are rarely reported, so a family on a pond in Bushnell’s Basin tracked by the Hallers was interesting. Rarer potential breeders reported from the NMWMA were Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal. Double-crested Cormorant made the local newspapers with large numbers breeding on a small island in Irondequoit Bay. WAGs of 10,000 birds were tossed about. Great Egret was present all season, but no confirmed breeding was reported.

Moving on, Black Vultures were reported from Letchworth State Park from 10-26 June; again no breeding evidence. Among the raptors, Red-shouldered Hawk was reported only from typical locales, Broad-winged Hawk reports from the hills were few, Merlin was noted in former breeding areas with no nesting confirmed, and the Rochester Peregrine Falcons fledged four young. Marsh bird reports were again mainly from the NMWMA. Sandhill Crane reports were from fewer sites than usual, with no notes confirming young in our Region, only suspicions. There was no input relative to our expected breeding shorebirds. Finally, Black Tern was again reported only from the NMWMA during the breeding season, with a maximum of 15 birds on 4 July.

Among the passerine breeders there was little detail noted. Most families seemed to have a good season. The rarer species we track—Fish Crow, Prothonotary Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow—were present long enough to suggest likely breeding success. Again, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Golden-crowned Kinglet were especially scarce in the breeding season in areas where breeding is expected.

In this section, we try also to pick up a few records for likely summering, wandering, or rarer individuals. An injured Snow Goose lingered in the Van Dyne Spoor area of the NMWMA until at least 13 July. Lots of Great Blue Herons, mostly young birds, gathered at the Shore Acres Ponds along the Lake Ontario Parkway in late August, with a maximum count of 84 on 23 August. A surprise was 32 Great Egrets visiting the Northrup Creek area on 28 July. **Monk Parakeet** showed up at Jim Kimball's feeders in Geneseo on 29 June, a new site. A Canvasback was seen at the Sandhill Crane Unit of the NMWMA on 29 July. Even stranger was a Common Goldeneye on 6 August at Hamlin Beach SP. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found and photographed by Cody Nichols near the MAC on 22 July. A subadult Laughing Gull was seen passing Hamlin Beach SP by Andy Guthrie on 28 July. A Swainson's Thrush banded at BBBO on 17 July falls into this in-between gap. Interesting warblers included: "Lawrence's" Warbler on 3 June in Northampton Park, Palm Warbler on 21 June at BBBO, and **Yellow-throated Warbler** photographed by Jim Kimball at Indian Fort Preserve, Geneseo, on 3 June. White-throated Sparrows were noted away from expected breeding areas on 17 and 29 June and 24 July. A feeder bird surprise for Sue Albright on 12 June was a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** along Edgemere Drive in Greece. Pine Siskins showed up off and on at a few sites.

Finally, we look at fall migration beginning with shorebirds arriving in late June. Generally, the start of fall migration was late and weak, probably mainly driven by the drought making it hard to find the shorebirds we first look for and a lack of fronts to push much of anything.

The start of the fall waterfowl migration was slow, with most of the potential early arrivals in the NMWMA in late August and hard to separate certainly from breeding birds there. Diving ducks were mainly missing other than the surprise Common Goldeneye noted above and an early Red-breasted Merganser at Hamlin Beach SP on 7 August, both possibly summer visitors. Both regular loons were reported in late July, and Common Loon off and on through August. Red-necked Grebe again appeared in late July, with a few additional August reports, likely birds overshooting their molting area in NE Lake Huron. Large numbers of Double-crested Cormorant were seen at times, most probably foraging flocks out of Irondequoit Bay. Even with no concerted hawkwatch, observers caught a good movement on 5 August including: 61 Turkey Vultures, 75 Bald Eagles, 75 Broad-winged Hawks, and 542 Red-tailed Hawks. After nesting, Sandhill Cranes can be hard to find, so it was interesting that 18 individuals were found on 18 and 22 August at the adjacent Marten Tract and Morgan Road Marsh areas in the NMWMA.

Moving on to the eagerly awaited fall shorebirds, we ended up with 27 species, though mostly in relatively small numbers, other than some good counts at the Morgan Road Marsh area. The late June start was only Lesser Yellowlegs on 27 June and Least Sandpiper on 30 June. There were twelve more new arrivals in July, including: Willet, Whimbrel, and a rare **Marbled Godwit** at

Hamlin Beach SP of 30 July. August brought eight more new species, including: another Willet; a Regional record high 14 Buff-breasted Sandpipers found in Hamlin on 21 August by Andy Guthrie, with many observers seeing good numbers in subsequent days; Long-billed Dowitcher; Wilson's Phalarope; and passing Red-necked Phalarope. Among the higher counts were: 105 Semipalmated Plovers, 170 Killdeer at the Buff-breasted Sandpiper site, 10 Stilt Sandpipers, 400 Least Sandpipers, 12 White-rumped Sandpipers, and 250 Semipalmated Sandpipers. The fall movement of gulls and terns and allies was also off to a slow start. July brought a few Bonaparte's Gulls and an influx of Caspian Terns and young, Common and Forster's terns, and the now-expected few Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Jaegers were represented only by a Parasitic/Long-tailed individual passing Hamlin Beach on 22 August. Adding on the rest of the non-passerines, we had a start to the Common Nighthawk movement, with one on 15 August, small numbers scattered after that, and a maximum of 18 on 24 August.

Among the passerine migrants, we got off to another slow start in both field observations and banding at BBBO. Yet all expected species were reported, including most of those whose early arrival dates are on the August/September border. Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Philadelphia Vireo arrived in August. There were some decent swallow congregations, though low by historical standards. There were some signs of a Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption, with individuals at feeders where normally infrequent and some good counts in parks. Winter Wren and Swainson's Thrush were also reported by late August, though Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Gray-cheeked Thrush were not. In all, 26 species of warblers were noted. In July we had the unusual banding of Tennessee and Nashville and LOTS of Yellow Warblers. August brought the arrival of all the other species expected, with no really unusual species or dates. Other August surprises included a female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** seen and photographed at the outlet to Sodus Bay on 21 August and a flyover White-winged Crossbill at Hamlin Beach SP on 5 August.

An added interesting event was a photo of an odd, substantially red bird appearing similar to a Flame-colored Tanager from a feeder in Dansville. Andrea Patterson pursued the case and found it to be due to plumage coloring caused by eating alien honeysuckle berries at just the right time during plumage development or molt. The bird was a Baltimore Oriole, and the phenomenon has been reported and studied; e.g., Tom Flinn, Jocelyn Hudon, and Dan Derbyshire, "When Baltimore Orioles Stop Being Orange," *Birding*, September/October 2007, pp. 62-68. Subsequently, many orioles were caught and banded at BBBO with variations of this effect. Photos, feather samples, and blood samples were taken for analysis and further study.

POINTS TO PONDER

Jim Adams continued to remind me of a loss to our understanding of what is happening in the bird/birding world, as many only submit checklists to eBird and few provide personal communications with thoughts and anecdotes from their times out birding. Jim's reports summarizing daily walks in Oatka Creek Park include information on timing of activity of various species and notes on how the weather and other happenings are affecting the park. Only a very few other regular reporters do this. More would be helpful.

The slow month provides an opportunity to once more advocate for eBird as the best way to input and archive your records in a database from which interested people can download and analyze the data in many ways. eBird provides many tools to help in this and continues to add to these. However, this month's data also provides reminders that such data cannot be simply dumped and played with statistically uncritically. The user should be sure to read the notes that accompany the tools and also to think about how the data is gathered and exactly how it can be analyzed. Examples of potential distortions include shared lists; e.g., a group of 19 birders out together and sharing a list of 28 species shows as $19 \times 28 = 542$ records instead of the 28 records appropriate to most analyses; the issues around "aggregation" in comparing high counts; and how one treats daily submissions for likely the same bird(s) coming to a feeder or food source. Just a reminder to stop and think or to ask questions relative to conclusions based on such data.

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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; LSP – Letchworth SP; 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 Point, WAYN; TCEA – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC, LIVI.

WATERFOWL – VULTURES

Snow Goose: last NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 1 Jun - 13 Jul (mopb), injured bird.

Mute Swan: max 30 Buck Pond (Greece) 4 Jun, nonbreeding.

Trumpeter Swan: 1-4 four sites WAYN 5-17 Jun; 1-90, Pittsford 10 Jul; Williamson WAYN 28 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 95 Conesus Inlet WMA 14 Jun; 75 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 13 Aug.

Gadwall: 3 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 27 Jun; HB 30 Jul; 6 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 13 Aug; scarce in summer.

Am. Wigeon: HANA 24, 28 Jun (JRo, AT), unusual loc for date; arr 3 CLI 30 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: monthly max – 2 in Jun, 1 in Jul, & 6 in Aug, very low.

Mallard: max 333 MAC 10 Jun, good count for date.

Blue-winged Teal: 20 IBO 14 Aug, high for loc and date.

N. Shoveler: 2 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 29 Jul; 6 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 5 Aug; summer birds or early arr?

N. Pintail: arr NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 28 Aug (DNU, *et al.*), early.

Green-winged Teal: max 8 NMWMA (Carcross Rd) 12 Aug, low.

Canvasback: 3 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 29 Jul, unusual loc for date.

Redhead: last CL (Vitale P) 14 Jun TBo).

Ring-necked Duck: last Hemlock Lake P 4 Jun (KS, MLY).

Long-tailed Duck: last IBO 1 Jun (JMi).

Com. Goldeneye: last SP 8 Jun (W&MR), late; HB 6 Aug (AGu), unusual loc for date.

Hooded Merganser: f & 7 yng Bushnell's Basin 1-18 Jun (H&CH), rep of broods scarce.

Com Merganser: 5 HB 28 Jul (AGu), scarce on Lake Ontario mid summer.

Red-breasted Merganser: last HB 25 Jun (AGu), late; HB 7 Aug (AGu, WD), scarce in summer.

Red-throated Loon: 2 HB 21 Jul (AGu), scarce in summer.

Com. Loon: 2 HB 25 Jun (AGu); 1-3 HB 3, 14, 28, 29 Jul, 4 Aug (AGu, EG, GL), scarce in summer.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 28 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 14 Aug, good count.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 28 Jul (AGu), early; 5 HB 6 Aug (AGu), early; 3 HB 7 Aug (AGu), early.

Double-crested Cormorant: 350 IBO 21 Aug (JiM, LM); 880 off OB 27 (EG, GL); WAG's of 10,000 IB Aug, in local newspaper quoting nearby residents.

Least Bittern: HANA 3-28 Jun (JRu, sev), unusual loc, breeding suspected in past.

Great Blue Heron: max 84 Snore Acres MONR 23 Aug (EG, GL), many imm.

Great Egret: max 32 Northrup Crk, T Hamlin 28 Jul (ST, AGu, *et al.*) high for site; 26 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 13 Aug (JMcG), good count.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R2): 1 NMWMA near MAC 22 Jul (CN, ph).

BLACK VULTURE (R2): 2 Letchworth SPt 10-26 Jun (EK, KS).

Turkey Vulture: max 170 BB hawkwatch 20 Jun (MT, DNi, ES); 61 BB hawkwatch 5 Aug (MT, ES).

HAWKS – LARIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 ad BB hawkwatch 20 Jun (MT, DNi).

Osprey: HANA 19 Jun, interesting loc for date.

Bald Eagle: 11 BB hawkwatch 20 Jun (MT, DNi, ES); 75 BB hawkwatch 5 Aug (MT, ES).

N. Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Huckleberry Swamp WAYN 3 Jun (JAK); Canadice Lake area 6 Jun, 3 Jul; scarce.

Broad-winged Hawk: 212 BB hawkwatch 20 Jun (MT, DNi, ES); 75 BB hawkwatch 5 Aug (MT, ES).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 542 BB hawkwatch 5 Aug (MT, ES); few counts reported.

Com. Gallinule: max 14 & 40 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 9 & 14 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Beechwoods SP WAYN 2 Jun (JW); 2 Avon Rd near Rt 39 2 Jun (JK, ph); Beatty Pt., Greece 7 Jun (DH); max 18 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 14 Aug (RBA Field Trip); max 18 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 22 Aug (KB); 2 ad Allen Hill Rd ONTA (KK), Taylor Marsh birds.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CLI 16 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr H (Church Rd) 18 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last Grovelnd Hill Pnd Livi 9 Jun; arr 2 NMWMA (Colvin Marsh) 26 Jul; max 105 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 11 Aug (DSh, RB).

Killdeer: 74 H (Church Rd) 21 Jul (AGu); max 170 H (Church Rd) 21 Aug (PMar), high count.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Hogan Pt, Greece 3 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr IBO 6 Jul (JiM).
Willet: Summerville Pier 25 Jul (MT, 4 other obs); SPT 16 Aug (W&MR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr TCEA 27 Jun (MW).
Upland Sandpiper: arr Geneseo Airfield 22 Jul (RB); max 9 Rt 256 Conesus 20 Aug (KC).
Whimbrel: arr West Port Bay WAYN 22 Jul (W&MR), only report.
MARBLED GODWIT: HB 30 Jul (CC, AGu, BriM).
Ruddy Turnstone: last SPT 14 Jun; arr 2 SPT 1 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr Kings Bend P, Pittsford 17 Jul; max 10 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 28 Aug.
Sanderling: arr 2 SPT 15 Jul; max 21 OB 21 Aug (JiM,LM).
Baird's Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 10 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: last 2 SPT 14 Jun; arr TCEA 30 Jun (MW), early; max 400 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 10 Aug (MW), good count.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last SPT 14 Jun (W&MR); arr Henpeck P, Erie Canal 7 Jul (PH), early; SPT 9 Jul (MG), early; TCEA 15 Jul (MW), early; max 12 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 10 Aug (MW).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr H (Church Rd) 21 Aug (AGu), max 14 H (Church Rd) 24 Aug (AGu, *et al.*), Reg record high; 11- 1 H (Church Rd) 25-271 Aug (mob); 5 Transit & Byron Rds, T Byron GENE 27 Jul (EG, GL).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 5 Groveland Hill Pnd LIVI 22 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 SPT 14 Jun; arr NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 9 Jul; max 250 NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 13 Aug (JMcG).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2-4 Kings Bend P, Pittsford 13 Jul; max 3 SPT 19 Aug, low.
Long-billed Dowitcher: NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes) 13 Aug (SP).
Wilson's Phalarope: HANA 30-31 Aug (MG, mob), only report.
Red-necked Phalarope: HB 22 Aug (AGu), flyby.
Parasitic/LONG-TAILED JAEGER: arr 1 lt morph juv HB 22 Aug (AGu, WD, DSh).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 IBO & 3 HB 19 Jul; max 68 BB 20 Aug, low.
Little Gull: 2 ad HB 7 Aug (AGu, WD); 1 ad HB 7 Aug (B&BM), different bird.
LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 subad HB 28 Jul (AGu).

Ring-billed Gull: 500 HB 25 Jun, many for date.
Iceland Gull: BB- W 1 Jun (BriM), late; last 1st sum HB 13 Jun (AGu), late.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: H 11 Jun (AGu); 1st sum HB 5. 8, 8, 31 Jul (AGu); 1st sum Lakeshore Rd, Kent ORLE 9 Jul (AGu, BriM); 1 ad Summerville Pier 26 Aug (PMar).
Caspian Tern: max 84 HB 30 Jul, low max; 75 SPT 11 Aug; 74 HB 17 Aug.
Black Tern: max 15 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 4 Jul (AL, NM, AC).
Com. Tern: last IBO 14 Jun (JiM); arr 2 HB 25 Jun (AGu); max 57 OB 31 Aug (AGu).
Forster's Tern: arr 1 subad HB 14-15 Jul (AGu).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 Greenwell farm H 30, 31 Aug (RS, TS, NK).
Com. Nighthawk: last Casey P WAYN 4 Jun; arr Macedon WAYN 15 Aug.
Chimney Swift: max 300-400 York Central School LIVI 28 Aug (JK).
Red-headed Woodpecker: approx. 61 rep 1-7 ind 11 loc thru; max 7 HB 26 Aug (DH).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 20 Cumming Natyre Center ONTA 24 Jul (R&SS).
Am. Kestrel: max 16 Genesee County Airport 24 Jul (SBa). Nations Rd area, Avon 1 Aug (KS).
Merlin: 2 rep Jun; 3 rep Jul; 15 rep Aug; no rep on any nests this sum.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 4 yg Roch (falcomcam) thru; approx 13 other rep.
MONK PARAKEET: Geneseo 29 Jun (JK), at feeders, new site.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr T Victor MONR 19 Aug (BBE), only report.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max B 5 M 2 Jun (BBBO); last 1 CLI 14 Jun (KC); arr 1B BBBO 17 Aug; total B 12 BBBO 17-30 Aug.
“Trail’s” Flycatcher: max 15B BBBO 2 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: 3B BBBO 16-17 Jul (AP), unusual loc at date; total B 21 BBBO 15-30 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1B BBBO 29 Aug.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 31 LSP 10 Jun (DSh, MT); total B 25 BBBO Aug.
Blue Jay: max 100 BB – WS 2 Jun (MG), late for so many.
Fish Crow: 2+ Dobson Rd, Greece 1 Jun (BD); Edgemere DR, Greece 4 Jun (JiB); 2 N.

Wolcott WAYN 17 Jul (W&MR); max 16 OB area 5, 26 Aug.

Com. Raven: max 7 Lake Ontario Parkway ORLE 7 Aug (WD). **Purple Martin:** 50 MAC 12, 26 Jun; max 74 BB 4 Aug.

Tree Swallow: max 500 HB 20 Jul.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 200 BB 5 Jul.

Bank Swallow: 850 HB 1 Jul (AGu); max 1000 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 28 Aug (SH, LKah, STo, AWi).

Cliff Swallow: max 15 Hemlock Lake P 29 Jun.

Barn Swallow: max 250 BB 23 Aug.

Winter Wren: singles 6 loc all month Jun, improved over past few yrs; 3 Webster P 19 (RS), ad & yng, unusual breeding site.

Marsh Wren: max 20 Buck Pnd, Greece 4 Jun (JiB) & NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 11 Jun (SD, BMcG, AnM), good counts.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 8 H.H. Spencer SRA, ONTA 3 Jul (EG, GL), scarce this summer.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1B BBBO 1 Jun, late; last Beechwoods SP WAYN 3 Jun (JW), late.

Swainson's Thrush: 1B BBBO 17 Jul, unusual for loc and date; arr 1B BBBO 23 Aug.

Gray Catbird: max 59 U. of Rochester 25 Jun (EG); 42 & 40 Webster P 19 & 30 Aug (RS); total B 67 BBBO Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 100 BB-WS 2 Jun & HANA 1 Aug, low.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: 2B BBBO 11, 15 Jul (AP), unusual loc for date.

N. Waterthrush: arr 2B BBBO 15 Aug.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr HB-W 23 Aug.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Northhampton P 3 Jun (AGu), rare. **Black-and-white Warbler:** arr 1B BBBO & 2 Church Trail, Greece 19 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru 20 Jun (sev), nesting.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 1B 2nd yr m BBB) 24 Jul (AP).

Nashville Warbler: Williamson Town P WAYN 24 Jul (PHe), unusual loc for date.

Mourning Warbler: last 1B BBBO 2 Jun; arr 5B BBBO 27 Aug.

Com. Yellowthroat: 18 MP (esker trail) 28 Jul (RB); max 24 MP (100A Pnd) 24 Jul (LB, RB); total B 23 BBBO 1-31 Aug.

Am. Redstart: total B 18 BBBO 1-31 Aug, low.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1B BBBO 28 Aug.

N. Parula: arr 1B BBBO 28 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: last Webster P 7 Jun; arr 3B BBBO 17 Aug, early; total B 34 17-30 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 G 31 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Church Trail, Greece 19 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: 31B BBBO 21 Jul; 14B BBBO 22 Jul; 18B BBBO 23 Jul; 78B BBBO 24 Jul; total B 9 BBBO 13-19 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1B M 17 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: CLI 8 Jun (KC), late; last Beechwoods P WAYN 16 Jun (JW); arr 1B BBBO 25 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Indian Fort Preserve, Geneseo 1 Jun (JK), unusual loc for date; arr 1B BBBO27 Jul.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr HB 12 Aug (AGu), early or breeding.

Palm Warbler: 1 BBBO 21 Jul (AP), unusual loc for date.

Pine Warbler: max 14 HB 20 Aug (JPa), high for date.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R2): Indian Fort Preserve, Geneseo 3 Jun (JK, MG, ph), rare.

Prairie Warbler: CLI 14 Jun (MW), unusual loc for date.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr IBO 29 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last 1B BBBO 1 Jun; arr 2B BBBO 15 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1B BBBO 6 Jun; arr Four Mile Creek Preserve, Webster 25 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 Cook Rd, Hamlin 6 Jun, 1, 6 Jul (BriM, AGu, KG); 1-2

Ballantyne Rd area, Chili 15-30 Jun, 3-11 Jul (KH, *et al.*, 5 obs); 1-2 Sand Taft Rds W.

Bloomfield 17-19 Jun (DSh, MG); T Kendall ORLE 9 Jul (AGu, BriM).

Savannah Sparrow: max 40 Nations Rd IBA 18 Jun (DSh), good count.

White-throated Sparrow: BB 17 Jun (DH), late; HANA 29 Jun (DSh, MG), late; 2 BBBO 24 Jul (AP), unusual for date and loc.

N. Cardinal: max 36 U. of Rochester 25 Jun (EG), good count.

Bobolink: 50 Nations Rd IBA 18 Jun (DSh); max 80 Honeoye Creek WMA (KK); good counts.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 6,000 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 14 Aug (RB), good count

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 m Edgemere Dr, Greece 12 Jun (SA), unusual date and loc.

Com. Grackle: max 1300 T Rush MONR 15 Aug (NK), good count.

Baltimore Oriole: 1 red-colored from eating alien honeysuckle berries ph Dansville feeder 24 Jun +, fide AP, *intro*; total B 23 BBBO 27,

29 Aug, ph, feather and blood samples taken to study variations in red coloring in plumage, *intro*.

White-winged Crossbill: HP 5 Aug (AGu), flyover.

Pine Siskin: rep of 1-4 ind scattered across lakeshore area thru.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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The Finger Lakes Region experienced continued drought conditions through the summer 2016 season. June temperatures were normal at Ithaca, averaging 65° F, but the 1.1" of rainfall was 2.9" below normal. July temperatures averaged 79°, 2° above normal, with average daily high temperatures averaging 4° above normal. The 1.64" of rainfall was 2.19" below normal. The average temperature in August was 72°, 5° above normal. Rainfall was 4.28", 0.59" above normal. The drought conditions had mixed effects on shorebird habitat, completely drying up some normally productive areas while lowering water levels in normally inundated areas, creating good habitat for shorebirds.

It was an exciting summer for birders, with several rarities visiting the Region. Out-of-season waterfowl included an early July Tundra Swan and up to four Ring-necked Ducks through most of July and August at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR), single Buffleheads at Elmira in early July and at Seneca Falls in mid-July, scattered reports of Common Goldeneyes from various locations around Cayuga Lake, and Red-breasted Merganser reports from Cayuga Lake, Keuka Lake, Canandaigua Lake, and MNWR. The Red-throated Loon that first appeared at Canandaigua in late April continued through 3 June. Jay McGowan discovered a **Garganey** at MNWR on 5 June and observers continued to see the bird for another 11 days. If accepted by NYSARC, it will constitute a first New York State record. Six **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** showed up at the Allan H. Treman State Marine Park in Ithaca on 10 July, the Region's first record of this species. A Eurasian Wigeon was at MNWR for a few days in late June.

Another first record for the Region was a **Brown Booby** that Michele Merritt discovered at the north end of Cayuga Lake on 28 August. Mark Miller found a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** on 31 July, at MNWR. A search of the online *Kingbird* archives revealed only two previous records of this species in

PHOTO GALLERY SUMMER 2016



Common Nighthawk, Albany Pine Bush Preserve, *Albany*, 26 Aug 2016, © Scott Stoner.



Some birds from the See Life Paulagics trip to deep water southeast of Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 29 Aug 2016. Top: Black-capped Petrel; bottom: Great Shearwater; photos © Sean Sime.



Some birds from the See Life Paulagics trip to deep water southeast of Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 29 Aug 2016. Top: Audubon's Shearwater; bottom: White-faced Storm-Petrel; photos © Sean Sime.

Figure 1. Changes in species richness of breeding estuarine birds between the 1985 and 2000 NYS Breeding Bird Atlases.
See article pp. 254-259.

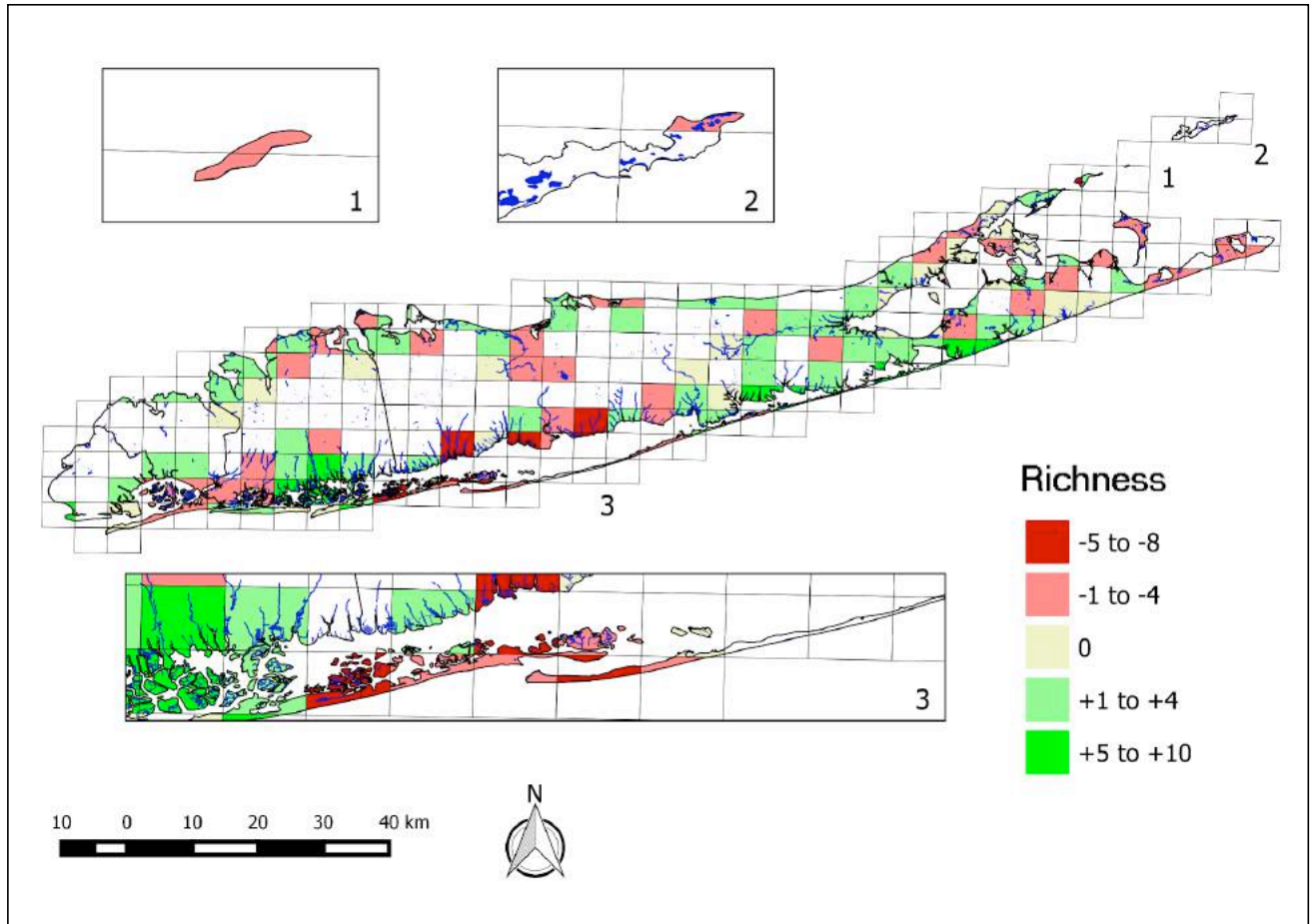
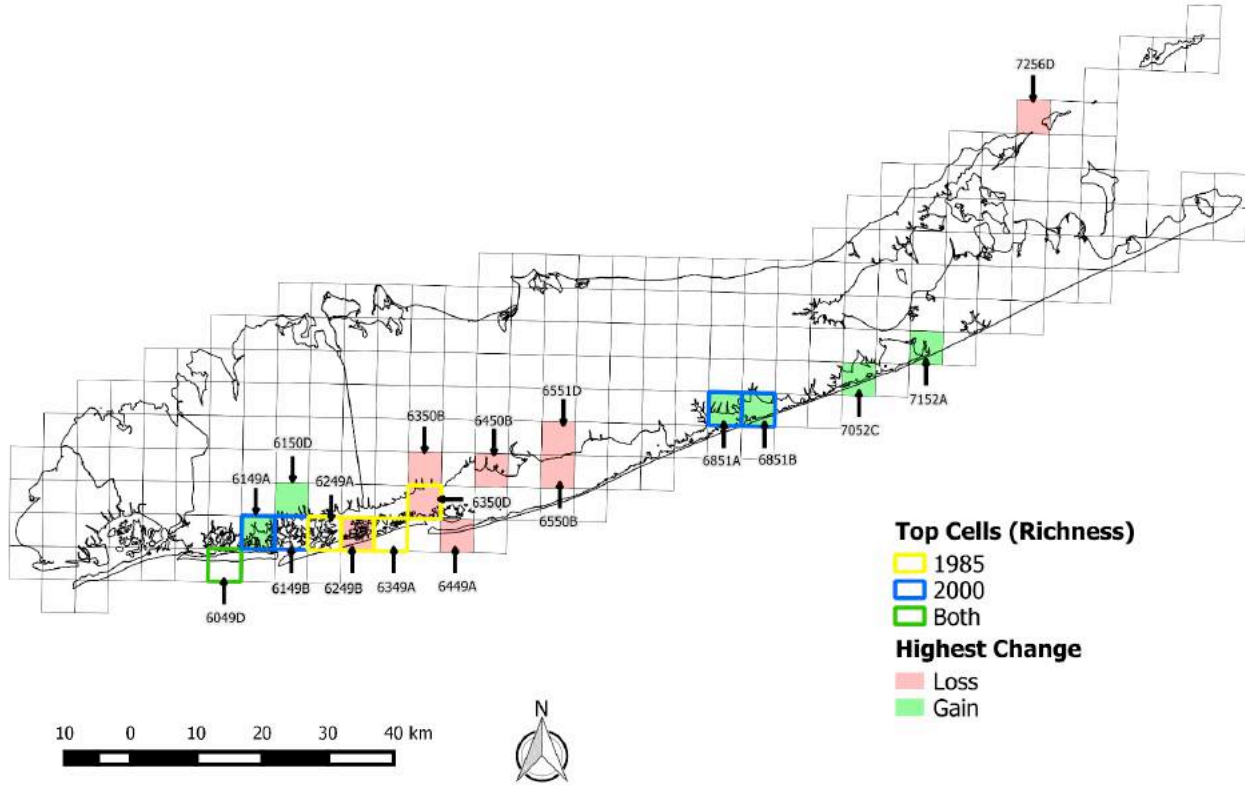


Figure 2. Labeled atlas blocks referenced in Tables 3 and 4, highlighting atlas blocks with the highest breeding bird richness in each year, and those with the highest losses and gains. See article pp. 254-259.





Figures 1 & 2. Downy young and eggs of Ring-billed Gulls, Squaw Island, *Ontario*, 19 Jul 2009, © Carolyn Jacobs. See article, pp. 260-263.



Figures 3 & 4. Eastern shore of Squaw Island; some of the many Ring-billed Gulls, 10 Jun 2016, © Doug Daniels. See article, pp. 260-263.



Figures 5-6. Herring Gull with nest; Herring Gull with Downy young, Squaw Island, Ontario, 10 Jun 2016, © Doug Daniels. See article, pp. 260-263.



Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Southards Pond P, *Suffolk*, 11 Jun 2016, © Tim Dunn.



Sandwich Tern, Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, 25 Jun 2016, © S. S. Mitra.

the Region. A Little Blue Heron visited Sapsucker Woods on 12 June. A Black Vulture dined at the Stevenson Road compost piles in Dryden on 13 July.

Stacey Robinson found the Region's first **Black-necked Stilt** at MNWR on 18 June, where it continued through 21 June. The only reports of Whimbrel came from MNWR on 11 June and from Seneca Lake State Park on 24 August. Doug Daniels found an impressive 22 Ruddy Turnstones on the shores of Canandaigua Lake on 10 June. Assigning shorebird reports to spring migration or fall migration was especially difficult this year. Lone Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, and White-rumped Sandpiper at MNWR on 23 June were all midway between clear last spring dates and first fall dates for those species. A **Little Gull** on Cayuga Lake for the first five days in June was the most unusual gull report. A Lesser Black-backed Gull frequented Cayuga Lake and the Stevenson Road compost piles through most of the summer, and another frequented the Chemung River in Elmira through most of August. Ian Davies counted 54 Black Terns at MNWR on 14 June, an encouraging number for this species. Jay McGowan spotted two Forster's Terns at Stewart Park, Ithaca on 6 August.

Red-headed Woodpeckers successfully nested at MNWR again this year. Other reports of the species came from the Town of Catharine and the Town of Starkey. Acadian Flycatcher reports came from five locations in the Region. An estimated 8500 Barn Swallows at Queen Catharine Marsh was a high number for the Region in at least the last fifteen years.

Tim Lenz and Jay McGowan kayaked on the Clyde River on 17 July and found a family of five Prothonotary Warblers including both adults, two fledglings, and one nestling. The rebound of Cape May Warbler from being a Regional rarity to being a fairly common migrant continues, with 13 at one location in the Town of Danby on 30 August. The only report of Yellow-breasted Chat came from the Finger Lakes Trail in the Town of Urbana.

Henslow's Sparrows returned to a grassland in the Town of Ithaca, with as many as three singing males reported. Warren Rofe photographed a **Nelson's Sparrow** at MNWR on 10 June, for a rare summer record of this species. Clay-colored Sparrow was only reported from two locations. A Dickcissel was reported for three days at the Lott Farm in the Town of Seneca Falls. The highest count of Grasshopper Sparrow was only two, an ominous sign for this species. The species was reported from ten locations scattered throughout the Region. Orchard Orioles are apparently doing well, especially in the southern portion of the Cayuga Lake Basin. Jay McGowan's count of 12 at Myers Point was a Regional high for a single site. The only report away from the southern half of the Cayuga Lake Basin was from Bath. "Winter" finch reports included Red Crossbills heard calling at Summerhill and Hammond Hill State Forests and Pine Siskins from four Tompkins County locations.

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Dennis Anderson, Tom Auer, Andrew Baksh, Eric Baldo, Marcia Balestri, Andrew Barndt, Jessie Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Linda Clark Benedict, Steven Benedict, Gail Benson, Lynn Bergmeyer, Anthony Black, Steve Branson, Joseph Brin, Nancy Brooks, Tayler Brooks, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Ken Burdick, Sebastian Cabanne, Lea Callan, Kathy Calvert, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Ethan Chaffee, David Chang, Mark Chao, Gary Chapin, George Chiu, Anthony Ciancimino, Tiffany Clay, Jeremy Collison, Mark Danforth, Doug Daniels, Susan Danskin, Abby Darrah, Ian Davies, Michael DeWispelaere, Lauren diBiccari, Andrew Dreelin, Ray Duffy, Gates Dupont, Kevin Ebert, Kim Ehn, Corey Ellingson, Jody Enck, Ana Melisa Fernandes, Judy Ferris, Wayne Fidler, Kelly & Mark Fitzsimmons, Myron Frost, John Gaglione, Jeff Gerbracht, Nathan Goldberg, Menachem Goldstein, Michael Gullo, Eric Gulson, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Scott Haber, Christian Hagenlocher, Amy Hall, Becky Harbison, Meena Haribal, John Hart, Kim Hartquist, Matthew Heintzelman, Silas Hernandez, Wesley Hochachka, Dan Hubbard, Mary & Maury Humes, Marshall Iliff, Jasdev Imani, Debra Jackson, Matthew Janson, Ava Jarvis, Andy Johnson, Kyle Jones, Nick Kachala, Logan Kahle, Francois Kehas-Dewaghe, Steve Kelling, Kenneth Kemphues, Dave Kennedy, Marie King, Justin Kintzele, J Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, Chris Lajewski, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Alexander Lees, Tim Lenz, Kyra Leonardi, Evan Lipton, Angela Lleras, Trysten Loeffke, Garrett MacDonald, Mary Magistro, Patricia Martin, Jacob McCartney, Tii McLane, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Perri McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matthew D. Medler, Michele Merritt, Jim Miles, Eliot Miller, Mark Miller, Ann Mitchell, Pete Morris, Brian Morse, Brooke Morse, Diane Morton, Nargila Moura, Bruce Murphy, Baxter Naday, Susan Newman, David Nicosia, Dave Nutter, James Osborn, Bill Ostrander, Pat Palladino, Teresa Pegan, Gareth Perkins, Jay Powell, Peter Priolo, Mike Powers, Calen Randall, William Raup, Madelyne Ray, Art Reisman, Griffin Richards, Stacy Robinson, Warren Rofe, Anna Rose, Ken Rosenberg, Dan Rottino, Melissa & Wade Rowley, Alyssa Ryan, Livia Santana, Marjolein Schat, Michael Schrimpf, Tom Schulenberg, Linda Scrima, Luke Seitz, A Serpiello, Dan Serpiello, Tom Shepard, Dominic Sherony, Hugh Shipley, Antony Shrimpton, Eric Sibbald, David Sibley, Maria Smith, Joshua Snodgrass, Andrew Spencer, Dave Spier, Kimberly Sucy, Brian Sullivan, Rose Swift, Jim Tarolli, Russell Taylor, Diane Traina, Vitor Valentini, Benjamin Van Doren, Grant Van Horn, Lee Ann van Leer, Kai Victor, Matthew Voelker, Brad Walker, Randy Walker, Claire Wayner, David Weber, Drew Weber, David Wheeler, Eileen & Tom Wheeler, Jay Wilbur, Joe Wing, Chris Wood, Thomas Yaglowski, Casey Zillman.

ABBREVIATIONS

CanL – Canandaigua L, City of Canandaigua; CU – Cornell University; DSF – Danby SF, TOMP; HHSF – Hammond Hill SF, TOMP; ML – Mud Lock, CAYU; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MyPt – Myers Pt, TOMP; NEI – Northeast Ithaca; QCM – Queen Catharine Marsh, SCHU; SRCP – Stevenson Rd compost piles, TOMP StP – Stewart P, TOMP; TDan – T Danby, TOMP; TDry – T Dryden, TOMP; Tlth – T Ithaca, TOMP; TSMP – Allan H Treman State Marine P, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 6

TSMP 10 Jul (mob, ph!), 1st Reg record.

Mute Swan: 2 Clifton Springs Hospital Pd 7 Jun-24 Aug (DSp), only report.

TUNDRA SWAN (R3): MNWR 5-17 Jul (mob, ph!), very rare in summer.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R3): MNWR 21-23 Jun (mob, ph!), rare in summer.

Am. Wigeon: max 27 MNWR 18 Jun (TLe, CWo), high.

Am. Black Duck: max 20 MNWR 5-13 Jun (mob), high.

N. Shoveler: max 80 MNWR 27 Aug (DNi), high.

GARGANEY: MNWR 5-16 Jun (mob, ph!), possible 1s7 State record.

RING-NECKED DUCK (R3): 1-4 MNWR 2 Jul-25 Aug (mob, ph!), rare in summer.

BUFFLEHEAD (R3): Chemung R, T Elmira CHEM 30 Jun-15 Jul (BO!); Seneca R, T Seneca Falls SENE 17 Jul (CL, ph), rare in summer.

Com. Goldeneye: 2 ML 5 Jun, 17 Jul (M&WRo, ph, LSc); Frontenac P CAYU 9-10 Jul (JMcG, ph); TSMP 12 Jul (K&MFi, ph); Cayuga Waterfront Trail TOMP 19 Jul (MHa).

Red-breasted Merganser: Union Springs 1 Jun (JMcG, LSA); 1-2 MyPt 3-7 Jun (mob, ph); CanL 8-13 Jun (mob, ph); Keuka L, Branchport (DJ); max 4 ML 4 Jul (SC, ALe, NM, ph), high; MNWR 5 Jul (KJ, TM); ML 9 Jul (JMcG, ph); ML 21 Jul (CL).

Ruddy Duck: 1-2 MNWR 5-14 Jun, 9 Jul, 26 Aug.

Ruffed Grouse: max 10 Boyer Creek Farm TOMP 14 Aug.

RED-THROATED LOON (R3): CanL 1-3 Jun (DCa, ph!, HS, DSp), rare in summer.

Com. Loon: max 13 Seneca L, T Torrey 10 Jul.

BROWN BOOBY: ML 28 Aug (MiMe, ph), 1st Reg record.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R3): Sapsucker Woods TOMP 12 Jun (mob, ph).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R3): MNWR 31 Jul (MGo!, MMi, DNu!, JS, ph!).

BLACK VULTURE (R3): SRCP 13 Jul (CWo!).

Turkey Vulture: max 134 SRCP 18 Aug (JMcG), high.

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Goshawk: TDan 4 Jun (JGK), only report.

Sora: max 6 MNWR (JK, CZ), high.

Am. Coot: max 305 MNWR 23 Aug (BO), high.

Sandhill Crane: max 18 MNWR 12 Jun; 4 QCM 17 Jul-21 Aug; Hi Tor WMA YATE 7-30 Aug.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: MNWR 18-21 Jun (mob, ph!), 1st Reg record.

Black-bellied Plover: last MNWR 11 Jun (GaCh, JMi, ASH), late; arr MyPt 6 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 27 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 23 Jun (DrW), late; arr MNWR 3 Jul (JGK), early.

Solitary Sandpiper: last MNWR 1 Jun; arr MNWR 24 Jun; max 27 QCM 23 Jul (TB, ID, ASp), high.

Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 6 Jun (mob), late; arr MNWR 13 Jun (JO), early.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last MNWR 6 Jun (JMcG), late; arr MNWR 13 Jun (KH, JO), early.

Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Lott Farm SENE 7 Jun; max & last Lott Farm SENE 9 Jul.

WHIMBREL (R3): MNWR 11 Jun (FKD); Seneca L SP 24 Aug (DH), only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: max and last 22 CanL 10 Jun (DD), high; arr MNWR 3 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 14 Jul.

Sanderling: last 2 MNWR 12 Jun (JMcG), late; arr MNWR 3 Aug.

Dunlin: last MNWR 14 Jun (ID, CH, TLe, JMcG), late.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 22 Jul (EL), early.
Least Sandpiper: last MNWR 23 Jun (MI), late; arr MNWR 2 Jul; max 300 NMWR 10 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 23 Jun (MI), late; arr QCM 29 Jul.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 3 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MNWR 21 Jun (mob), late; arr MNWR 5 Jul (KJ, TM), early.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Risser Rd Swamp ONTA 8 Jul.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 2 Jul (JMcG, ph!, LSa, MSm, DaWe), early.
Wilson's Phalarope: last MNWR 4 Jun (SD, JGK, AM), late; arr MNWR 2 Jul; QCM 30 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: MNWR 5 Jun (KMcGo, M&WRo, LAvL); arr MNWR 24 Jul (GaCh), early.
Bonaparte's Gull: Frontenac P CAYU 1 Jun-17 Jul; Keuka L, T Jerusalem YATE 23 Jul; MNWR 27 Aug.
LITTLE GULL (R3): Cayuga L, T Springport CAYU 1-5 Jun (JMcG, ph, KMcGo!, DNu!, LSa).
Herring Gull: max 100 Taughannock Falls SP 26 Aug (JaW); 100 StP 28 Aug (JGK), high.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (R3): StP and SRCP 7 Jun-31 Aug (mob!); Chemung River, City of Elmira 30 Jul-23 Aug (TLe, ph!, BO).
Black Tern: max 54 MNWR 14 Jun (ID), high.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 StP 6 Aug (JMcG), only report.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Com. Nighthawk: last MyPt 2 Jun; arr Dotson Community P TOMP 10 Aug; max 40 Willowcreek Golf Course CHEM 25 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: T Catharine SCHU 12 Jun-23 Jul; T Starkey YATE 23 Jul-24 Aug; max 4 MNWR 27 Aug (BMc, DM).
Am. Kestrel: max 4 DIL Woods TOMP, low.
Peregrine Falcon: arr Risser Rd Swamp ONTA 23 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MNWR 5 June; arr TDry 16 Aug; HHSF 16 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Hile School Rd Wetland TOMP 5 Jun; arr Tith 30 Jul (TSc), early.
Acadian Flycatcher: T Catharine 1 Jun; 2 DSF 11 Jun-19 Jul; Watkins Glen SP 18 Jun; HHSF 4 Jul; Ford Hill TOMP 14-17 Jul; TDry 18 Aug.
E. Kingbird: max 34 TSMP 21 Aug.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 TDan 4 Jun; 3 Cayuta L Outlet 4 Jun; 3 MNWR 18 Jun; 3 T Hector SCHU 14 Jul, low.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr CU 27 Aug; Cornell Research Pds 27 Aug.
Barn Swallow: max 8500 QCM 2 Aug (TA, ID, TLe), high.
Marsh Wren: max 40 MNWR 2 Jul (JMcG, LSa), high.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 2 nocturnal migrants NEI 3 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last DSF 4 Jun; arr QCM 27 Jul (GM, rec, RS), early.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: DSF 4-30 Jun (mob), only reports.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: T Horseheads CHEM 18-19 Jun (MP), only report.
Prothonotary Warbler: max 5 MNWR (TLe, JMcG), high.
Tennessee Warbler: arr TDry 28 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr T Caroline TOMP 3 Aug (TA!), early; max 13 TDan 30 Aug (ID, LSe), high.
N. Parula: last Tith 7 Jun; arr TDan 30 Aug (ID, LSe), early.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CU TOMP 27 Aug; max 2 TDan 30 Aug (ID, LSe), high.
Blackpoll Warbler: last MyPt 5 Jun; arr McIlroy Preserve CAYU 31 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 5 DSF 24 Jun, low.
Wilson's Warbler: last TDry 3 Jun; arr TDry 27 Aug.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Finger Lakes Trail, T Urbana STEU 17-19 Jul (DB!, ARE).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: TDry 6 Jun (JGe!); CU 26 Jun-2 Jul (mob, ph).
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 T Covert SENE 3 Jun; 2 T Lodi SENE 3 Jun; Tith 2 Jul, low.
HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R3): 1-3 Tith 12 Jun-3 Aug (mob!).
NELSON'S SPARROW (R3): MNWR 10 Jun (WRof, ph).
DICKCISSEL (R3): Lott Farm SENE 5-7 Jun (mob rec, ph!).
Orchard Oriole: max 12 MyPt 22 Jun (JMcG), high.
Red Crossbill: Summerhill SF CAYU 13 Jul (BS, CWo!); HHSF (AMF, JMcG, NM, rec).
Pine Siskin: TDry 6 Jun (CWo); 2 Caswell Rd Grasslands TOMP 15 Jun (CWo); NEI 5 Jul (JMcG, LSa); NEI (TSc), 11 Jul.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received this season.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The summer 2016 season was warm and relatively dry, with each successive month a little warmer than the last. The largest divergence from the norm occurred in August; the average temperature for that month was just over 74° F, which is more than 4 degrees higher than normal. Through the summer there were very few storms and, in most areas, there was little precipitation. In fact significant parts of the Region suffered from a persistent drought. Among the areas largely spared from drought were the Mohawk Valley and Syracuse. In fact Syracuse received a slightly above average amount of precipitation in August. Still, low water levels on the Region's lakes and streams prevailed throughout much of the season. This likely accounted for the lack of mosquitos noted by one of our reporters—a consequence of drought that few ever complain about. In the Skaneateles area, Ken Burdick observed that some shorebird habitat had completely dried out. In Oneida County, Delta Lake had been substantially drawn down by the start of August and conditions became quite favorable for shorebirds. Shorebirds, wading birds and their allies did take advantage of Delta's mudflats, but despite the presence of an abundance of good habitat, the large flock sizes steadily decreased as August ensued and the birds were usually very distant. During an August visit to Derby Hill, David Wheeler noted having never seen the main lawn so brown and in need of rain. At nearby Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, planned shorebird spots were dried out and vegetation overgrew the mudflats. Few reports came from Sandy Pond, but it is assumed the Carl Island sandbar had emerged and provided additional (but hard to reach) shorebird habitat. Dredging of the channel was commenced in early August. Many small creeks fed by rain runoff were seen to be dry.

This was generally not a good mast production year. There were few cones on conifers (except for in the west, where, reportedly, some spruce trees outperformed) and only small yields from nut producing trees like American Beech and oak species. The good news for wintering frugivores is that fruit-bearing trees, with the notable exception of apple trees and hawthorns, seemed to be fairly well-laden this season. Buckthorns and wild grapes produced especially well, while ash and other maple species had little to contribute to the forest mast. Eastern hop hornbeam and most birches were much better endowed, and this perhaps bodes well for wintering redpolls if they grace the Region.

A single Brant reported during the first weeks of June on Woodhull Lake in the Adirondacks was a holdover from the spring period. It's not clear if it lingered due to an injury. When it finally disappeared, Gary Lee speculated that a local Bald Eagle had taken it. Blue-winged Teal were confirmed breeding in two areas, including the McKoons Road wetland near Colombia Center in southern Herkimer County. In that same wetland on 19 July, Bill Purcell observed an adult Green-winged Teal with five young. The species is thought to be an uncommon to rare breeder in Region 5. For the second year in a row, a male Ring-necked Duck remained for approximately a month during mid-summer at Woodman Pond in Madison County. Two male Ruddy Ducks stayed at Beaver Lake Nature Center from 20 June to 16 July. This season, Gary Lee surveyed breeding Common Loons on 15 Adirondack lakes. He reported that 33 loon nests only produced 17 chicks. Lee maintained that the season's nest failures were not attributable to flooding; instead, he blamed predation by Bald Eagles and human interference. Lee wrote that at Moss Lake, a "keep away" sign intended to protect a loon nest from intruders was removed twice. No chicks resulted from the Moss Lake nest, despite the female loon devoting 42 days to incubation.

There were only two reports of Least Bittern this period. The first, from 18 June, came oddly enough from downtown Utica. This report involved a dead individual that had been caught as prey and then dropped. Of course, this was the handiwork of the city's resident Peregrine Falcons. This case is interesting not merely because it involves an NYS designated Endangered Species preying upon a NYS Threatened Species, but it's also interesting since a bittern is unusual prey for a falcon. The Least Bittern (like the Sora that was reportedly caught as prey last period) is not known for its high flying during the breeding season. We speculate that the male peregrine has developed a technique for flushing marsh birds out of cattail beds, or perhaps the bittern was hunting in the open from a fallen log. It will be interesting to see if the Peregrine continues to take normally-secretive birds this way in the future.

Probably due to the drought conditions that affected large swaths of New York State this summer, Great Egrets concentrated their numbers in more reliable wetland habitat. Relatively large numbers of these graceful wading birds were observed in several places across the Region, most notably at Delta Lake and Three Rivers WMA. On 12 August at Delta Lake, Matt Perry was treated to

the sight of 23 Great Egrets all standing in one tight group. That morning, he observed seven more spread out around the lake – making a grand total of 30 birds. This is an excellent number for Region 5 and, as far as the authors can tell, a new Regional record by a few birds. For that matter the second highest count, 25 at Three Rivers recorded by Gregg Dashnau, would be a new record-high as well. These are not terrifically high numbers in a broader upstate NY context, with hundreds occasionally found at roost sites in Region 1. Just beyond the Regional boundary, 100+ bird roost flights have been seen at Montezuma. On 18 June a **Snowy Egret** was found along the west shore of Onondaga Lake at the newly-developed outlet to Nine Mile Creek but was not seen after that. Of roughly 30 Regional records, about one third are from the summer season.

On 5 June, Dorothy Rewkowski saw and photographed a **Glossy Ibis** in a field near her house in the Town of Westmoreland in Oneida County. Like Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis is a rare but regular spring overshoot to the Region. Summer birds may be lingering from spring or immatures dispersing after fledging. It remains unclear whether the birds seen upstate originate from coastal populations or get here via an interior route likely involving the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys. Of roughly 40 Regional records of Glossy Ibis, the current sighting is only the fifth for the summer season.

On 23 July in Brewerton, a windstorm brought down an Osprey nest containing two young that were close to fledgling. Wildlife Rehabilitator Jean Soprano reported that the nestlings, after being examined and deemed healthy, were put into a fabricated nest, and that nest was fastened to a tree located close to where the original nest tree stood. For a day the young were fed smelt fish that were conveyed to the nest via a container attached to a long pole. Recordings of Osprey distress calls were played at the new nest site in an attempt to attract the parents back to the area. The scheme worked and the parent Ospreys resumed feeding the young after 24 hours. Soprano also reported that a fledgling Osprey, this one from a nest in Baldwinsville, had lost a leg after getting it caught in bailing twine. Apparently, a parent Osprey had brought to the nest a large garbage bag that was heavily wrapped in the twine. Ospreys are well known for bringing home all manner of unlikely objects to decorate their nests with. In this case the “decoration” turned into a trap when one of the Osprey nestlings got its leg caught in the twine. This resulted in a loss of circulation in the leg and caused a crippling deformity. When the juvenile fledged it brought the bag and twine along with it to the ground. The hobbled fledgling was ultimately euthanized.

As is typical in our Region, there were very few reports of Northern Goshawks and only one involved a possible breeding pair. Conversely, the number of reports of nesting Bald Eagles continues to increase in the Region. Interestingly, even Oneida County, which is relatively poorly covered by birders, now boasts five known active nests. Larry Hall found a **Black Vulture** in Little Falls and documented it with an excellent submission to eBird. His description hit on all the most important features that distinguish the species

under field conditions, and the editors felt it was a good sample of how to concisely document a rarity. Hall wrote “As the bird soared I could easily see silver markings of outer wings. Unlike two-toned look of the T.V. with silver flight feathers. Tail on this bird much shorter than the T.V. and wing span shorter. This bird's wing flap rhythm more quickly (sic) and shallower than the T.V.s in the immediate proximity.”

A Red-tailed Hawk that came into Jean Soprano's rehabilitation facility showed symptoms of Wild Nile Virus (WNV). This virus continues to pose a threat to raptors and may be responsible for significantly reducing the Region's population of some species (most notably Great Horned Owls.) Red-shouldered Hawks seem to be following on the Goshawk's road to obscurity—at least in our Region. Only one case of probable breeding was reported for the species, and generally there were few sightings. Reportedly, a pair of Piping Plovers was again present this season in the vicinity of Sandy Pond, but this year there was no confirmation of breeding success. This summer, migrant shorebirds began showing up as early as the first week of July. By the beginning of August, large numbers of sandpipers were taking advantage of extensive mudflats at Delta Lake. One observer said the flock sizes at Delta in early August were the largest he had seen in over a decade. However, most of the time the 200 plus birds remained too far out for decent viewing from shore edges. Although Whimbrel was missed this period, Ruddy Turnstone, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher were all reported. Matching the record-high count for our Region, six Buff-breasted Sandpipers were spotted together at the Sky High Turf Farm on 28 August. Kevin McGann was able to get an excellent photo of all six together in flight. Only one Black Tern was observed this period, and it was found in the far eastern portion of the Montezuma NWR (in Cayuga County). On the last day of August at West Barrier Bar County Park near Fair Haven, Bill Purcell observed a single Forster's Tern. Sandhill Cranes were again seen on Howland Island. Their status as a nester in the Region is unknown, but if not already breeding there they surely do so nearby.

Judging by the number of reports, this was another below average season for cuckoos. Certainly no significant invasion of tent caterpillars was noted, and we are accustomed to making a correlation between cuckoo populations and the presence of their hairy caterpillar prey. Nevertheless, during this breeding season the Utica Peregrines again disproportionately preyed upon cuckoos, procuring at least 20 of them during the time the falcons were feeding their young. The majority of cuckoos brought to the nest were Black-billed, and all were believed to have been caught by the male falcon. It is believed that these cuckoos are being taken from areas no more than a mile away from the downtown nest site. Clearly, cuckoos are easy for falcons to catch, but there is also some evidence suggesting they are not a favored food item. While other birds, including songbirds, are nearly completely devoured, almost as a rule entire wings of cuckoos are regularly discarded and found intact on the city

streets. Also, when the eyasses were provided with a choice of bird carcasses to feed on, they almost invariably choose the non-cuckoo meal. Perhaps the cuckoo's diet of distasteful and sometimes toxic hairy caterpillars serves to flavor the meat. Lastly, it was observed that cuckoos tended to be one of the prey species most often seen "stored" on a building ledge or rooftop.

The only Common Nighthawks observed this season outside the usual August migration window were two found in downtown Utica in the early evening of 11 June. Spring nighthawk migration continues into early June, so these may have been late migrants. The birds were heard and seen flying together with a flock of Chimney Swifts. Nighthawks formerly nested atop graveled urban rooftops in the Region's cities but have not been known from there lately. They may yet return to doing so and late June/July sightings, especially if night after night, should be cause for extra birding effort to determine the birds' status. As might be expected, Utica's resident male Peregrine Falcon made a half-hearted attempt at catching one of the nighthawks but was unsuccessful. This time a NYS Endangered Species attempted to prey upon a NYS Special Concern Species! There were very few reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will, with most sightings coming from Herkimer County. However, the lack of reports from the species' traditional stronghold in Constantia may reflect a lack of birder effort. Both of these charismatic nightjars seek a well-drained surface such as sand or gravel upon which to lay their eggs.

Red-headed Woodpeckers had a relatively decent showing this summer. A pair was confirmed breeding in the Town of Marshal in Oneida County. This was close to a former breeding area for the species. Another pair was observed at Fair Haven, where the birds may have relocated across the bay after the west spit nest tree was felled by wind. Adult and juvenile birds were photographed together by Tom Auer near Cleveland on the north shore of Oneida Lake.

American Kestrels in the Region may be increasing in appropriate urban areas. The species stronghold is usually considered to be rural areas where barns and road-side tree cavities are typically adopted as nest sites. There is mounting evidence in our Region that kestrels have become quite urbanized. Reports from local Wildlife Rehabilitators and urban Peregrine watchers indicate kestrels are living on the periphery of the city in good numbers. When checking an approximately two mile radius around the Utica Peregrines' nest site in late June, at least a dozen American Kestrels were found including three adult pairs. They seemed to be staking claims around warehouses and otherwise inhabiting industrial sites. Is less competition from European Starlings at these spots playing a role? David Wheeler recalls that prior to development of Onondaga Lake's west shore, kestrel family groups (4-6 birds) were regularly seen atop the brushy bluffs in August. Do they still successfully nest there in light of recent habitat modification and increased recreational usage?

There were reports of two successful Merlin nests in the Region—Old Forge and Oswego. The Oswego nest was discovered when a nestling fell out on 24 July. The young raptor was rehabilitated and subsequently released. This

season, both the Syracuse and Utica Peregrine Falcons successfully fledged two young each. Later in the summer, the Utica Peregrine watchers reported several foreign Peregrines or interlopers coming into the downtown territory (not unusual). These strangers typically meet with hazing and/or sparring matches instigated by the resident pair. Usually the female would chase out female interlopers and the male would similarly deal with foreign males. Most appeared to be immature birds, presumably post-fledging dispersals having their first free-roaming experiences.

Acadian Flycatchers were found at three locations this period and persisted in two of them. One was the traditional site at Whisky Hollow, although the bird didn't show up there until 23 June, which was, according to Joe Brin, close to a month later than normal. The species also lingered at Sterling Nature Center, but there was no information available regarding breeding status. Birders covering the southern highland's dark hemlock hollows would likely find more Acadians. Jean Soprano reported that two American Crows which were brought in to her rehab facility in early August were very likely suffering from WNV. A **Boreal Chickadee** was reported from Bald Mt just east of Old Forge. Historically, there have been relatively few reports of this species coming from the area—our Region's only boreal zone but containing large areas of suitable habitat. This may be due to lack of birder effort given convenient and reliable spots in nearby Hamilton County such as Ferd's Bog. By the latter half of summer there were indications that Red-breasted Nuthatches were on the move, with widespread reports of 1-2 birds coming from backyards and other places not associated with breeding territories. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet reported from a backyard in southern Madison County on 18 August was likely a very early migrant.

On 19 June, a survey (by kayak) of Howland Island undertaken by Jay McGowan and Livia Santana turned up a remarkable six singing **Prothonotary Warblers**. One of the Prothonotarys was observed carrying food and hanging on to it for an extended period of time, thus likely feeding young. The species is scarce at our latitude and usually considered a first-half-of-May migrant. McGowan had found only two singing males during a similar survey conducted the previous June. This year their paddle along the river on both the east and west sides of Howland Island totaled seven miles and was accomplished in a little more than four hours. The 19 June survey also yielded a total of 29 Cerulean Warblers. Away from Howland Island there were very few Cerulean Warblers found and none were encountered near or east of Oneida Lake. The last spring-migrant Cape May Warbler remained through 6 June in Kirkland. The individual seemed to be particularly enamored with a grove of mature Norway Spruce trees and loathe to leave. Perhaps insect infestation was the reason. There was one report of Prairie Warbler from a traditional breeding site north of Tully. Several observers noted the August movement of migrant warblers was slow in coming. Certainly both the number of species counted and the tallies of individuals remained low right up to the last week of August. The Derby Hill night migration microphone was "offline" for fall migration but

presumably continued to record, per Bill Evans. However, lack of reasonably timely data made it difficult to follow the often-inconspicuous onset of fall migration. Hopefully internet-connectivity problems will be worked out soon. This is the fifth season of the project, and if the microphone successfully recorded flight calls the data will still be useful even if substantially after the fact.

Always very rare and possibly absent from the Region as a breeder, a **Henslow's Sparrow** flight call was recorded just after midnight on 2 June by the Derby Hill microphone. which was recording and transmitting through the end of the spring season. Upstate NY is the eastern edge of the species breeding range, which extends west through the Great Lakes states into the lower Midwest near the Mississippi River. Henslow's choice of nesting habitat is very specific and always ephemeral—grasslands left to grow long enough to see the emergence of short tree stems. Unless managed for the species, fields seldom reach the necessary condition and/or pass quickly through into an equally unsuitable brushland. The bird was likely on its way to the Jefferson County area near Fort Drum and Perch River WMA, the state's last stronghold. Evans reports it is the first definite recording of the species from the Derby microphone. The Region's supply of Eastern Towhees appears to be in good shape, at least according to the high counts reported during the height of this breeding season. It's an ongoing concern that the late successional growth the species depends on for breeding is rapidly evolving into forest, thus setting the towhee's population up for a crash. On the other hand, if our evidence for a prospering towhee population is correct, and if this trend continues, then perhaps the towhee's habitat is not in such dire jeopardy. This would come as good news for allied species like Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, and others that share similar habitat requirements.

Clay-colored Sparrow was again confirmed as breeding at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland, although the small colony had reportedly decreased in size from the previous year and was late to the territory. In most of the Region the bottom fell out for grassland nesters some time ago, and so now, year to year, we see only the slightest fluctuations in the small number of grassland species that get reported. This summer offered little in the way of encouragement, with both Savannah and Grasshopper sparrow apparently failing to win back any ground. A little encouragement on the grassland habitat front came from Chris Lajewski of the Montezuma Audubon Center. On 1 August he reported that a Fayetteville property converted to grassland habitat and managed by the Sisters of St. Francis is coming along very well. Although he reported few sparrows, six Eastern Meadowlarks and two Northern Harriers were among the species Lajewski tallied that day. In northern Oneida County, grassland birds including the besieged sparrows are still finding a haven in fields managed by Amish farmers. Upland Sandpiper and Wilson's Snipe were also reported from the area. Purple Finches were widely reported this period, with just a few

records of other irruptive finches. Drew Weber found five **Red Crossbills** in Fabius on 4 July. Most reports of Pine Siskins came from the Adirondacks.

This season a total of 213 species and two hybrids were reported, which is eight above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: Brant, White-winged Scoter, **Snowy Egret**, Black-crowned Night-Heron, **Glossy Ibis**, **Black Vulture**, Sandhill Crane, **Piping Plover**, Ruddy Turnstone, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, **Forster's Tern**, Long-eared Owl, **Boreal Chickadee**, "Lawrence's" Warbler, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Henslow's Sparrow**, and Red Crossbill.

Summer 2016 produced 45,504 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 256 people. **NOTE:** For this report we have used an abbreviated species list.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; BLNC – Beaver L 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; Hast – Hastings, OSWE; HI – Howland I, CAYU; HV – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; MW – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; OF – Old Forge; 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; SNC – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; SP – Sandy Pd and vicinity; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; VB – Verona Beach SP and vicinity; WH – Whiskey Hollow; WP – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: Atwell, ADK early June (GL), continued from previous period, only report.
Trumpeter Swan: max 4 SNC 16, 18 Jun, 4 Jul; 2 Oswego 4 Jul; only reports.
Wood Duck: max 70 DL 15 Aug.
Gadwall: 6 HI 13 Aug; only report.
Am. Wigeon: OnonL 19 Jun; Bville 8-24 Aug.
Am. Black Duck: max 8 MW 10 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: 13 MW 6 Jun, breeding; max 27 DL 31 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: max 10 MW 6 Jul, confirmed breeding.
Ring-necked Duck: WP 5 Jul – 1 Aug (SH, mob), ad male.
Greater Scaup: pair SP 5 Jun (WF); DL 2 Aug (BP), ad male.
Lesser Scaup: pair SP 15 Jun (AK).
White-winged Scoter: SP 5 Jun (WF).
Bufflehead: f SNC 9-10 Jun (JD), only report.
Hooded Merganser: 14 WP 11 Jun; max 30 DL 27 Jul.
Com. Merganser: max 16 DL 8 Aug; 14 Rome 17 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: 2 BLNC 20 Jun, both males, one thru 16 Jul; all reports from same loc.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 5 GSC 7 Jul, known release site; reports 4 other locs.
Ruffed Grouse: max 9 Redfield, OSWE 15 Jun, breeding; 5 Erieville 6 Jul; 5 Salisbury, HERK 9 Aug.
Com. Loon: 7 North Lake, ADK 8 Jul; 7 Twitchell Lake, ADK 4 Aug; max 8 Big Moose Lake, ADK 16 Aug; survey shows 17 young result from 33 nests (GL).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 5 HI 23 Jun; 4 DL 22 Aug.
Am. Bittern: max 3 Bridgeport 26 Jun; reports of singles from 6 other locs.
Least Bittern: Utica 18 June, found dead, falcon prey item; HI 13 Aug; only reports.
Great Egret: arr Vernon, OnonL 16 Jul; max 30 DL 12 Aug; 25 TR 24 Aug; good numbs.
SNOWY EGRET (R5): OnonL 18 Jun (PR, mob).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: HI 29 Jul; Syr 27 Aug; few reports.

GLOSSY IBIS (R5): Westmoreland 5 Jun (DR, ph).
BLACK VULTURE (R5): Little Falls 17 Jun (BLH!), *intro*.
Turkey Vulture: max 100 DH 22 Aug.
Osprey: max 9 Bville 14 Jul, *intro*.

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Harrier: max 3 Deerfield 2 Jun.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 SFNS 31 Aug.
Cooper's Hawk: max 2 GB 29 Jun; 2 DH 5 Aug.
N. Goshawk: 2 SH 12 Jul; Ava 18 Aug, adult; only reports.
Bald Eagle: max 25 DH 5 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Lake Julia 4 Jul, 2 Hamilton 26 Aug; singles at a dozen other locs.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 11 DH 5 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 217 DH 5 Aug; one case of West Nile Virus strongly suspected, Syr (JS).
Sora: max 2 OnonL 11 Jun; singles at 3 other locs.
Virginia Rail: max 5 Fayetteville 13 Aug; relatively few reports.
Com. Gallinule: max 6 HI 17 Aug; reports from only 4 other locs.
Am. Coot: max 15 HI 29 Jul; OnonL 14 – 22 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: max 12 HI 26 Jul, 22 Aug; only reports.
Black-bellied Plover: arr Brewerton 23 Aug; SHTF 27 Aug; only reports.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr & max 13 SHTF 27 Aug; all sightings same loc.
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 TR 3 Jun; arr 3 Marcellus 23 Jul; max 46 DL 2 Aug; 30 Montezuma NWR east 13 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER: 2 SP 9 – 24 Jun (AK), *intro*.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 10 OnonL 11 Jun; 8 DL 6 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: last Dolge 3 Jun; arr Eaton 3 Jul; max 17 HI 24 Jul; 12 TR 3 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr OnonL 12 Jul; max 19 Marcellus 21 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Skan 6 Jul; max 28 DL 4, 9 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Deerfield 2 – 16 Jun; Oswego Airport 25 Jun; only locs; none after 25 Jun.

Ruddy Turnstone: last & max 2 SP 1 Jun (AK); arr Oswego 28 Aug (WF, MM); FH 31 Aug (BP).

Stilt Sandpiper: HI 20 Jul, only report.

Sanderling: last SP 15 Jun; arr DL 2 Aug; max 4 FH 31 Aug; low numbers & few reports.

Dunlin: SP 9 – 15 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Montezuma NWR east 13 Aug; Bridgeport 27, 28 Aug; Brewerton 31 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: arr 3 Skan 6 Jul; 100 TR 6 Aug; max 200 Montezuma NWR east 13 Aug (JM); good numbers.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr & max 4 DL 2 Aug (BP); 2 Scriba 14 Aug; only locs.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr SHTF 21 Aug (TS); max 6 SHTF 28 Aug (KM), good number.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last Poland 15 June; arr MW 14 Jul; max 13 DL 12 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 3 SP 15 Jun; arr Skan 10 Jul; 50 DL 8 Aug; max 120 Montezuma NWR east 13 Aug (JM).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MW 10 Sep; max 2 DL 22 Aug; TR 27-28 Aug (GD).

dowitcher species: max 5 TR 21 Aug (GD).

Wilson's Snipe: max 3 MW 26 Jul; reports from 6 locs.

Am. Woodcock: max 4 HI 3 Jun.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 12 Sylvan Beach 19 Jul; max 30 Sylvan Beach 26 Jul; most reports from Oneil.

Herring Gull: Little Moose Lake, ADK early June (GL), 2 nests with young.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 6 VB 14 Aug; low counts.

Caspian Tern: max 78 SP 9 Jun.

Black Tern: Montezuma NWR east 19 Jun; WP 19 Jun; only reports.

Com. Tern: max 208 Cicero 23 Aug; 161 Canastota 23 Aug.

Forster's Tern: FH 31 Aug (BP).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 3 HI 19 Jun; relatively few reports, *intro*.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 GLSP 25 Jun, 2 SFNS 19 – 31 Jul, 2 Hast 29 Jul; *intro*.

E. Screech-Owl: only 9 reports of singles.

Great Horned Owl: max 2 Fabius 5 Aug; only 3 other reports of singles.

Barred Owl: max 4 Belgium 16 Jul;

widespread reports.

Long-eared Owl: Williamstown 22 Jun; Salisbury 3 Aug; only reports.

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Utica 11 Jun; 18 SH 17 Aug; max 24 TR 23 Aug (GD).

E. Whip-poor-will: max 3 Salisbury 3 Jun – 11 Jul; SSSP 16 Jul; only locs.

Chimney Swift: max 25 TR 18 Aug; generally low counts.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 10 WP 22 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: max 9 Bville 13 Jul; 9 DL 11 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 Town of Marshall, ONEI 7 Jun, breeding; 2 FH 22 Jul; 2 Cleveland 6 Aug; New Hartford 28 Jul (SS).

Am. Kestrel: max 8 Poland 5 Aug; 6 Dolge 16 Aug; *intro*.

Merlin: 2 New Hartford 18 Jul, 2 DL 11 – 26 Aug; pair Atwell, ADK (GL), successful nest; Port Ontario 24 July (JS), nestling rehabilitated and released.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 fledge from Utica nest, 15 – 16 Jun, *intro*; 2 fledge from Syr nest; 4 reports of singles away nest sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Syr 7 Jun; arr HI 27 Aug; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 Bridgeport 7 Aug; 4 more reports of singles.

Acadian Flycatcher: TR 4 Jun; WH 23 Jun – 23 Jul; SNC 9 Jun – 23 Jul; only reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 8 HI 19 Jun.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 3 OF 13 Jun, 3 HV 25 Jun, 3 Lake Julia, Remsen.

Philadelphia Vireo: Waterville 15 Aug; Fairfield 26 Aug; only reports.

Am. Crow: 2 cases of West Nile Virus, Syr (JS).

Fish Crow: 2 Bville 18 Jul; 2 Fulton 28 Jul; max 9 OnonL 3 Aug; singles at 4 other locs.

Com. Raven: max 6 GLSP 25 Jun.

Horned Lark: max 28 SHTF 28 Aug; none before 21 Jul.

Purple Martin: max 43 SP 9 Jun; 40 SSSP 2 Aug.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 10 WP 30 Jul.

Bank Swallow: max 100 HI 26 Jul; 20 Phoenix 26 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: 5 TR 4 Jun; 5 Cicero 15 Jun; max 10 Rome 21 Jul; 6 Phoenix 4 Aug.

Boreal Chickadee: OF 22 Aug (NM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 OF 15 Aug; late summer incursion.

Brown Creeper: 3 HI 19 Jun; 3 OF 21 Aug.
Winter Wren: max 3 SH Smartville OSWE 3 Jul; relatively few reports & low numbers.
Carolina Wren: max 4 DeWitt 19 Aug.
Marsh Wren: max 10 HI 19 Jun; reports from expected areas.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 5 HI 20 Jul.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 4 Sangerfield 24 Jul.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: SH 18 Aug (BW).
Veery: max 7 Smartville 3 Jul; 7 Williamstown 26 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: max 3 Redfield 15 Jun, 3 Lake Julia, Remsen 4 Jul; reports from 4 other locs.
Hermit Thrush: 5 Lake Julia, Remsen 4 Jul; max 6 Moss Lake 27 Jul; 6 OF 30 Jul.
Wood Thrush: max 13 Camillus 25 Jun; 8 SFNS 6 Jul; 9 CM 11 Jul.
Brown Thrasher: max 4 Camillus 18 Jun, 4 GLSP 18 – 25 Jun.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 Syr 11 – 12 Jun, 3 GLSP 6 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 2 DeRuyter 9 Jun, 2 Orwell 11 Jun; reports of singles from only 5 other locs.
N. Waterthrush: max 4 BLNC 13 Jun, 4 Williamstown 26 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: Scriba 25 June; Bville 28 Aug; only reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 3 SFNS 3 – 30 Jun; relatively poor numbers.
“Brewster's” Warbler: Scriba 25 Jun.
“Lawrence's” Warbler: GB 25 Jun (WF).
Prothonotary Warbler: max 6 HI 19 Jun (JM, LS), breeding; HI 17 Jul (JM, TL).
Tennessee Warbler: arr Const 14 Aug; SFNS 21 Aug; Brewerton 30 Aug; only reports.
Mourning Warbler: max 8 WH 1 Jun; 4 Camillus 25 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: max 5 Williamstown 26 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: last SFNS 6 Jun (MP), late; arr 2 Hast 28 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: max 29 HI 19 Jun (JM, LS), *intro*; singles BL, Phoenix, Pompey, New Haven.
N. Parula: 2 OF 17 Jul, 21 Aug; Moss Lake 27 Jul; only reports.
Magnolia Warbler: max 7 SFNS 31 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 SFNS 29 Aug; 2 BLNC 30 Aug; only reports.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 8 Smartville,

OSWE 3 Jul; 5 Lake Julia, Remsen 4 Jul.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Hast 3 Jun; arr Hast 30 Aug.
Pine Warbler: max 4 Williamstown 26 Jun; 4 TR Bville 4 Jul.
Prairie Warbler: Tully 14 Jun, only report.
Canada Warbler: max 3 TR 4 Jun, 3 Smartville 3 Jul, 3 Cold Brook 13 Jul.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Rice Creek Field Station 20 Aug; SFNS 28 Aug; Hast 29 Aug; only reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 8 TR 4 Jul; max 9 Hast 17 Jul.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Pompey 14 Jun; max 3 SFNS 15 – 16 Jul; only locs.
Vesper Sparrow: Dolge 22 Jul, only report.
Savannah Sparrow: max 5 Deerfield 16 Jun – 5 Aug; relatively few reports & d low counts.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 Richland, OSWE 11 Jun; 2 Poland 6 Jun; max 4 DeWitt 2 Jul; only reports.
Henslow's Sparrow: DH 2 Jun, flight call recorded on night-migration microphone (BE), sonogram, *intro*.
Scarlet Tanager: max 4 WH 1 Jun, 4 Kirkland Woods 4 Jun, 4 GLSP 25 Jun, 4 DH 28 Aug.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 5 BLNC 28 Jun; max 12 SFNS 11 Jul; 11 CM 16 Jul; 7 WP 22 Aug.
Indigo Bunting: max 12 Hast 17 Jul; 11 Elbridge 1 Aug.
Bobolink: 29 Deerfield 22 Jun; max 82 Bridgeport 27 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: max 25 Lebanon 2 Aug; mostly small numbers.
Orchard Oriole: max 6 GLSP 25 Jun, 9 Jul; reports from 8 other locs.
Baltimore Oriole: 9 DeWitt 2 Jun; 9 Camillus 18 Jun; max 15 HI 19 Jun.
Purple Finch: max 12 Dolge 20 Aug; widespread reports.
House Finch: max 20 Bville 14 Aug.
Red Crossbill: 5 Fabius 4 Jul (DWe), only report.
Pine Siskin: max 8 Eagle Bay ADK; most reports from HERK
Evening Grosbeak: 2 Eagle Bay ADK 21 Jun, only report.

EXOTICS

Chukar: TR 26 Jun – 4 Jul.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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It was a very dry summer, and, although the season's precipitation total in Watertown was only 1.7 inches below normal, signs of drought were obvious everywhere. By the beginning of summer many small ponds and wetlands were entirely dry thanks to the winter's lack of snow and a very dry spring. June and August were both modestly wetter than normal, each month receiving a little less than one inch more precipitation than average, but just 0.4 inches of rain fell on Watertown during July. Temperatures relative to normal increased through the summer, from within one degree of normal in June to 3-6 degrees above normal in August.

Dry conditions were obvious everywhere away from the Lake Ontario shoreline and the St. Lawrence River. A visit to almost any small pond or wetland was likely to reveal a completely dry expanse of mud and an absence of waterfowl and other wetland birds. Most larger bodies of water were lower than anybody could remember seeing them, lined with extensive mudflats that dried up as the summer progressed. Given the lack of water everywhere else, it was odd to see very high water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River throughout the summer as water was held back at the dams on the river.

I heard a few anecdotal reports from birders and hunters who thought that Mallard numbers were unusually low, but waterfowl and waterbird reports otherwise seemed mostly typical. Most summer duck reports come from a few large wetland complexes that did not entirely dry up, and a more thorough sampling of the Region's wetland habitats may well have revealed a significant scarcity of waterbirds. Perhaps because of a lack of water elsewhere, unusually large numbers of Mallards and Blue-winged Teal were at Perch River WMA in August. Several observers commented on apparently high productivity for Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey, attributing the perceived high nesting success to a dry spring.

Sandhill Crane reports continue to increase, but the precise number of breeding pairs in Region 6 remains unclear. Adults with colts were seen in two locations, one in the town of Madrid near the Lisbon Swamp, where nesting has been suspected for nearly 10 years, and one at Wilson Hill WMA, where there had been no summer sightings until this family group appeared in August. Although the origin of this later group is unknown, there is another recent record of a family group from the town of Louisville less than five miles from Wilson Hill, near extensive swamps on private property that could support a nesting pair. Additional June and July sightings from the towns of Lyme and Theresa may represent unknown nesting sites, the latter location being near an area in Hammond with multiple crane reports in past years. Combined with locations where nesting has been confirmed or suspected over the past few years,

observations from this year suggest the presence of between 3 and 10 nesting sites in Region 6.

Low water at PRWMA led to decent concentrations of shorebirds for the second consecutive year, although this year the lack of water was natural and not related to management. The most unusual shorebird at Perch River was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on 25 August, the first reported in Region 6 since 2011. Other species at Perch River that are infrequently observed in Region 6 included Stilt Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. Few shorebird reports came from elsewhere, including Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River where habitat was largely underwater. However, a pair of **Piping Plovers** returned to Lakeview WMA after last year's historic successful nesting attempt, but unfortunately their nest failed this year, after which the plovers were not seen again.

Not surprisingly given the drought, Sedge Wrens were unusually scarce, but numbers of other grassland birds appeared to be comparable to recent years. The eight Upland Sandpipers Alan Belford found in Clayton on 29 June is roughly equivalent to the total number reported each of the past few nesting seasons in Region 6, but this species was only seen in three other locations. About 17 male Henslow's Sparrows were reported from four locations, also roughly typical for the past few years. Most of these Henslow's Sparrows were at just two sites: Perch River WMA and a private field enrolled in a NYSDEC landowner incentive program. This program is being phased out, which could well contribute to further declines in Jefferson County's already very small Henslow's Sparrow population.

The only real passerine rarity of the season was an **Acadian Flycatcher** that was singing above Greg Lawrence's tent at Coles Creek State Park on the morning of 2 June. While not quite a rarity, Yellow-billed Cuckoo tends to be scarce in Region 6 most years, so the 22 reports from this summer were noteworthy. During the early summer, tent caterpillars seemed to be more abundant than they have been since the end of a massive outbreak more than a decade ago, which could explain the high number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. However, Black-billed Cuckoo numbers seemed very similar to the past two years.

Once again Golden-winged Warblers received a great deal of attention by visiting birders and biologists. As in the past few years, Blue-winged Warblers are well established and now outnumber Golden-winged Warblers south of a line running roughly from just north of Fort Drum through the brushland of northwestern Jefferson County, including Chaumont Barrens and other alvar communities. North of this line Blue-winged Warblers remain scarce, although many hybrids occur, especially in the St. Lawrence Valley lowlands. The only area where Golden-winged Warblers occur with few Blue-winged Warblers or obvious hybrids is the Indian River Lakes Region and adjacent areas characterized by numerous, narrow ridges and valleys. This account is all based

on observations of phenotypes, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology continues to study the genetics of birds in this area.

Throughout the summer there were indications of some bird movements that don't fit in with typical spring or summer migrations. From 15 June through at least early August I found Red-breasted Nuthatches on several dates in small patches of deciduous trees or other places where nesting seems highly unlikely and suspect that these birds were part of a southward movement out of Canada. On 18 June one of these nuthatches was near two late migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in willow patch on Fort Drum. Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills also put in widely scattered appearances in places where they did not likely nest, although the source for these birds is not clear.

The usual trickle of southbound Eastern Kingbirds, Yellow Warblers, Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles, and other early migrants was evident throughout August, but on most days there was little sign of any significant migration. The only real exception was a large fallout featuring many passerine species that Alan Belford witnessed on the Tug Hill on 31 August. Otherwise small numbers of migrants were seen most days but usually just one or a few individuals at a time, with no large migrants flocks noted.

For the season, I received reports of 207 species, a good tally for Region 6 although eight species shy of last summer's unusually high total. The best bird of the season was the Acadian Flycatcher at Coles Creek State Park, but as with so many rarities in Region 6 it was only seen by one or two birders. Particularly disappointing was the failure of the Piping Plover nest at Lakeview WMA, but given the apparently increasing population on Lake Ontario there remains hope that this species will once again become a regular member of the Region 6 avifauna.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; BPWMA – Black Pd WMA; CB – Chaumont Barrens preserve, T Clayton; CCSP – Coles Creek SP; CV – T Cape Vincent; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; JEFF – Jefferson County; LGI – Little Galloo I; LPT – Leonard Pd trail, T Colton; LWMA – Lakeview WMA, T

Ellisburg; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; PilPt – Pillar Pt; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course, T Canton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; STLA – St. Lawrence County; TMB – Three Mile Bay, T Lyme; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WGSP—Whetstone Gulf SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: T Watertown 8 Aug (BMi).

Mute Swan: max 18 PRWMA 20 Jul.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Mud Lake T DePeyster 9 Aug, only report away from PRWMA & ULLWMA nesting sites.

Wood Duck: max 190 PRWMA 27 Aug.

Gadwall: max 12 PRWMA 31 Jul.

Am. Wigeon: max 10 PRWMA 22 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: max 20 T Waddington 27 Aug.

Mallard: max 1240 PRWMA 25 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 95 PRWMA 25 Aug.

N. Shoveler: 5 T Lyme 31 Jul (RB), only report.

N. Pintail: max 3 WHWMA 28 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 36 WHWMA 28 Aug.

Redhead: arr WHWMA 17 Aug, where max 15 there 31 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: m TMB thru Jul, unusual location; max 74 ULLWMA 27 Aug.

Com. Goldeneye: Cranberry L 30 Jul (AB), only report.

Com. Merganser: 16 reports Adirondacks, L Ontario & SLR.

Ruffed Grouse: many broods reported suggesting excellent reproduction.

Spruce Grouse: Bog River Fall 18 Jul (AN), only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 45 ULLWMA 27 Aug; 41 FD 18 Aug.

Am. Bittern: 3-9/day in damp old fields FD Jun & Jul.

Least Bittern: reports from FD, PRWMA, ULLWMA, WHWMA & Wilson's Bay CV.

Great Egret: max 30 O'Neil Rd swamp T Massena 24 Jul, such numbers not unusual NE STLA; 17/day PRWMA late Aug high for JEFF.

Green Heron: max 8 T Lyme 16 Jul & PRGC 30 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 31 PRWMA 17 Jul.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 8 reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 18 reports.

N. Goshawk: several reports T Colton & Piercefield Jun & Jul.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 25+ widely scattered reports.

Virginia Rail: 14 reports from 5 locations.

Sora: only 3 reports, very low.

Com. Gallinule: max 23 Matoon Creek Marsh FD 13 Jul, where more than usual for 2nd consecutive year.

Am. Coot: T Lyme 16 Jul (SK, BS, CW), only report.

Sandhill Crane: T Hounsfield 6 Jun (AB); T Theresa 18 Jun (BM, LM); 2 AFWMA T Lyme 18 Jun (WH); 2 T Lyme 31 Jul (RB); PRWMA 8 Aug thru (mob); 2 ad & 1 y T Madrid 20 Aug (TW, EW); 3-4/day WHWMA 18 Aug thru (HW, mob).

Black-bellied Plover: last spring migrant WHWMA 2 Jun; 6 reports 1-2 PRWMA 8 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: ad WHWMA 28 Aug (JB, BD), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 spring migrants WHWMA 2 Jun; up to 10/day PRWMA & WHWMA Aug.

PIPING PLOVER: nest attempt same LWMA area as 2015 failed, adults not seen again (IM).

Killdeer: max 40 PRWMA 25 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: last spring migrant FD 1 Jun; max 35 PRWMA 24 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: CV 2 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 6 reports of up to 8 T Clayton Jun & Jul; T Lyme 16 Jul; T Rutland 22 Jul; at least 6 territories FD Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper: PRWMA 22-27 Aug (mob), only report.

Sanderling: 2-3/day WHWMA 28-31 Aug; 2 BPWMA 30 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: 1-2/day PRWMA 25-27 Aug, only reports.

Least Sandpiper: max 22 PRWMA 26 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: PRWMA 25-26 Aug, only reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: PRWMA 25 Aug (JB), rare R6.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 reports singles PRWMA 3 Jul thru.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last spring migrant WHWMA 2 Jun; max 13 PRWMA 22 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 PRWMA 14 Aug; PRWMA 25 Aug; only reports.

Wilson's Phalarope: PRWMA 29 Aug (JC), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 17 PilPt 1 Aug.

Herring Gull: 971 nests LGI.

Caspian Tern: 2354 nests LGI 3 Jun.

Black Tern: up to 50/day PRWMA Jun; 26 ULLWMA 12 Jun; 4 Wilson's Bay march CV 30 Jun & 17 Jul; 31 AFWMA 17 Jul.

Com. Tern: 1272 nests SLR (LH), 20 nests LGI where population slowly increasing.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 22 reports most since 2011.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 37 reports, comparable to previous 2 summers.

E. Screech-Owl: T Rossie 17 Jul & T Alexandria 31 Jul, only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Pleasant Valley SF 8 Aug (GM), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: Sherman L 1 Jul, only Jun or Jul report away from FD; max 26 T Watertown 27 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: up to 35/night in traditional strongholds FD, CB, T Clayton & Indian River Lakes.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 10-11 territories FD.

Merlin: about 30 reports from throughout R6.

Peregrine Falcon: 1-2/day PRWMA 27 Jul thru; FD 28 Jul; WHWMA 22 Aug; T Hounsfield 29 Aug; T Hammond 31 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last obvious spring migrant FD 2 Jun; 9 reports from SE STLA representing local breeders; 3 T Potsdam 23 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: late migrant FD 18 Jun; 13 reports from nesting habitat SE STLA; max 8 Sevey Bog T Colton 17 Jun; migrant SBSP 27 Aug.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (R6): CCSP 2 Jun (GL!).

Willow Flycatcher: max 18 FD 29 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Tooley Pond Rd T Clare & Clifton July 11 & 17, only breeding season reports; 5 reports migrants 27-31 Aug.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: scattered apparent migrants or dispersing birds in deciduous woodland where nesting unlikely FD 15 Jun thru at least mid-Jul.

Sedge Wren: 1 FD 3 Jun to 9 Aug, where only male until 2 more arr immediate vicinity 28 Jul;

4th m FD about 8 km from previous location; PRWMA 7 Jul; fewest since at least 2000.

Carolina Wren: 2 T Watertown 16 Jul, only report.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 reports Jun & Jul, low; last SBSP 27 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: T Parishville 26 Jun (JB); Dead Creek T Piercefield 29 Jun (GD); only reports.

E. Bluebird: 7 boxes CV & T Clayton fledged 44 y.

N. Mockingbird: max 4 FD 3 Jul; reports from 4 other locations.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 locations T Antwerp 17 Jul; WGSP 4 Jul, only other report.

Golden-winged Warbler: phenotypes visually confirmed for 56 FD thru.

Blue-winged Warbler: phenotypes visually confirmed for 93 FD thru.

Tennessee Warbler: 4 reports 22-31 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: max 4 T Ellisburg 6 Jun (NL).

Cerulean Warbler: 3 m at 2 sites FD Jun; 11 m at 7 sites Indian River Lakes area Jun & Jul (mob); 2 sites T Croghan Jul (MR); 3 T Dekalb NE known nesting site R6.

N. Parula: T Redwood 18 Jun (BM); PRWMA 31 Jul (SK); rare outside Adirondacks & Tug Hill Jun & Jul.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 reports 31 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 WGSP 31 Aug.

Palm Warbler: max 17 MM 9 Jul.

Prairie Warbler: max 15 FD 25 Jun; T Rossie 17 Jul, only report away from primary breeding areas at FD & NW JEFF.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max approx. 100 Lesser Wilderness SF 31 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: 4 reports 1-2/day 27-31 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Clayton 1 Jun (NL); T Canton 19 Jun (JB); 3 Galop Is 23 Jun (GL); Tug Hill SF 4 Jul (WF); 4 T Henderson 16 Jul (SK, BS, CW); max 29 FD 24 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: max 55 FD 3 Jul; PRWMA 11 Jul, only report away from FD.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 24 FD 3 Jul; 11 reports elsewhere W JEFF; Galop Is 24 Jun & T Hammond 30 Jun, only reports outside JEFF.

Henslow's Sparrow: Tubelino Road T Orleans 29 Jun (AB); 3-4 FD thru; max 7 PRWMA Jul; 6 Clayton field enrolled in DEC landowner incentive program.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bonaparte Swamp Preserve 24 Jul (TA), likely at edge regular R6 breeding range.

Orchard Oriole: Galop Is 24 Jun (GL); T Henderson 16 Jul (SK, BS, CW); migrant FD 26 Aug.

Red Crossbill: MM 18 Jun (AB); Glen Meal SF 5 Jul (JB); Pleasant Valley SF 9 Aug (GM, RS).

Pine Siskin: max 5 T Croghan 2 Jun; 5 other reports Jun; FD 7 Jul & T Lowville 6 Aug, only reports after Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 T Parishville 4 Jun; 2 T Pinckney 17 Jun; only reports.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

No report was received this season. The Region 7 report will resume as of the Spring 2017 season.

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather for June continued the abnormally dry pattern seen throughout late winter and spring, with near normal temperatures. Albany averaged one degree above normal, with three days surpassing 90°F, but also a cool period from 8-13 June where the temperature broke 70° only once. Precipitation was 1.48" below normal. July averaged 2.2° above normal, and rainfall was 2.32" more than normal, offering a welcome reprieve from the drought conditions. Temperatures were almost 4° above the mean in August, with a four-day heat wave occurring from 11-14 August. Precipitation was half an inch above normal at Albany.

Among several Region 8 rarities during the period, a **Chuck-will's-widow** recorded on 17 June near West Mt. in Warren County was most remarkable. A rare breeder in New York, found in a few locations on Long Island each year, this bird's presence came to light when Mona Bearor learned about it from a friend and arranged to visit the homeowner's property one evening. From her eBird report, the following excerpt: "Four of us heard the bird plainly, and I am uploading a video to YouTube with audio which I recorded from the homeowner's back deck. The bird was quite a ways off when we first heard it at 21:17 then it moved to a spot just beyond the backyard fence at 21:21 and called

repeatedly for 11 minutes before it flew to the south. We did not hear it again. The property owner said the bird has been around for a month or so and that she sometimes hears it far away, but many times as close as it was on 17 June and in the same area just beyond her property line. Often it starts calling right at dusk, but she also hears it in the night if she wakes up. It often calls for hours.” With NYSDEC making a concerted effort to collect information through nightjar surveys this year, it will be interesting to see what else might be out there.

Sandhill Crane sightings continue to increase in interior eastern New York, where they are now almost a monthly occurrence. Mona Bearor, while driving on I-87, watched a pair in flight in Warren County on 6 June. An out-of-state birder from MA, traveling near Saratoga Lake on 16 July, reported one in a field near a pond. The most widely viewed Sandhill Crane was a long-staying bird at the LaGrange Farm near Feura Bush, Albany County. Many observers documented the bird in mid-August, and the property owner confirmed that it had been around his place “for some time now.”

A **Little Blue Heron** was found by Liz Curley at Champlain Canal Lock 2 in Saratoga County on 16 July, during the annual arrival of post-breeding dispersal waders to our area. She initially identified it as a Snowy Egret but posted some good photographs with her report, prompting Andy Guthrie to realize it was a juvenile heron.

Ken Harper observed and photographed an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** on Towpath Rd. in Kingsbury along the old Champlain Canal on 5 August. Only a handful of reports of this species have been recorded in Region 8, as they are rare away from coastal locations of New York.

Another species rarely found away from coastal locations and the Great Lakes, a **Laughing Gull** was seen and photographed by Jeremy Collison on 5 August. It was loafing with other gulls at Cohoes Flats along the Mohawk River in Albany County.

Eight **Glossy Ibis** were discovered at the Watervliet Reservoir in Guilderland, Albany County, on 7 August by Frank Mitchell. This was the rarest of the post-breeding dispersal season sightings in Region 8, and a wandering group of eight was even more notable. The birds were not seen the following day, another of the typical “one-day wonders” that move through the area.

Liz Curley found a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Cohoes Flats on 30 August, and many birders were able to view it that day and the next, as it lingered for a while before departing. Water levels were lower than normal in many areas during local shorebird migration this season, and overall numbers and diversity were notably down from recent years.

Bob Yunick submitted field notes and a summary of banding operations for the breeding season from Jenny Lake in Corinth, Saratoga County. Overall, it was very quiet, he notes: “Only one warbler, a Yellow-rumped, was banded and that in May; no Ovenbirds were heard or banded; Purple Finches handled increased to 141 (101 banded, 40 returns) over 107 last year, but included only 14 HYs as of 8/30, a near-record low in 46 years. While 7 Chipping Sparrows

were captured (all adult) by 8/6, not a single HY was captured just as in 2015; and as the capture of 10 adult R-br. Grosbeaks 6/19-8/14 was a positive sign, not a single imm. was captured. The one breeding success was the return after a two-year absence of breeding **Evening Grosbeaks** - - -. This species bred at JL, a few in 1971-72, then continuously for 25 yrs 1989-2013. Missing in 2014 and 2015, they reappeared this year with adults in breeding condition: 1st ASY/M on 5/7; then 4 F (3 ASY, 1 SY) and 1 SY/M 6/25 to 7/2 with the 1st young, both M, banded 7/23 and 7/29.” Bob also reported banding fewer hatch-year Ruby-throated Hummingbirds than normal, despite a small increase in overall numbers.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Matt Brunelle, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Elizabeth Curley; Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, Ken Harper, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, T. Lloyd Williams, Tom & Colleen Williams, Donna Wright, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; AR – Alcove Res, ALBA; BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; BCR – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BMB – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; CCGP – Cossackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; CF – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; CL – Collins L, SCHE; CRM – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; FR – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; FtEG – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; FV – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; HP – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; OCA – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; PRWMA – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SISP – Schodack I SP, RENN; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENN; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; WMP – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Gadwall: max 6 Stanton Pond ALBA 16 Aug.
Blue-winged Teal: max 2 Stanton Pond ALBA 21 Aug; CF 23 Aug.
N. Shoveler: CF 22 Aug, only report.
Green-winged Teal: Scotia SCHE 2 Aug; 4 Stanton Pond ALBA 16 Aug; CF 21 Aug.
Greater Scaup: Vischer Ferry Power Plant SARA 23 Jul, unusual, ph.
Bufflehead: BCR 19 Jun, late.
Hooded Merganser: max 9 Scotia SCHE 16 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: BCR 19 Jun, late.
Ruffed Grouse: max 11 Lk Desolation SF SARA 25 Jun.
Am. Bittern: max 4 Amy's Park WARR 18 Jun.
Least Bittern: BCM 1 Jun; 3 VFNHP 27 Jun; Ballston Creek Preserve SARA 1 Jun, only reports.
Great Egret: arr Niskayuna RR Sta SCHE 12 Jul; max 18 Mohawk R Latham ALBA 3 Aug.
Snowy Egret: arr Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 14 Jul; max 2 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 6 Aug; 2 Mohawk R Cohoes ALBA 13 Aug.
LITTLE BLUE HERON (R8): Champlain Canal Lock 2 16 Jul (EC), *intro*.
Green Heron: max 12 BCM 15 Jul.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Champlain Canal WASH 19 Jul; max 4 Mohawk R Lock 8 SCHE 5 Aug.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R8): Towpath Rd T Kingsbury WASH 5 Aug (KH), ph, *intro*.
GLOSSY IBIS (R8): 8 Watervliet Res ALBA 7 Aug (FM), *intro*.

HAWKS – LARIDS

Black Vulture: max 6 APBP 24 Aug.
Virginia Rail: max 6 CRM 3 Jul.
Sora: CRM 14 Jun; BCM 15 Aug; only reports.
Com. Gallinule: max 6 Carters Pond WMA WASH 3 Jul.
Am. Coot: 3 TR 5 Aug; Watervliet Res 8 Aug; only reports.
SANDHILL CRANE (R8): 2 nr Warrensburg WARR 6 Jun; nr Saratoga L SARA 16 Jul; Feura Bush ALBA 23 Jun, 12-18 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Scotia SCHE 31 Jul; max 10 CF 31 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr CF 30 Jul; max 3 HP 27 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr BMB 6 Jul; max 14 South Bay WASH 28 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Ames MONT 2 Jun; Argyle WASH 23 Jul; Albany Int Airport 24 Aug.
RUDDY TURNSTONE (R8): CF 30-31 Aug (EC), *intro*.
Sanderling: Scotia SCHE 31 Jul, only report.
Least Sandpiper: arr CF, Stanton Pond ALBA 9 Jul; max 41 Scotia SCHE 1 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Kinderhook COLU 3 Aug; Blockhouse Park SARA 6 Aug; CF 9 Aug; Stanton Pond ALBA 21 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Scotia SCHE 31 Jul; max 3 Stanton Pond ALBA 22 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr CF 9 Jul; max 6 Stanton Pond ALBA 24 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: CF 14 Aug and 21 Aug; only reports.
Wilson's Snipe: max 15 South Bay WASH 28 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr CF 1 Aug; max 2 Silver Bay WARR 7 Aug.
LAUGHING GULL (R8): CF 5 Aug (JC).
Caspian Tern: arr Coeymans Landing ALBA 12 Jul; max 2 Clemons WASH 22 Jul.
Com. Tern: arr CF 12 Jul, only report.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 VFNHP 16 Jul.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 FtEG 18 Jun.
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 2 Putnam WASH 27 Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Copake L COLU 15 Aug; max 101 APBP 26 Aug.
CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW: West Mt WARR 17 Jun (RB), audio recording, *intro*.
E. Whip-poor-will: max 4 Putnam WASH 22 Jun; 4 nr Stanton Pond ALBA 10 Jul.
Chimney Swift: max 200 CF 5 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 8 Towpath Rd, Kingsbury WASH 27 Aug.
Am. Kestrel: max 12 FtEG 6 Aug.
Merlin: max 4 Washington Pk ALBA 19 Jun, breeding pair with two nestlings.
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Troy RENN 9 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 11 Skidmore College SARA 9 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 Plateau Mt GREE 1 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: 2 nr Middleburgh SCHO 4 Jul; Rensselaerville SF ALBA 11 Jun.
Alder Flycatcher: max 9 BMB 2 Jun.
Willow Flycatcher: max 14 BCM 6 Jun.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 8 Albany Rural Cem ALBA 7 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 17 nr Craryville COLU 22 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 BCM 12 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 17 North L SP GREE 29 Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: nr Brant L WARR 17 Jul, ph, breeder?
Purple Martin: max 8 Saratoga L SARA 6 Jun.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 15 Babcock L RENN 7 Aug.
Bank Swallow: max 25 CC Lock 2 SARA 21 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: max 25 North L SP GREE 21 Jul.
Barn Swallow: max 50 Glenville SCHE 30 Jul.
Marsh Wren: max 13 BCM 4 Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 6 VFNHP 20 Jul.
E. Bluebird: max 12 NYPA Blenheim-Gilboa nature trail 11 Jun.
Veery: max 22 SISF 30 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: max 12 Plateau Mt GREE 1 Jun.
Wood Thrush: max 13 Champlain Canal Trail SARA 24 Jul.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: max 3 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 19 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 4 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 19 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: max 2 Hutton Square Rd, Putnam Sta WASH 1 Jun, only report.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 4 Lake Desolation SF SARA 4 Jun.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Hutton Square Rd, Putnam Sta WASH 18 Jun (TL), ph & audio recording; Garnsey Pk SARA 6 Jun.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: 2 Freehold GREE 11 Jun, nesting pair?
Mourning Warbler: max 2 Hadley Mt SARA 16 Jun; 2 Windham GREE 20 Jun.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 23 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 13 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 10 PRWMA 3 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 6 Plateau Mt GREE 1 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: max 9 APBP 24 Jun.
Canada Warbler: max 4 Amy’s Park WARR 18 Jun.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 4 FtEG 23 Jun.
Clay-colored Sparrow: max 2 FtEG 11 Jun-5 Jul, only reports.
Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Saratoga Cty Airport SARA 5 Jun.
Savannah Sparrow: max 16 FtEG 27 Jun; 16 OCA 22 Jul.
Swamp Sparrow: max 25 BCM 4 Jun.
E. Towhee: max 19 APBP 11 Jun; 19 SNHP 10 Jul.
Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Grafton Lakes SP RENN 19 Jun.
Indigo Bunting: max 11 SNHP 10 Jul.
Bobolink: max 300 OCA 4 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: max 10 SNHP 10 Jul.
Baltimore Oriole: max 15 APBP 5 Aug.
Red Crossbill: max 14 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 1 Jun.
Pine Siskin: max 5 T Providence SARA 5 Jun.



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The summer was very warm and dry. The record warmth was mainly due to relatively high minimum temperatures for most days. June was 2.5° F warmer than normal, and only 2.03" of rain fell on Poughkeepsie, where the average is 4.43". Five of the first six months of the year were below normal precipitation. July was even warmer, coming in 3.9° higher. Despite the warmth, only one day was a scorcher, when Poughkeepsie hit 98° for a high on 22 July. The month was wet, mainly due to over 2.2" of rain on 31 July. August was even hotter, 4.1° above normal, with only 2.2" of rain, putting the year's precipitation at an even greater deficit with drought conditions developing.

Andrew Farnsworth had quite a day on Hen Island off the City of Rye during the Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count on 12 June. On the Island he found 65 species, including: a Brant, female Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, 28 Great Egret, 34 Snowy Egret, 19 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 5 Osprey, 4 Clapper Rail, 22 American Oystercatcher, a Black-bellied Plover, a Semipalmated Plover, a Spotted Sandpiper, 16 Willet with clear breeding activity, 11 Ruddy Turnstone, a Sanderling, 2 Dunlin, 16 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 5 Laughing Gull, 94 Common Tern, 2 Forster's Tern, a Purple Martin, and 2 Saltmarsh Sparrow.

Osprey nesting continues to expand. A nest was found south of Beacon by the Mearns Bird Club in June. Carena Pooth photographed the nest with two young. This is Dutchess County's first nest since 1923.

Willetts continue to nest on Hen Island in the sound, but three very young "puffball" chicks with two adults at Marshlands Conservancy suggest they may have expanded breeding onto the mainland.

Forster's Terns plus a few Caspian Terns were noted in a number of places up the Hudson River from the end of July through August.

Curt McDermott, along with his wife and daughter, found a Snowy Owl at the Shawangunk and Wallkill Correctional facilities just to the East of the Shawangunk Grasslands on 12 June. Ken McDermott was able to drive by and see the bird as well. The bird was seen the next few days. It was picked up by a rehabilitator after being seen on the ground suffering from the heat. The owl was a previously rehabilitated and released bird. It had been shot, treated the Raptor Trust, and then released on 29 March at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. It was probably present at the correctional facility for two months.

A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers found at a nest hole in Mountain Lakes Park in early June was seen feeding young on 26 June. This is the first confirmed breeding in Westchester County. Birds recorded in the summer the

last two years plus another at Cross River Reservoir on 26 June suggest there may be other breeding pairs as well.

There was a small incursion into non-breeding areas of Red-breasted Nuthatch in late June. A nest cam on a Wood Thrush nest in Rockefeller State Park recorded a visit by a Southern Flying Squirrel in mid-July. The three nestlings did not survive.

On 3 July, Tom Burke found an immature “Brewster’s” Warbler with an adult male Blue-winged Warbler along the Blue Lake Trail in Sterling Forest. Two hundred yards further up the trail an immature “Brewster’s” Warbler with an adult female Golden-winged Warbler was found. Could the four birds be from the same pairing?

Other notable species include: Mississippi Kite, American Coot, Whimbrel, Black Skimmer, Merlin, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kathleen Ashman, John Askildsen, Scott Baldinger, Gail Benson, Diane Bliss, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Todd Cameron, Steve Chorvas, Jim Clinton, Jim Clinton Jr, Mary Collier, Chris Cording, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Evan Edelbaum, Sarah Edwards, Andrew Farnsworth, Valerie Freer, Eamon Freiburger, James R. Gmelin, Gloria Gorell, Frances Greenberg, Christine Guarino, John Haas, Sarah Hansen, Ken Harris, David Hayes, Valerie Heemstra, Deborak Kral, Mike Kravatz, Kimberly Leonard, Paul Lewis, Barbara Mansell, Curt McDermott, Ken McDermott, Karen Miller, Sandy Morrissey, Frank Murphy, Dixon Onderdonk, Alan Peterson, Linda Pistolessi, Carena Pooth, Laurie Preisendanz, Scott Rando, Sue Rayano, Eric Reubel, Susan Rogers, Joseph Ruggeri, Matthew Rymkiewicz, Jim Schlickerrieder, Peter Schoenberger, Linda Scrima, Phil Shea, Judy & Win Stevens, Peter Stewart, Rob Stone, Anne Swaim, Herb Thompson, Benjamin Van Doren, Kent Warner, Angus Wilson, Sandra Wright, Jim Yates, Matt Zietler.

ABBREVIATIONS

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

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Camel Farm 19-19,26 Aug (KM, DB, LS)

Brant: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF); 4 PP 24, 25 Jun (EE).

N. Pintail: Morningside P 7, 8 Aug (JH), first summer record for SULL; 2 Black Dirt region 10 Aug (SB, KA).

Green-winged Teal: 2 MC 18 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: Gate of Heaven Cemetery 21 Jul – 31 Aug (LT, SM).

Hooded Merganser: Old Greenhaven Beach, Rye 12 Jun; Bashakill 28 Jun; Neversink R 3 Jul; juv Doodletown 29 Jul.

Com. Merganser: 1 ad, 19 juv Neversink R 4 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF); PP 23, 25 Jun, 8 Jul (LPi).

Ruffed Grouse: 2 Beacon 4 Jul, now scarce in DUTC.

Com. Loon: Rhinecliff 2 Jun; Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Delaware R, Sparrow Bush 30 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: Neversink R 7 Jul; 2 Rockefeller SP 11 Jul.

Am. Bittern: Saugerties 2 Jun; 2 Bashakill 5 Jun; High Falls 16 Jul; Amenia 7 Aug.

Least Bittern: Amenia 7 Jun; Coleman Station 8 Jun; Tivoli Bays 14 Jun; 2 Bashakill 18 Jun; 3 Bashakill 21 Jun; Saugerties 8 Jul; 2 Kingston Pt 10 Jul; Thompson Pd 3 Aug.

Great Egret: 28 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; 9 Bashakill 2 Aug; max 67 Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P 4 Aug.

Snowy Egret: 34 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; 2-4 Stanfordville 31 Jul-13 Aug; Wallkill 6 Aug; 8 Tamarack L 22 Aug.

Little Blue Heron: 1-2 Stanfordville 31 Jul, 1, 6 Aug (DK, CP, HT, BM); Wapinger L 21 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 19 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 24 Jun; 1-2 PP 7, 8 Jul (LPi, EE).

Glossy Ibis: 2 Liberty Marsh 25-26 Jul (RS, LS, DK); Amenia 5,6 Aug (J&WS).

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: 5 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; nest south of Beacon Jun-Jul, first nest for DUTC since 1923.

Mississippi Kite: Sterling Forest 9 Jun (NYRBA).

N. Goshawk: Stanfordville 20 Aug.

Clapper Rail: 1-2 MC 1, 3 Jun, 1, 7, 26 Jul, 18 Aug; 4 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Sora: 1-2 Mudder Kill Swamp 2, 24 Jun, 3 Jul.

Com. Gallinule: Amenia 7, 25 Jun; 2 ad, 6 yg Saugerties 26 Jun; 5 Bashakill 4 Aug.

Am. Coot: Amenia 7 Aug (MD,JP,WT).

Black-bellied Plover: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Semipalmated Plover: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Morningside P 31 Jul; 2 Morningside P 2 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: 22 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Spotted Sandpiper: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; 3 Apollo Plaza 21 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: Pine Plains 3 Jul; 1-2 Wallkill NWR 3, 4 Jul; 3 Morningside P 7 Aug.

Willet: 16 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF), with clear breeding activity; 2 ad, 3 very young "puffball" chicks MC 30 Jun (TB).

Upland Sandpiper: 2 SGNWR 4, 18 Jun; SGNWR 20-22 Jun.

Whimbrel: PP 9 Jul (EE).

Ruddy Turnstone: 11 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; EGR 18 Aug.

Sanderling: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Dunlin: 2 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Esopus Meadows 5, 6, 28 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: CPP 26 Aug, ph.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Morningside P 9 Aug; Esopus Meadows 2, 3, 5, 6 Aug; Pine plains 28, 31 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 16 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Wallkill NWR 4 Jul; 2 Blue Chip Farm 9 Jul; Pine Plains 10 Jul; 2 MC 25 Jul; Sharon Station 27 Jul; MC 12 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: Esopus Meadows 6 Aug; Hyde P 26 Aug.

Laughing Gull: Kingston Pt 5 Jun, 21, 28 Aug; 5 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Sleightsburgh 20 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Croton-on-Hudson 25 Jul (AS, JG, SE, GG, PL).

Least Tern: 3 MC 25 Jul.

Caspian Tern: 2 Croton-on-Hudson 25 Jul; 2 Sleightsburgh 31 Jul; Esopus Meadows 5 Aug.

C. Tern: 94 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; Yonkers 29 Jul.

Forster's Tern: 2 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; PP 25, 28 Jul, 3 Yonkers 29 Jul; 3 Piermont 1 Aug; 2 MC 12, 22 Aug; 7 PP 7, 11 Aug; 3 Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P 8 Aug; 9-10 PP 12, 13 Aug; 3 PP 16, 18 Aug.

Black Skimmer: 3 MC 3 Jun (TB, GB).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: 2ad, 3 im Gardiner 2 Jun.

Snowy Owl: Shawangunk and Wallkill Correctional facilities 12-17 Jun (CM, KMc, KMi), previously rehabilitated and released bird, *intro*.

Com. Nighthawk: max 1000 over New Paltz 25 Aug (CG).

E. Whip-poor-will: 2 Dover Plains 2 Jun; Woodstock 26 Jun; Clinton Corners 2 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 10-20 Gramsville 10 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 10 Weston Swamp 10 Jun; Muscote Farm 9 Jul; Rhinebeck 11 Jun; Thompson P 3 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pair at nest hole Mountain Lakes P 5, 19 Jun (SW, ER); feeding young Mountain Lakes 26 Jun (PL), ph, first

confirmed breeding in WEST; Cross River Res 26 Jun (GB).

Merlin: Woodbourne 8 Jun (VF, MC); Kingston 5, 27 Jul; Morningside P 1 Aug (JH).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Vanderbilt 30 Aug.

E. Wood-Pewee: 6 Bashakill 4 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 4 Slide Mt 4 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: Wurtsboro 1 Jun; 2 Taconic Hereford Multiple Use Area 2, 3 Jul; Pawling Nature Reserve 21 Jul.

Alder Flycatcher: 2 Chappaqua 12 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Six and a Half Station Rd Sanctuary 18 Aug; Ulster Park 25 Aug; Nuclear L 25 Aug.

Purple Martin: Hen I, Rye 12 Jun; MC 14 Jun, 12 Aug; colonies to the north doing well.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: small incursion into non breeding areas in late June.

Marsh Wren: max 5 MC 7 Jul.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 singing Minnewaska State Park 20 Jun (DH).

Bicknell's Thrush: 12 Slide Mt 4 Jun (BV).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

“Brewster’s Warbler”: 2 imm, one with m Blue-winged, one with f Golden-winged Sterling Forest 3 Jul (TB), *intro*.

Nashville Warbler: Rockefeller SP 31 Jul.

Cerulean Warbler: 3 Fahnestock State Park 4 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: CPP 22 Aug (PL, AS, LT), early, beats earliest record for Aug by 1 day.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Hopeland Trails, Staatsburg 13-18, 20, 23, 25, 26 Jun, 4, 5, 14 July.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 CPP 11, 27 Jun; max 14 SGNWR 10 Jun; CPP 21 Aug.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 Hen I, Rye 12 Jun (AF).

Blue Grosbeak: ad m & f tending yng at nest site, Black Dirt Region 4, 5, 10 Aug (JH, KM, SB, KA).

Pine Siskin: 2 Parksville 17 Jun (SuRa)

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REGION 10—MARINE

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Summer 2016 progressed from slightly to significantly warmer than normal, with August’s average coming in near 5° above the norm. July recorded seven days above 90°, including a “heat wave” 22-24 Jul, with 98° on the 23rd the highest temperature for the month. On 10 August, a severe thunderstorm produced a weak and short-lived tornado in Mattituck, Suffolk County, as reported by the National Weather Service. Thunderstorms and strong damaging winds continued across the Region for the next several days, with 11-14 August climbing into the 90°s and topping out at 95°. The Region was not impacted by any tropical storms or hurricanes this season.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	72°	71.4°	+0.6°	69°	68.4°	+1.5°
Jul	79°	76.5°	+2.5°	77°	73.9°	+3.1°
Aug	80°	75.2°	+4.8°	78°	72.8°	+5.2°

	Central Park			Islip		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	2.60"	4.41"	-1.81"	1.13"	4.27"	-3.14"
Jul	7.02"	4.60"	+2.42"	3.22"	3.43"	-0.21"
Aug	1.96"	4.44"	-2.48"	0.90"	3.98"	-3.08"

Last summer we discussed the increasingly regular status of several resident and breeding species that were formerly absent or rare in the Region. Bald Eagles continue to be reported very widely, both in terms of dates and locations; Pileated Woodpecker is now regular on Staten Island; finally, Black Vulture is now frequent enough in the western portion of the Region, and Common Raven throughout the Region, that their statuses have been revised. They no longer will be denoted as requiring documentation in Region 10 (i.e., they will no longer be presented in all-capitals in the Species Accounts). Cliff Swallows summered again in the Bronx, with counts as high as 19 at Pelham Bay Park and up to three through June at Van Cortlandt Park. Yellow-throated Warblers were present again this summer along the Connetquot River in Suffolk County.

Many pelagic birds arrived inshore on 3 June, when Manx, Cory's, Great, and Sooty Shearwaters, plus Wilson's Storm-Petrels were visible from sites such as Robert Moses SP, Cupsogue CP, and Shinnecock Inlet. Offshore, John Shemilt and associates once again made several extremely productive runs to the shelf-break and Continental Slope waters near and east of Hudson Canyon, and See Life Paulagics executed a highly successful overnight pelagic trip to this same general area at the end of the season. In what is becoming a familiar pattern, **Black-capped Petrels** and **White-faced, Band-rumped, and Leach's Storm-Petrels** were encountered repeatedly.

Regarding Jamaica Bay, we could repeat last year's depressing summary almost word for word. Omitting the details, the last line fits well again for summer 2016: "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 freshwater pools at Jones Beach were highly productive this summer, attracting the species just named, as well as scarce migrants such as Sora and Wilson's Phalarope. And again, the flats and bars at Old Inlet in Bellport Bay were highly productive, especially for sandbar specialists such as Sanderling (max 4,500 on 23 July) and Marbled Godwit (max 12 on 28 August). In contrast, the Moriches Inlet flats were reputed to have lost

much of their allure for rarities, but they still managed to produce a Sandwich Tern and several Arctic Terns, as well as robust counts of many common shorebirds.

Rarities included Black-capped Petrel, Audubon's Shearwater, White-faced Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, White-faced Ibis, Mississippi Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, Bridled Tern, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, and Rufous Hummingbird.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CICrP – Coney I Creek P, KING; CP – Central P, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; EPCAL – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; GGI – Great Gull I, SUFF; HudCan – Hudson Canyon, pelagic, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE/KING; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End, NASS; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; LI – Long Island; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; Mt Loretto – Mount Loretto Unique Area, RICH; Old Inlet – Old Inlet, Bellport Bay, SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet; SantCr – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; SLP – See Life Paulagics trips.

WATERFOWL - VULTURES

American Wigeon: SantCr, SUFF 4 Jun thru 3 Jul (PMo), unus in summer in SUFF.

Greater Scaup: arr CICrP & Shinn 27 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: SantCr, SUFF 4 Jun (PMo), unus in summer in SUFF.

Common Eider: scarce along South Shore LI.

Surf Scoter: small numbers South Shore LI thru early June.

White-winged Scoter: SMSP 1 & 12 Aug (K&SF), most notable of a handful of reps.

Black Scoter: widespread RICH to Montauk.

Long-tailed Duck: singles Breezy Pt, QUEE & Shinn during June.

Bufflehead: Wertheim NWR, SUFF 12 Jun (R. Ogden), v. scarce in summer SUFF

Hooded Merganser: Jam Bay, SantCr, SUFF, and Wertheim NWR, SUFF.

Red-breasted Merganser: Rep from 7 sites along oceanfront.

Ruddy Duck: up to 4 Jam Bay thru; 3 PP 3-10 Jun; Hempstead L SP, SUFF 2 Jun; Blydenburgh CP, SUFF 8 Jun; 8 Sagg 23 & 29 Jul (HMcG).

N. Bobwhite: a few inds plausibly natural on North Fork; all others directly attributable to recent releases.

Ring-necked Pheasant: few reports; apart from coastal sw LI, most of doubtfully natural origins.

Pied-billed Grebe: CP Reservoir 26 Jul (L. Mandel), early and in unus loc; general arrival ca. 19 Aug.

Horned Grebe: alt Mt. Sinai Harbor (A. Perkins), unus in summer.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: near “The Claw,” offshore SUFF 19 Aug (JSh, RF, AnW); SLP trip made several counts of multiple birds near the shelf-break, e of HudCan 29 Aug (DGo et al.); with improving coverage, emerging as a regular summer visitant to appropriate offshore waters.

Cory's Shearwater: arr in numbers along ocean shores 3 Jun, max 83 RMSP 5 Jun (PMo, TS); offshore, individual counts generally single digits; highest counts were 250 over 35 miles of shelf waters south of Montauk 7 Aug (S. Meyerheinrich et al.) and 210 over 15 miles of shelf waters north of HudCan 29 Aug (SLP; DGo et al.).

Great Shearwater: small numbers arr along ocean coast 3 Jun, with no large counts; this summer's many offshore counts were all single-digit except for a few from the Montauk whale watch trips, max 125 on 7 Aug (S. Meyerheinrich et al.).

Sooty Shearwater: small numbers from ocean vantage 3 Jun and over the following days, max 20 Montauk Pt, SUFF 6 Jun (J. Giunta); very few reports offshore, but small numbers persisted through Aug over the Montauk shelf waters.

Manx Shearwater: RMSP 3 Jun (SSM); 2 shelf waters s Shinn 3 Jun (JSh, DR, AnW); several reps of 1-3 Jul-Aug off Montauk.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: one offshore SUFF 3 Jun (Jsh, DR, AnW) was early; JSh and associates recorded others, up to 6 at a time, 24 Jul and 15, 18, and 19 Aug; the SLP group recorded many encounters 29 Aug, with local counts up to 12 along the canyons e of HudCan.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: counts up to 32 and 40 along ocean shore 3 Jun (SSM et al.); largest of many, mostly small, offshore counts were 115 near HudCan 29 Aug (SLP; DGo et al.) and 313 near McMaster Canyon 8 Jul (JSh, DR, AnW).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: multiple reports from offshore SUFF: one 15 Aug and two 18 Aug (JSh); two singles 19 Aug (JSh, DR, K. Corcoran); three singles 29 Aug (SLP; DGo, mob); with improving coverage, emerging as a regular summer visitant to appropriate offshore waters.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: max 200 s of the "The Claw" HudCan 4 Jun (JSh, DR, AnW); also recorded in smaller numbers (1-18) 8 & 24 Jul and 19 & 29 Aug.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: three counts of 2, 3, and 3 offshore SUFF 19 Aug (JSh, DR, AnW); several counts, up to 22, offshore SUFF 29 Aug (SLP; DGo, mob); with improving coverage, emerging as a regular summer visitant to appropriate offshore waters.

Brown Pelican: after zero reports last summer, summer 2016 was quite productive: RMSP 4 Jun (JGI, PJJ, SSM); 2 Smith Pt CP, SUFF 7 Jul (F. Stetler), possibly overlapping with 4 MI the same day (MMcB, mob); 2 Ponquogue Bridge, Southampton, SUFF 25 Jul (Lee Stocker); Halsey Neck Beach, Southampton, SUFF 6 Aug (N. Mendoza).

American Bittern: MI 18 Jun (H. Lopes et al.), site of suspected breeding in the past; rare in summer.

Least Bittern: CRSP 4 Jun (K&SF), ph.

Tricolored Heron: almost all singles, 6 sites RICH, QUEE, NASS, SUFF; much scarcer than formerly, needs monitoring.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 5-25 Jun (ABk, mob); Captree I, SUFF 3 Jul (MMcB).

HAWKS-LARIDS

Black Vulture: many reps RICH and NEWY; Green-Wood Cemetery, RICH 26 Jun (G. Henry), easternmost; *intro*.

Bald Eagle: many reports across Region and throughout the season.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Mt. Loretto, RICH 1 Jun (ACi).

Sora: OMNSA 27 Jul (M. Farina); Jam Bay 12-15 Aug (mob); JBWE 18-19 Aug (mob).

Common Gallinule: River Road Marshes, RICH 23 Jul (ACi).

Am. Coot: SantCr 4 Jul & 3 Jul (PMo); 3 Sag Harbor 19 Aug (A. Mart).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Shirley Marina, SUFF 2-6 Jun (R. Shea, mob).

American Avocet: 5 Squire Pd, Red Creek Pd, SUFF 15 Jul (V. Cagno, mob).

American Oystercatcher: max 275 JBSP 20 Aug (K. Feustel).

American Golden-Plover: arr 13 Aug JBSP (E. Maitra).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 85 JBWE 21 Aug (TH, BF); max for Jam Bay was just 65 on 16 Jul, very low; *intro*.

Whimbrel: max 6 Old Inlet 15 Jul (DR, M. Scheibel).

Marbled Godwit: max 12 Old Inlet 28 Aug (DR).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 12 Jul Jam Bay (DGo, SB); max 13 Jam Bay 12 Aug (IG), very low; *intro*; high counts further east included up to 5 JBWE and 4 Timber Pt, SUFF.

Sanderling: max 4500 Old Inlet 23 Jul (DR).

Baird's Sandpiper: Jam Bay 28 Aug (M. Monitz, S. Brenner); Plumb Beach, KING 28-31 Aug (mob).

Least Sandpiper: max 500 Jam Bay 30 Aug (Jay Powell, Kimberly Sucusy).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 18 JBWE 24 Aug (K. Feustel).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 24 Aug; max 8 Riverhead Sod Fields, SUFF 28 Aug (AnW).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1100 Jam Bay 19 Aug (SB).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 JBWE 21 Aug (TD, JGI, PMo).

RUFF: Jam Bay 25 Jun-1 Jul (K. Feustel, mob).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 950 MI 17 Jul (PMo, PJJ, SSM).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Timber Pt, SUFF 5 Aug (JGI); max 6 Jam Bay 21 Aug (M. Ryan).

Wilson's Phalarope: Jam Bay 11-12 Jun (mob); JBWE 1 Aug (mob).

Red-necked Phalarope: Jam Bay 4 Jun (mob).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: three reports from shelf-break e of HudCan: 15 & 19 Aug (JSh et al.) and 29 Aug (SLP; DGo, mob).

Black-headed Gull: Jam Bay 7, 14 Aug (mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: many reps of 1-2 imm along oceanfront thru period, with higher counts (all imms) in early Jun and again in Aug: 4 JBSP 5 Jun (TH), 3 Democrat Pt, SUFF 4 Jun (SSM et al.), 3 Old Inlet 17 Jun (DR), 18 JBWE

1 Aug (BF), 26 JBSP 21 Aug (BF, TH), and 16 Sailor's Haven, SUFF 27 Aug (DR).

BRIDLED TERN: GGI 13 Aug (JDi, ph.).

ARCTIC TERN: just two reps from MI: ad 2 Jul (SSM, ph.); SY & TY 10 Jul (PMo, TS, ph.).

SANDWICH TERN: MI 25 Jul (PMo et al., ph.).

PIGEONS-PARROTS

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Elizabeth Morton NWR, SUFF 27-31 Aug (mob, ph.).

Red-headed Woodpecker: RMSP 15 Jun (J. Stocker), unus site-date combination.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): now regular RICH.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 4 Jun, last northbound; arr southbound 8 Aug; Meadow Croft Estate, SUFF 27 Aug (DR), furthest east.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CP 14 Aug (M. Collins); PP 18 Aug (K. Miller).

Eastern Kingbird: max 432 CICrP 23 Aug (DGo, SB).

Common Raven: widely reported throughout; *intro*.

Cliff Swallow: Four Sparrow Marsh, KING 4 Jun (H.Lopes, J. Malbin), last northbound; summer max 19 Pelham Bay P, BRON 30 Jun (M. Benoit); 1-3 Van Cortland P, BRON thru Jun; RMSP 23 Aug (K. Feustel); Cupsogue CP, SUFF 28 Aug (T. Lenz, J. McGowan).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 CICrP 27 Aug (T. Preston).

Swainson's Thrush: Hempstead SP, NASS 4 Jun (JGI), late; arr southbound Kissena P, QUEE 7 Aug (J. Keane, ph.), v. early.

LONGSPURS-WARBLED

Worm-eating Warbler: CP 6 Jun (E. Rouleau) & Forest P, QUEE 9 Jun (CF), unus dates; arr CP 12 Aug; general arr 20 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 3 PP 8 Aug (K. Toomey).

Northern Waterthrush: max 23 CICrP 23 Aug (DGo, S. Blodgett).

Golden-winged Warbler: PP 19 Aug (L. Ewing); Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH 24 Aug (ACi, M. King).

Prothonotary Warbler: CRSP 4 Jun (K&SF).

Kentucky Warbler: CP 13 Aug (G. Henry).

American Redstart: max 95 CICrP 27 Aug (DGo).

Yellow Warbler: 63 Belmont L area, SUFF 4 Jun (BBE et al.), illustrative of breeding density.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: CP 7 Aug, followed by 5 reps 18 Aug and later; early.

Yellow-throated Warbler: CRSP & vic thru.

TOWHEES-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: Heckscher SP, SUFF 4 Jun (JGI, ph.); 2 EPCAL 4 Jun (ACO et al.).

Blue Grosbeak: 2-3 Mt Loretto thru Jun (mob), 2 Freshkills, RICH 26 Jun (R. Zucker), FBF 27 Jul (DGo, SSI), pair with 2 yng Calverton, SUFF 23 Jul (E. Gyllenhaal, A. Hale), Bridgehampton, SUFF 1 Jun (J. Giunta).

Dickeissel: Lemon Cr Pier, RICH 16 Aug (ACi).



STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

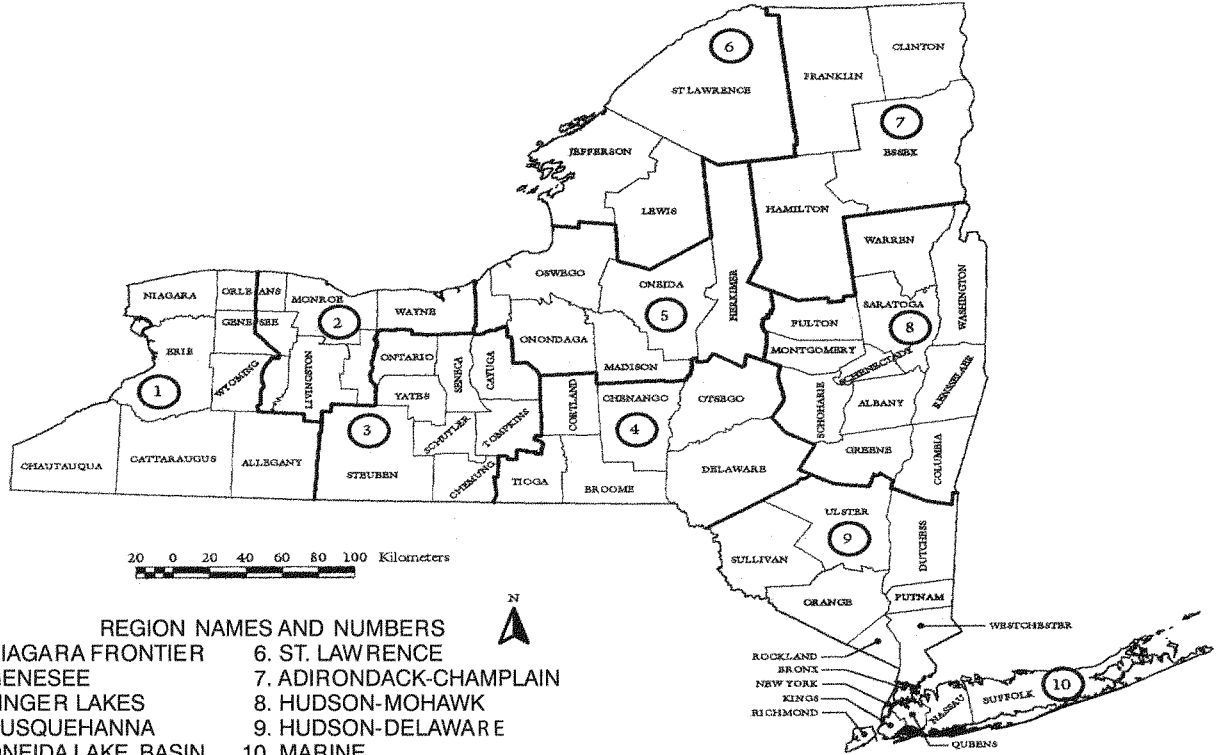
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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