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CONTENTS

Nesting behavior by Yellow-crowned Night-Herons
in Middletown, Orange County, New York
Joyce M. Depew 314

Breeding between Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows in a
Syracuse, New York cemetery
Deborah Dohne 317

Patch Birding: The patchiness of patch birders
Ken Feustel 324

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.,
72nd Annual Meeting, Kingston, New York, 14 September, 2019 325

Editor’s Note 332

Highlights of the Season, Summer 2019
Michael Cooper 333

Regional Reports 337

Photo Gallery 361

Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines
and Map of Reporting Regions 411

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Front Cover – Western Kingbird, Croton Point, *Westchester*, 24 Aug 2019, © Bob Lewis.

Back Cover – Gray Kingbird, Smith Point CP, *Suffolk*, 21 Jul 2019, © Camron Robertson.

NESTING BEHAVIOR BY YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS IN MIDDLETOWN, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

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On 15 April, 2019 I invited my eight-year-old grandson, Benjamin Depew, to come birding with me since he was on spring vacation from school. We have been doing this kind of activity a couple of times a year since he was four years old. Ben has shown rapid growth in his skills observing wildlife.

It was a typical spring day in rural Orange County near Middletown, NY, which is an agricultural and residential region that includes many acres of fields, woodland, and swamp. We started out on Prosperous Valley Rd. near Moonbeams Wildlife Sanctuary to eventually connect to Vanburenville Rd. The temperature was around 65° F, and partly sunny. April's erratic temperatures had been swinging between 30° to warm temps of 79°. Precipitation this year had been well above average with the land and waterways saturated. Since all trees were devoid of foliage it made roadside birding quite easy.

Ben was observing through his window as we traveled on Vanburenville Rd. Suddenly excited, he proclaimed that he had just seen a bird that he believed to be a Green Heron. I pulled off the road and backed up to the driveway of a home which had a small pond in the yard. Instead of seeing a Green Heron at the pond, I discovered it was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)! I explained to Ben that this was a "record" and rare bird for Orange County. We were both thrilled! I took photographs and reported it on the "WhatsApp" alert for other Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club members to be notified in hopes that some others would get to see this bird while it was still present. As a result, other birders arrived later on and were able to see it. At that time there was only one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron seen. This was the third occurrence of the species recorded in Orange County by Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club members, according to Kenneth McDermott.

Exactly one week later on 22 April, bird club members Scott Baldinger and Bill Fiero reported that there were two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at the same location on Vanburenville Rd. Scott put out the notice to our Edgar Mearns Bird Club on the "WhatsApp" alert. Club member Ken McDermott also joined Scott and Bill in their observations of courtship displays, these displays indicating the presence of both a male and a female. As a side note, the sex of these herons is difficult to determine if mating behavior is not observed. (Unfortunately, I wasn't able to see these mating displays but observed the two herons roosting later in the afternoon).

I continued observing the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons a few times per week from the road until, by chance, at the end of April, I met the owner of the property. She was formerly an active birder, named Eleanor Hajas. She granted me permission to enter her property in order to safely observe the herons from a location closer to them. By this time, the herons were spending more time in the adjacent swamp than in the pond. The swamp is bordered on one side by a stone wall on Eleanor's property, ending on Vanburenville Rd. and located about 30 feet from the pond where the first heron was originally discovered. The tree leaves and swamp grasses were maturing rapidly and now the herons were able to hide more effectively than in mid-April. During foraging they would hunt prey either from tree limbs that leaned close to water, or by walking along edges of the swamp. Sometimes they would hunt prey in the pond towards the early evening.

On 18 May, two teams of birders from the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club were able to document the sighting of the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons during our Break 100 Competition. We added this to our rare bird records in our club's Orange County data. During this month these herons seemed to establish a routine of actively foraging in early morning around 7:30 a.m. and early evening around 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., whereas, in April, they could be seen at various times of the day.

Behavioral observations indicated that one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was more wary than the other. On a few occasions one would be seen heading toward the pond confidently and the other lagging behind, acting more cautious. On one particular evening the cautious heron got frightened when it saw me and quickly exited to the swamp. The first heron casually followed behind but didn't appear as upset as the other. This behavior was also noticed by Eleanor Hajas, as she was watching the two herons together from her window. We both speculated on which sex was likely to be more wary!

On 18 June I witnessed the pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons engaged in nest-building. The tree they selected was a white oak that was leaning over the swamp about fifty yards in from Vanburenville Rd. I happened to be in the swamp a few yards from the oak tree and the herons were unaware of me this time. The limb they chose was approximately 25 to 30 feet above the water. Both herons were stripping twigs from the tree and one was placing them on the limb which would hold the nest. They made croaking-type vocalizations to each other during this activity. I was able to photograph the nest building which shows one heron with a twig in its bill. A few days later I returned to find a completed nest in the oak tree and photographed it. This nest had an irregular shape. I've estimated its size at about 15 to 18 inches long. It didn't appear to be lined with any other material and was not very deep. The photos associated with this article may be found in the color centerfold on page 364.

On 21 June, at 6:15 p.m., I observed one Yellow-crowned Night Heron coming out of the swamp to the pond in Eleanor's yard. I felt compelled to hide

behind a tree because the heron was acting suspicious when I pulled into the driveway. When it realized that I was not a threat, it continued to walk slowly around the pond. I noticed that it preferred to hunt in the shadowed water of the pond while the sun was setting. A while later, it poised itself, intently peering into the water and snapped up a very large crayfish!

After the nest was built, I did not observe any change in the birds' feeding habits or other behaviors. I checked the nest location several times and there was no evidence that it was being used. Research indicates that "Yellow-crowned Night-Herons breed once a year, from early spring to early summer." (www.biokids.umich.edu>Critter Catalog, Subject: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), section subtitle: "How do they reproduce?" category "Mating Systems"). According to this piece of information, mating season was likely to be over and too late for them to produce offspring.

By mid-July our weather was hot and very humid with temperatures ranging from 78° to a high of 98°. I curtailed some of my observations due to the heat and returned there 23 July. The water levels in both the pond and the swamp had receded about 12 to 14 inches in depth since the pattern of frequent rainy days had ceased. I began to think that perhaps there wasn't enough food for the herons in this location. However, in spite of receding water levels, there was still a significant amount of water for aquatic animals to survive in both the pond and swamp. I observed turtles, small fishes, frogs, and a resident muskrat in the swamp going about its daily routine. Lack of food could not have been the issue. Throughout this time period the herons did not appear in either the swamp or pond and I didn't hear their vocalizations as I had in the past months. I continued my visits every week in August and have concluded that sometime after 8 July these herons must have relocated from the Vanburenville Rd. location and perhaps had begun to migrate since breeding season was over.

During my five months of observation of the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on Vanburenville Rd., I successfully photographed one or both of the birds fourteen times between 15 April and 8 July, 2019. I have submitted photographs on my reports to eBird. The location is listed as Swamp Location or Vanburenville Rd., Orange County, NY.

Many thanks to my grandson Benjamin Depew for his keen observance which resulted in the discovery of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Orange County, and to Eleanor Hajas for her support of my study, her observations, and access to her property. Finally, much appreciation goes to Scott Baldinger, William Fiero, and Kenneth McDermott for their contributions of experienced observations and record keeping included in this report.

BREEDING BETWEEN CLAY-COLORED AND CHIPPING SPARROWS IN A SYRACUSE, NEW YORK CEMETERY

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On the morning of 21 May, 2019, I began an exciting summer-long journey, bearing witness to the nesting of a female Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) paired with a male Clay-colored Sparrow (*S. pallida*). This was a special opportunity to study and document the full process including territory establishment, courtship, nesting, and raising of the offspring. Would they be successful?

It all started serendipitously during a regular visit to Oakwood Cemetery when I heard a Clay-colored Sparrow singing its usual buzzy song, a first for me at the site and scarce generally in New York. Oakwood is an old (c.1859), large (160 acre), hilly, urban cemetery in Syracuse, NY. Habitat is typical of old cemeteries in the area, with many large trees, grassy lawns, and patches of scattered scrubby vegetation. It is mowed, but not too often, and is never fertilized, nor are herbicides or pesticides used on the property. I was excited to get a new (and unusual) bird for my local patch and went back in the evening to see if it was still there. It was, and it was still singing. This time, however, it was doing an alternate buzzy song comprised of different tones ending on an impossibly low note that seemed incredible coming from such a small bird. Consulting the Sibley app on my mobile device, I was surprised to discover the song was not included there. As the story continued to unfold, it turned out that wasn't the only special thing happening. I spent the next two months observing, making detailed field notes and sketches, and documenting the bird with audio recordings and photography.

During the first few days following discovery I located the Clay-colored in four adjacent sections of the cemetery, covering about six acres. But after the first week or so, all activity was confined to one area. It had chosen a territory! Would it find a mate? The Clay-colored Sparrow advertised its presence by singing from eight different boundary trees—maple, beech, oak, tulip, ash, spruce, and balsam fir—defining an area of roughly .6 acres. Its favorite perch was a bare branch 20' up the 65' high by 45' diameter Norway spruce but soon came to sing from interior evergreen bushes and monuments as well, often just after leaving the nest bush. The spruce however was always the go-to spot.

As June arrived, I realized migration was likely over and another Clay-colored had not found the first. Upstate NY is at the eastern edge of the species' range and the species is thinly distributed even in good habitat. Wondering how long the bird would stay, things suddenly got very exciting when on 5 June it was seen feeding a female Chipping Sparrow and presenting it with tiny sticks. Courtship! It had found a mate. The Clay-colored continued singing and

vigorously chased other Chipping Sparrows from the territory. On 9 June I confirmed nest building in the upper third of a 5' 6" high by 36" wide evergreen bush, both birds entering and leaving the spot frequently and sometimes together. This is somewhat lower than Chipping Sparrow nests I've seen in the past, but it is higher than what might have been chosen by a female Clay-colored, which average only 10-12" from the ground (Grant and Knapton 2012).



Male Clay-colored Sparrow singing from his favorite perch (© Deborah Dohne, 2020).

The area near the nest site is one of the busier areas of the cemetery, with both car and pedestrian traffic during the day. My routine was to alter days where I would conduct brief 'check-in' visits with longer observations. For these I would sit low to the ground, always in the same position under a distant tree. It seemed both birds were used to my presence, recognized me (and my dog), and carried on with their activities while we were there. However, if other people came close the birds would stop all activity, freeze, hide, or go high up in nearby trees. The nest was placed in a well-concealed thick cluster of needles on the outer extremity of the shrub. By mid June food-carrying and intense activity at the site confirmed that the eggs had hatched and young were being fed. Suddenly a second Chipping Sparrow was seen carrying food to the nest—a helper. Research confirmed that cooperative breeding has been observed in the species (Middleton and Prescott 1989), with other Chippies sometimes pitching in with parental tasks, possibly family members, unpaired birds, or failed nesters. It is also possible that the second Chipping Sparrow was a rival

male and that its investment reflected some possibility that one or more of the offspring were its own, as was suspected in a somewhat similar scenario involving Cerulean Warblers and a Northern Parula in Suffolk County in 1994 (Lindsay and Vezo 1995). Cooperative behavior has not been reported for Clay-colored (Grant and Knapton 2012), and indeed the Clay-colored Sparrow often chased the helper Chipping, which was always hyper-alert and had its crown raised. It would land on a nearby monument, hop all compass points, and make a mad dash for the nest to deliver food before the Clay-colored could intercept. Sometimes the helper would have a fat caterpillar hanging out of its bill as it flew in circles trying to evade the Clay-colored. In this battle of biology the helper persevered, often getting through to feed the young.

Density of the nest tree prevented me from seeing the young branch out, but finally on 29 June the first bird fledged. It was found that morning having flown some distance on its own, being fed by the Clay-colored Sparrow as the female Chipping and helper tended to the remaining birds still in and near the nest, soon to make their own first flights. Over the next two days, the remaining two hybrid offspring would fledge. The last bird remained unsure of itself and remained close to the nest tree, attended to by the mother Chipping. The Clay-colored and helper Chippie fed the more adventurous, farther-flying young birds. The mother Chipping remained close to the nest and I wondered if perhaps a fourth young might be present, but it was never seen and I did not look in the nest while it was occupied. The fledglings made longer and more frequent flights, always becoming very animated before being fed, rarely together in the same spot. They continued being fed in trees exclusively for the first nine days, then often on the ground.

The eBird database contains only about a dozen records accepted as hybrids, mostly single birds seen as adults during migration, all but three from the eastern edge of the Clay-colored Sparrow range. It is difficult to assess how frequently pair-bonding behavior occurs between these closely related species, but such pairs appear to be very rare. In New York State, a male Clay-colored Sparrow paired with a female Chipping Sparrow in Columbia County in 1983 and 1984 (Novak 1988). In that case a nest but no eggs or young were observed the first year, but a nest with young was observed in 1984. Thus, the present report is one of only two where actual breeding was observed, and the first in which fledged offspring were observed contemporaneously with the parents. Although the juvenile plumages of these two closely related species are so similar that specific hybrid traits were not discernible in the newly fledged young, a molting immature seen in the cemetery 6 September clearly showed plumage characteristics of both parent species. It is overwhelmingly likely that this hybrid immature was one of the offspring from the hybrid pairing described in this article.



Male Clay-colored Sparrow feeding ten-day old offspring (© Deborah Dohne, 2020).

My last encounter with the Clay-colored Sparrow and its family came on 19 July when mowing in the area commenced. The bird sang from its favorite perches before the group wandered off to a quieter area, the young still dependent on their parents for food. If not for the disturbance, would they have attempted a second brood? In August, when I was positive that activity at the nesting spot was done for the year, I located the exact position of the nest and observed its construction. I was surprised by how difficult it was to find given the small size of the bush, but after spreading the needled branches apart I came upon it—the birds' sweet nest home. Well-concealed and fully intact, the small, well-supported nest was protected from rain and constructed of finely woven materials. There were no remains or shells but only the hard parts of several beetles. Late summer was spent searching for the Clay-colored Sparrow and hybrid offspring but was hindered by poor sightlines and tall grass in the large and hilly cemetery, the many sparrows there not yet flocking together and thus spread throughout in family groups. By September, large mixed-age Chipping Sparrow flocks formed and became conspicuous, and on the 6th I observed one of the hybrid offspring, now fully independent, busy going about the business of being a sparrow preparing for fall migration.

Reflecting on the experience, some questions arise. What will the fledglings look like as adults and will they return to the cemetery to nest? Was the helper bird a failed nester, some familial relation to or former mate of the mother perhaps, and had the mother been a helper once herself? Was the Clay-colored Sparrow a young bird making its first attempt at breeding? If not, had

it bred nearby previously and if so, was that also a hybrid pairing? And how would I spend summer 2020—will it return next year?



Chipping Sparrow helper with food showing typical raised crown seen before each attempt to get to nest (© Deborah Dohne, 2020).

TIMELINE AND HIGHLIGHTS OF FIELD NOTES

May 21: Clay-colored Sparrow (CCSP) arrives at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, NY.

May 25: A singing Olive-sided Flycatcher is nearby as the sparrow continues advertising its presence. Recorded the two species singing at the same time, an unusual scenario. **May 31:** Day 10. Territorial boundaries are apparent and well defined by singing perches.

June 4: CCSP seen carrying food but unknown where it went.

June 5: Day 15 on territory. CCSP singing a little less, mainly alternate song. Observed courtship behavior with a female Chipping Sparrow!! (CHSP) First CCSP fed a caterpillar, then presented tiny sticks to the CHSP.

June 6: CCSP continues to sing main and alternate songs in defense of territory. Chipping Sparrows from adjacent areas chased from the clearly-bounded territory. Pays no attention to E. Kingbird, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Am. Robin, Mourning Dove,

and Baltimore Oriole nesting in the area. CHSP pairs nesting in three of the adjacent sections seem to have conceded the CCSP territory.

June 8: It's amazing how consistently-interpreted the territorial boundary is. CCSP continues to escort interlopers over the line. CCSP and CHSP mate forage together on the ground and stay in close proximity.

June 9: Day 19. Nest site confirmed! CCSP and CHSP entering/leaving nest site together, an evergreen shrub, thick and dense especially in the upper third, 5'6" H x 36" D. Birds never seen with nesting material. Where did it come from and how/when did they get it there? Birds enter bush away from nest then move toward it from within.

June 14: Day 24. I think there is a hatchling but won't disturb the birds to get a better look. Both parents in and out of the nest tree regularly, switching places. First observation of this behavior.

June 18: Entering/exiting from bottom of tree (nest closer to top). Constant activity – coming and going about every three minutes. Presume all the eggs have hatched. CCSP singing as time allows.

June 19: Day 29 on territory. Helper Chippie seen delivering food for the first time and being chased by CCSP. Hectic schedule for the adults – feeding young and themselves. Returned in evening. Both parents entering nest tree with food. Male singing a lot in between, lots of activity the whole visit. In and out every couple of minutes.

June 20: Defending territory even in pouring rain.

June 21: Female with big caterpillar flies around area, as previously, before entering to feed young.

June 22: Female CHSP removes fecal sac and drops in road 75' away. I still haven't heard the young, don't know if they are quiet or if I'm just too far away. Aggressive CHSP at boundary repeatedly ejected by CCSP dad.

June 24: Day 34, short visit. Both parents attending to nest activity.

June 25: CCSP with food and first time I've heard the nestlings. Visits every 1-2 minutes. CCSP chases away the helper Chippie which was carrying food! Helper repeatedly tries to reach nest but CCSP chases it – at one point both were flying with food. CCSP too busy to sing. Nestlings make begging call only when adults are near the nest, including the helper, but are quiet otherwise.

June 27: Activities continue even with mowing in the section. Helper Chippie continues trying to feed nestlings.

June 29: Day 39. FIRST FLEDGLING!! I've been waiting for this day! In tree, one of the closest to nest bush, medium size maple. Being fed by CCSP. Moved around a little on branches within tree.

June 30: Second bird fledges, still at least one in the nest. Being fed by helper Chippie and CCSP, the latter too busy to object. Mother CHSP still attending to young at the nest.

July 1: Likely three fledglings, but only two seen at once, being fed by CCSP and helper. CCSP finding time to sing alternate song.

July 2: Young widely separated, being fed by helper and CCSP.

July 4: Day 44. Two fledglings together in same tree now a fair distance from nest.

July 7: Fledglings seen flying between trees within territory! Pair of CHSP seen nest building right at the edge of territory.

July 9: Day 49. Finally get decent photos of immature hybrids, being fed by CCSP. Second day I've seen them on the ground, also flying around more. CCSP doing limited singing; regular and alternate song. CHSP in adjacent area seen feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird that was constantly begging.

July 11: CCSP goes back to chasing away the helper CHSP. 'Thanks but no thanks.' Day 12 since the first young left the nest. Short visit, left them alone, one young seen.

July 17: CCSP singing a lot, like before the eggs hatched, alternate song only. Thinking about a second brood?

July 19: Day 59. Singing alternate song. This turned out to be the last day I observed the CCSP and its family together near the nest site. Departure certainly hastened by mowing taking place today. CCSP was at this location May 21-July 19. Likely still around but could not find.

Late July/August: Many CHSP family flocks throughout the cemetery. Hybrid young not seen.

Sept. 6: Large flocks of CHSP now, as many as 30 birds together, few small groups. After looking for weeks I finally find one of the hybrids! Feathers have grown in, influence from both parents noticeable. Buffier overall and in face pattern than pure Chippies of the same age. It was to be my last sighting and the end of the journey, at least for this year.

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THE PATCHINESS OF PATCH BIRDERS

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“I would like to volunteer for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas,” said the voice on the other end of the phone. Thus began my introduction into the phenomenon of patch birders as I took on my role as regional coordinator of the 2000 Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA).

When I assumed the duties of Regional Coordinator (Long Island and NYC) of the 2000 BBA the term “patch” would have had little meaning to most Long Island birders. Visiting local birding areas was well known at the time. Many, but not all of these locations were not advertised, and generally consisted of small properties near the birder’s home that could be covered in a relatively short period of time. These small areas were not birding hotspots, posing a real challenge to the birder to find the occasional uncommon species. Patches were sometimes simply referred to as a favorite birding area.

The nature of the BBA protocol focused on birding locations outside of popular birding sites. In certain instances, these properties may have been part of a birder’s “private” patch. This revealed a theme I encountered a number of times—patch territoriality, or as I sometimes referred to it “What is (insert name) doing in my block?” Soothing ruffled feathers (pun intended) became part of my regional coordinator duties.

At the time of my taking on the regional coordinator job I had been birding for over twenty-five years and thought I had a good sense of the makeup of the birding community. I was wrong—very wrong. Being the BBA coordinator exposed me to a whole segment of the birding community that was active and vibrant but not part of the field birding and reporting scene.

Perhaps I should have known that there was a significant part of the birding community that was hiding in plain sight. In 2013, well after the 2000 BBA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service released a report that estimated there were forty-seven million birders in the U.S. Many active birders (including me) thought that this number was a gross overestimate. However, upon reflecting on my Atlas experience and the percentage of that forty-seven million that were considered “backyard” birders—forty-one million (a very broad definition), I have since changed my opinion.

But what about the intrepid atlaser who called me? I quickly determined where this individual lived and assigned them the appropriate block. The atlasers also received maps and information packets. A data baseline for each block had been established in New York’s first BBA in 1980-1985. Unless there had been significant development in a breeding block it seemed reasonable that an atlaser could approach or exceed the number of breeding species recorded in the first atlas.

As the first breeding season of the BBA was coming to a close, the data sheets started to roll in. Our atlaser had dutifully recorded eighteen species in a block that had observed fifty-five breeding species in the previous BBA. Well, it was not overly impressive but a solid start. After all, there were four more years to improve the totals.

The years quickly passed, but something was clearly amiss in the breeding bird totals I was receiving. The total number of breeding birds was not increasing but the breeding confirmation rate was increasing. What was going on?, I had to ask diplomatically. After all, you do not annoy your volunteers. It became apparent that for some atlasers twenty-three species was the extent of their bird identification skills. The other, more telling aspect was that some atlasers had never birded outside their patch, despite breeding blocks being five kilometers by five kilometers and many containing good breeding bird habitat.

I urged the atlasers (the above referenced atlaser is an amalgamation of individuals I dealt with) to visit other productive locations in their block but the numbers did not significantly change. My patch atlasers were going to stay loyal to their patch. In the last two years of the BBA I finally threw in the towel and covered these blocks myself, defeated by the patchiness of patch birders!



**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
72nd ANNUAL MEETING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held on September 14, 2019, at the Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel and Conference Center in Kingston, New York. President Michael DeSha called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. Roll call of member clubs revealed that 29 delegates from 17 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Shirley Shaw made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2018 annual meeting, which had been circulated previously. Brian Dugan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Michael DeSha

This report is a summary of NYSOA activities over the past year beginning with the 2018 Annual Meeting. Highlights of the year include a highly successful 71st Annual Meeting, and continuing intensive planning for the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas effort.

The October 2018 **71st Annual Meeting** in Henrietta, NY was hosted by both the Rochester Birding Association and the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. The event was a total success even though rain dampened the initial field trips. There were 187 registrants. The attendees at the Saturday-night banquet

enjoyed an entertaining talk by Greg Miller, one of the participants in a birding big-year three-way contest whose story is recounted in the book and subsequent movie, *The Big Year*.

The **Awards Committee** chaired by Bill Ostrander presented Stoner Awards to several outstanding young birders. The Gordon Meade Award, given to those individuals who have provided significant service to NYSOA, was presented to Tom Burke, *in absentia*, for his outstanding work as a long-standing NYSARC Committee member. The President's Award was presented to Carena Pooth for her long service in support of the Young Birders. Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to the host clubs

The **Bylaws Committee** chaired by Robert Spahn and ably assisted by Shirley Shaw and Tim Baird produced further proposed changes to our Bylaws to conform them to meet New York State regulations on meeting notifications. The resulting changes were approved by the Board of Directors in regular session, for presentation and adoption at this annual meeting. Member Organizations were notified by E-mail prior to this Annual Meeting in accordance with the Bylaws.

The **Conservation Committee**, chaired by Andy Mason and including Joan Collins and Brian Dugan took on a variety of issues. Of particular note is NYSOA's endorsement of the American Bird Conservancy's letter to the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Security in opposition to the building of a border wall. An ongoing issue is developing with respect to eBird posting of sites of nesting species, particularly owls and other raptors, and subsequent harassment by large numbers of people who are alerted to the location. The Committee is also working to develop a stance with respect to large-scale solar farms.

Carena Pooth compiles the **County and State Bird Listing Report** for those who are interested in keeping and comparing a list of species seen throughout the state and in the various counties. The results are published in the April issue of *New York Birders* and are available on line at the NYSOA website.

The **Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trip Committee** is really the group that promotes NYSOA. It has historically been without a Chair, but now Brian Dugan has responded and volunteered to head this important committee. We appreciate his volunteering. Mary Beth Warburton organized a wonderful field trip to the 1000 Islands area for NYSOA members. In an important new initiative, based upon the suggestion of Carena Pooth for increasing publicity, NYSOA Board members and others are providing NYSOA-related articles to our member organizations for inclusion in their newsletters.

Our **Membership Manager**, Joan Collins, has continued to provide the focus for interactions with the members and receiving membership renewals and applications. Joan and Pat Aitken, our **Circulation Manager**, along with Carena Pooth work to make sure our publications reach the membership.

Thanks to them for their help and particularly for Joan's taking over as Membership Manager. We really appreciate it.

The Kingbird, under editorship of Shai Mitra, is getting back to schedule, with the likelihood of the publication of five issues in 2019. A significant change is the appointment of Pat Lindsay as Regional Reports Editor, replacing Bob Spahn, who served in this capacity for many years. I particularly want to thank him for these years of service to NYSOA and *The Kingbird*. Joan Collins is on track to produce four outstanding issues of *New York Birders* and Carena Pooth keeps the print version of the **New York State Checklist** updated as changes are made by the AOS. Sales of the printed checklist are solid. Thanks to Carena up-to-date additions, splits and lumps, and name changes are accommodated in the online version of the checklist almost as soon as they occur.

The **New York State Young Birders Club** thrived under the careful mentorship of Carena Pooth in the eleven years since its inception in 2008. It is almost impossible to imagine this organization without her, and it was clearly a labor of love on her part. We are grateful that 5 parents and another adult have stepped in to take over most of the functions formerly undertaken by Carena.

The **Research Committee**, chaired by Greg Lawrence, oversees many of the projects relating to field birding. Bill Ostrander compiles the Waterfowl Count, on which the DEC relies for its waterfowl assessments. The NY Breeding Bird Atlas III will continue to be the focus of research for the next six or seven years. While the previous two Atlases were directly under the control of NYSOA, this Atlas project is being administered by a collection of entities, among them NYSOA, Cornell Lab, New York Audubon, and ESF, which will be operating under DEC and receiving Federal Grant money for the project. As reported last year, NYSOA will not be able to control this project as it has the previous Atlases. Nevertheless, the NYSOA Board has committed to working on this next iteration and things seem to be progressing well. NYSOA Atlas objectives are being accommodated. Kathy Schneider, appointed by NYSOA, continues as co-chair of the Atlas Steering Committee. Since I will be ending my term of office, I will no longer be a part of the Steering Committee because I view my participation as being in a NYSOA executive capacity. Robert Spahn, Joan Collins, and Greg Lawrence are continuing as members of the Steering Committee, so NYSOA is well represented. Julie Hart has been appointed Project Coordinator. Most Regional Coordinator positions have also been filled.

Carena Pooth, **Website and Information Committee** Chair, keeps the website up-to-date with the latest NYSOA information and news.

Doug Gochfeld was appointed to another term on the **NYSARC Committee**. Derek Rogers and Jay McGowan were also appointed.

Again this year, I sincerely want to note that it has been my pleasure to work with this Board, the officers and Committee Chairs. Thank you for your service.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. DeSha, President

Treasurer's Report – Andy Mason

Andy presented written reports including a balance sheet, a statement of general operating fund activity, and a statement of the activities and balances in other funds. Andy mentioned that the NY BBA III fund was established during 2019, so it will show up on next year's report. Donations to that fund are welcome. Andy also reported on the board's recent actions to invest a portion of NYSOA's assets in stock and bond funds, and to begin publishing *The Kingbird* electronically, with associated changes to the dues structure. Andy is finishing his tenth and final year as treasurer.

NYSOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee – Stephen Chang

Mike DeSha delivered the audit committee's report. The committee reported in August 2019 that it had examined the 2018 financial reports and found no problems.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn

Bob presented the two minor changes to the bylaws that were necessitated by changes to New York state laws. The proposed changes, which concern the timing of notification of meetings, had been circulated in advance to the member organizations. Mike Birmingham moved to accept the proposed changes. Chita McKinney seconded, and the proposed change was unanimously adopted.

Awards Committee – Bill Ostrander

Bill reported on the awards to be presented at the evening banquet. They included three Lillian B. Stoner Awards, three President's Awards, and an Emanuel Levine Memorial Award.

Conservation Committee – Andy Mason

Andy provided a summary of the committee's activities over the past year. Issues covered included the proposed border wall in Texas, proposed development at the EPCAL site in Suffolk County, and a wind power project near Lake Ontario. The committee is also researching the effects of large-scale solar power development on bird habitat. Andy reported that involvement of local birders is needed to address the issue at Doodletown in Bear Mountain State Park, where last year a road race prevented birder access on a May weekend. Julie Hart reported that the NY BBA III committees are working with eBird on a policy to hide information on nesting locations of sensitive species.

Julie also reported that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has issued a proposed update to the list of threatened and endangered species, and is taking comments on it. Rich Guthrie brought up the issue of the rising recreational use of hovercraft in sensitive wetlands, particularly the tidal marshes of the Hudson River Estuary. He urged the committee to petition state agencies to regulate the use of these craft in sensitive areas.

County and State Listing Project – Carena Pooth

Carena reported that interest in county listing remains strong, with 129 reports submitted for 2018. The detailed report is available on the NYSOA website, and it includes some of the comments from the participants. The submission form for 2019 is available on the website, and reports can be submitted online.

Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trips Committee –

Mike DeSha reported that Joan Collins plans to work with Mary Beth Warburton to plan a winter field trip in the Adirondacks, where there is currently an irruption of Red Crossbills being observed.

Membership and Circulation – Joan Collins, Pat Aitken

Joan and Pat were unable to attend, but submitted a written report of membership statistics. The report shows that overall membership levels remain stable, with an upward trend in the number renewing at the “Contributing” level.

New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) – Willie D’Anna

No report.

New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) – Carena Pooth

Carena reported that she has turned over leadership of NYSYBC to the new adult leaders:

Co-chairs: Emily Van Gelder and Rosanne Vinson

Treasurer: Moto Yoshimura

Membership: Lauren Scott

Field Trips: Susan Joseph (continuing since 2017)

Scholarships: Emily Wein

Carena Pooth continues to run the website, and to serve the club in an advisory role. She reports that there is a need for an additional adult volunteer to assist Susan with coordination of field trips. Carena also presented a written report summarizing membership statistics, field trips, scholarships, and partner organizations. NYSYBC has awarded more than \$36,000 since the scholarship program began in 2010. The scholarships facilitate attendance by young birders at birding camps and conservation-oriented programs. The club’s 2020 kickoff event will be hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon.

Publications –

Shai Mitra reported that all of the vacant regional editor positions for *The Kingbird* have been filled. Michael DeWispelaere has taken over Region 4, and John Haas has taken over Region 9. Region 10 will be split by season, with Shai continuing to edit the summer report. Doug Futuyma has taken over the winter season, and Brendan Fogarty will handle the spring and fall reports for Region 10. Patricia Lindsay has taken over from Bob Spahn as the overall editor of the regional reports. Pat is also taking over the compilation of spring arrival date tables, with guidance from Bob, who has compiled them for many years. Shai reports that the plan to get publication of *The Kingbird* back on schedule is proving effective, with steady progress being made.

Mike DeSha relayed a report on *New York Birders* from Joan Collins. The next issue is expected in October.

Carena Pooth reported on the latest updates to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*, which are based on the latest taxonomy changes from the American Ornithological Society.

Research – Greg Lawrence

Greg reported that there are Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes that need to be filled. He encouraged anyone interested to visit the U.S. Geological Survey's BBS website to see the locations of the routes and sign up to cover them.

Bill Ostrander reported on the annual waterfowl count. He noted that a Region 9 coordinator is needed for the count.

Kathy Schneider presented a written report on planning for NY BBA III. The report summarizes the work of Julie Hart as Atlas Project Coordinator, and of the various subcommittees planning the atlas. The atlas website is active and includes a store with merchandise bearing the NY BBA III logo. It also contains detailed information on how to use breeding codes and a map of the atlas blocks. An online block sign-up system will be activated when the atlas begins. The steering committee has selected regional coordinators for most regions of the state, though candidates are still being sought for the Syracuse and Rochester areas. Kathy reported that a chair is needed for the development subcommittee, which will need to engage in fundraising activities throughout the atlas period. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology raised \$675,000 to help fund that state's second BBA, which took place over the past five years. Those funds were needed in addition to the state and federal funding help they received. NY BBA III plans to use some fundraising methods that proved successful in Wisconsin, including a "sponsor a species" program.

Julie Hart reported that flyers about NY BBA III are printed and available for distribution. She and the regional coordinators are available to do talks and 3-hour workshops on NY BBA III for bird clubs around the state.

Mike DeSha encouraged all NYSOA members to make a financial contribution to NY BBA III.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

Carena presented a written report on the NYSOA website. It includes statistics on which pages on the site get the most use. She noted that the membership page, including the online dues payment system, has seen increasing usage in the past couple of years. This is likely due to the fact that renewal notices are being sent by email, with a link to renew online. Online renewals save time for the membership volunteers and money for NYSOA. The new page about NY BBA III is now in the top ten most visited pages on the site.

Election of Officers

On behalf of the nominating committee, Bob Adamo presented the following slate for election:

Officers: (one year terms)

President: Shirley Shaw

Vice President: Greg Lawrence

Recording Secretary: John Kent

Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan

Directors: (terms ending in fall 2021)

Patricia Aitken

Brian Dugan

Brendan Fogarty

Lucretia Grosshans

Director: (term ending in fall 2020)

Gerald Thurn (replacing Shirley Shaw for the remainder of her term)

Auditing Committee: (one year term)

Stephen Chang (Chair)

Tom Burke

Peter Capainolo

Nominating Committee: (one year term)

Robert Adamo (Chair)

Michael DeSha

Lucretia Grosshans

Andy Mason moved to cast one ballot to elect the above slate of officers for the coming year and directors for the two-year term ending in fall 2021. Tim Baird seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Shai Mitra moved to elect Gerald Thurn to fill the remainder of Shirley Shaw's term as a director. Doug Beattie seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Bob Adamo moved to elect the auditing committee as listed above. Brian Dugan seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Shirley Shaw moved to elect the nominating committee as listed above. Barbara Butler seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Continuing directors: (terms ending in fall 2020)

Joe Brin
Douglas Futuyma
Richard Guthrie
Robert Spahn

New Business

Joe Brin will serve as liaison with Onondaga Audubon Society, which will be hosting the 2020 NYSOA annual meeting in the Syracuse area. Joe reports that planning for the meeting has begun.

Rich Guthrie moved to adjourn. Pat DiBenedetto seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
John Kent
Recording Secretary

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Membership in the New York State Ornithological Association confers many intangible and several tangible benefits. Among the most important of the latter are our two quarterly publications, the newsletter *New York Birders*, and the journal *The Kingbird*. Starting with the January 2020 renewals, it will now be possible for members to receive *The Kingbird* electronically. Those who wish to continue receiving the journal in hard copy will be able to do so, but at a slightly higher rate, to offset the considerable costs of printing and mailing.

The new pricing structure and options for receiving *The Kingbird* are explained on the NYSOA website and on the inside covers of every issue of *The Kingbird*.

Information regarding member clubs and institutional subscriptions is available on the website, or in more detail via email: president1@nybirds.org.

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA/BIRDS OF THE WORLD SUBSCRIPTIONS

Currently, *Birds of North America* online is available to NYSOA members at a discounted price (see our website for information). But we have exciting news from Cornell—as of March 5th, 2020 their teams will be expanding the subscription to include *Birds of the World*, a web-based publication that combines scholarly content from four celebrated works of ornithology: *Birds of North America*, *Neotropical Birds*, *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*, and *Bird Families of the World* at no additional cost to current subscribers. Renewal costs will be higher, but a discount coupon will be offered through June 2021. This will be yet another terrific benefit of being a member of NYSOA. Go to birdsoftheworld.org for more information.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS III

Breeding Bird Atlas III is underway. A wealth of information, including contact information for Regional coordinators, methods and breeding codes, can be found on the NYSOA web page, accessed from the Projects and Resources link. Breeding codes are also included in the Standard Abbreviations section of *The Kingbird* (p. 411).

ERRATA

Errata found in the printed versions of *The Kingbird* will be published annually in the March issues, and will be corrected in the electronic versions posted to the NYSOA website.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2019

Michael Cooper
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Summer 2019 started out cooler and wetter than average in most parts of the state, with early June tending to be quite a bit cooler than normal. By July, summer temperatures returned, and the month was generally warmer and drier than average. August was right around average, both in temperature and in rainfall, except for Region 2, where less than half the normal amount of precipitation fell. The remnants of Hurricane Barry brought some tropical heat in late July, but apparently not much in the way of tropical birds were left after its long meandering from its Gulf landfall.

New York certainly seems to be on the radar for a number of species that were great rarities just a short time ago. As we've seen Sandhill Crane, Clay-colored Sparrow, Summer Tanager and others become relatively normal, if still local, fixtures in many Regions, it seems to be a matter of time before birds like Trumpeter Swan, American White Pelican, Black-necked Stilt and maybe even Black-bellied Whistling Duck become familiar to more and more of us. As part of a larger incursion into the northeast, single Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were found in Regions 1, 3, 6 and 8 from the beginning of the period through mid June, and up to 12 continued from spring around Jones Inlet in Region 10, through early July.

Trumpeter Swans were reported from four Regions, with breeding confirmed in three of those. Nesting was confirmed at Three Rivers NWR in Region 5 and there were several other likely but unconfirmed attempts in that Region alone.

Waterfowl were given positive mentions in Region 3, with good numbers of Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler among others. In Region 5, Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Ducks, both with chicks, provided confirmation of breeding, while Common Goldeneye was noted as an intriguing possibility there and in Region 6.

Species lingering into summer included Tundra Swan, both scaup, Black Scoter and Long-tailed Duck in Region 3, White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck in Region 2 and a Canvasback in Region 1. As many as 183 Common Eider at Shinnecock in Region 10 illustrate this species' increasing occurrence in summer in recent years. While we're scanning the waterways, other surprising summer sightings included Red-necked Grebes in Regions 2, 3 and 7, Horned Grebe in Region 1, Red-throated and Common Loons lingering in Regions 2 and 3, and a Red-throated photographed in breeding plumage on 20 July at Peck Lake in Region 8. A late Glaucous Gull was found at Woodlawn Beach in Region 1, and what apparently was the same "Thayer's" Iceland Gull was found in Regions 1 and 2 on 14 June.

Laughing Gulls were noted in Region 9 as far north as Croton Point along the Hudson River, while singles turned up in Regions 1, 2 and 3. The recently discovered Laughing Gull colony in Great South Bay, amazingly just the second significant breeding site in Region 10 and New York State, continued again this summer. There were numerous reports of immature Lesser Black-backed Gull throughout the season along the south shore of Long Island; it is still a mystery where these birds go to breed when they mature. Multiple Little Gulls were reported from Region 7, and what apparently was an unusual second-winter plumage bird was photographed at Braddock Bay in August. It appears that both Black and Caspian Terns are maintaining strongholds in several upstate Regions, but high water at Little Galloo Island apparently contributed to that Caspian Tern colony's 50% plus reduction. See also the Region 6 report on unusual nest site selection for the only successful Common Tern nest in the

Region. In Region 10, a Bridled Tern summered at Great Gull Island for the fourth straight year and another was found offshore; Arctic Terns were found at Nickerson Beach, Democrat Point and the Line Islands; and there were three Sandwich Tern reports. A Common Tern thought to be of the Siberian-breeding subspecies *longipennis* was photographed at Nickerson Beach as well. Region 10 also had its share of pelagic highlights, but seawatching from land was rather poor this season. High counts of Double-crested Cormorants and Black-crowned Night Herons were reported from traditional sites in Region 6.

As mentioned up top, American White Pelicans appear to be gaining a real foothold in the state. See Mike Morgante's comments in Region 1 regarding the potential for this species to breed in the area. Elsewhere, singles were noted in Regions 2, 3 and 5. A Brown Booby was photographed as it perched on the mast of a sailing ship on the Hudson River in Region 9. This provides the first record for Orange County and the first for the Region. Region 10 had multiple reports of Brown Booby along the south shore of Long Island. It was a good year for Brown Pelican on Long Island as well.

Common Gallinules and American Coots were literally on display at the Sandhill Crane Unit of the Northern Montezuma WMA as reduced vegetation revealed peak counts of 105 and 180 respectively. Gallinules were noteworthy breeders in Regions 4 and 5, and there were two reports from Region 10, where they are scarce at best. Black-necked Stilts were found at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 and again in Region 1, where the possibility of eventual breeding was considered. Sandhill Cranes continue to expand in waves throughout the state, with birds reported from every Region. Breeding is now looked upon as routine in many locations.

Several American Avocets were found in the westernmost Regions of the state, and 2-3 delighted birders from the Shinnecock area to Mecox Bay in Region 10. Piping Plovers fledged young again in at Sandy Island Beach SP in Region 5, obviously a remarkable accomplishment for this dwindling population and for all the human caretakers involved. Upland Sandpipers continue to hang on, with reports from almost every Region, albeit all involving small numbers and confirmed breeding at just a few sites. Good counts of American Golden Plover were recorded in Regions 3 and 5. Counts of Whimbrel included 25 and 38 in Region 2—good numbers for anywhere in the state. Other good shorebird records included Red Knot and Sanderling at several upstate locations, Marbled Godwit in Region 2, and Western Sandpiper in Regions 2 and 8. Triple digit counts of Semipalmated Sandpiper were reported from Regions 1 and 2, topped by 1300 at MNWR in Region 3.

Hérons and egrets were reported in substantially higher than normal numbers in several upstate Regions, with 103 Great Egret in Region 9 setting a new record, while Regions 3 and 4 reported 207 and 28 respectively. Also in Region 9, 98 Great Blue Herons and seven scattered Little Blue Herons were noteworthy. Single Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis in Region 3 were topped by

a first Regional record of White Ibis, found in late August at MNWR. After an exceptional showing in spring, just a single White-faced Ibis was reported in Region 10, over two days in mid June at Captree Island marsh.

An unsuccessful nesting was attempted by a pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Region 9. See the article pages 314-316 in this issue for more detail.

Black Vultures continue to expand north and west. Breeding is probably occurring, but will be difficult to document in this species. A Swallow-tailed Kite in Region 2 provided a fifth Regional record, while a Mississippi Kite was seen soaring over Ward Pound Ridge in Region 9 in June. There were two Mississippi Kite sightings in Region 10, one on Staten Island and one in eastern Suffolk County. Continuing recent trends, Osprey and Bald Eagle numbers were generally good and there were encouraging signs for all three falcons, at least in the western Regions. Most other raptors seem to be not doing so well.

Woodpeckers seem to be doing well in several areas, with Red-headed in particular receiving positive mentions in Regions 1, 2 and 3, and a pair seen at a nest hole in Robert Cushman Murphy Park in Region 10, where breeding is infrequent. Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in Regions 5 and 7 this season, with breeding confirmed in the latter. In a tale of north meets south, Red-bellied Woodpecker also bred in Region 7, apparently not for the first time.

Acadian Flycatchers seem to be increasing in Region 1 and good numbers were reported for Region 2. Olive-sided Flycatchers were also reported in good numbers, both as spring migrants in early June and as returning fall birds at the end of the period. Likewise, Yellow-bellied and Least Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird received positive comments from various Regional editors. Very notable was an early Western Kingbird at Croton Point in Region 9 in mid August, but the best of the lot was single-observer sighting of a Gray Kingbird, photographed at Smith Point County Park in Region 10. Both these birds are featured on the covers of this issue. Canada Jays were confirmed as breeding in Region 7, but went unreported elsewhere. In Region 1, Fish Crows were present, but no breeding was confirmed. Sedge Wrens are being detected over a wide area, albeit in small numbers. Reports came in from at least six Regions. Boreal Chickadee seems to be increasingly difficult to find, with apparently one report each for Regions 6 and 7.

Four Regions reported Evening Grosbeaks—a shadow of last winter's mini irruption. Red Crossbills showed up in six Regions, nested at two locations in Region 6, and at least attempted nesting on Long Island, continuing from spring. Both crossbills put in appearances in Region 7. Clay-colored Sparrows continue to colonize the state, with birds showing up in six Regions, often at multiple locations. Check the article in this issue and the Region 5 report for some sparrow drama which played out in a Syracuse cemetery! A Nelson's Sparrow at Times Beach in Region 1 provided a rare spring record for the Region. A White-crowned Sparrow in Wayne County in Region 2 on 1 August was quite early, while two in Region 1 in early June must have been late northbound birds.

See the Region 10 report for unusual dates for White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. A Dickcissel lingered at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 through late August.

Things continue to look bleak for Golden-winged Warbler, with reports ranging from few to none. Region 3 reported good numbers of migrant warblers, notably Cape May, Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Pine and Blackpoll. Elsewhere reports were mixed. Some of the southern breeders continue to do well, with Prothonotary reported from five Regions, including several breeding pairs, and Hooded, noted in three Regions and generally on the increase. A Yellow-throated Warbler was photographed at Letchworth SP in Region 2 in late June. A Connecticut Warbler was identified by song recordings at Southard's Pond Park in southwestern Suffolk County on 1 June, a very rare spring occurrence in Region 10, and one at 4 Mile Creek in Region 2 on 22 August set a record early southbound date. Mourning Warbler seemed to be well represented state-wide. A pair with chicks at Neversink, in Region 9, provided the first breeding record for Sullivan County.

Overall, the season produced quite a few interesting reports, and as always, some disappointing and even alarming trends are noted. Not surprisingly for a summer report, it was a little light on true rarities. The immature Brown Booby that hitched a ride on the sailboat mast must have been a shocker, but I think that as an overall head-scratcher, I'd have to go with the LeConte's Sparrow found near Willsboro in Region 7 on 12 August. Not only is this a rare bird in general for New York, but this individual was a juvenile present in mid August. I don't think many birders had this species on the potential breeding list for New York, but this record at least points toward that possibility. Regional Editor Bill Krueger mentions that there are no summer records in eBird south of Canada on the east coast.

Thank you all for reading along and here's to some great birding ahead.



REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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There was a prolonged cool start to June 2019 before more summery weather took over. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 65.2° F, 1.1° below normal, with 4.60" of precipitation, 0.94" above average. July was warmer, drier, and more humid than usual. The mean temperature was 74.0°, 2.9° above average. Precipitation was 1.83", 1.40" below average. August was typical and pleasant. The average temperature was 70.3°, 0.7° above normal.

Rainfall was 3.62", 0.36" above normal. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

The two most recent Regional breeders continued in 2019. Trumpeter Swans bred at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR for the second year in a row, with seven young observed by many throughout the summer. Caspian Terns bred in Buffalo Harbor for the third consecutive year and seem to have become a fixture in the area. Unlike the Common Terns that stay very close to their Buffalo Harbor breakwall nesting areas along the Niagara River and Lake Erie, it is not unusual to see Caspian Terns flying around and foraging on ponds in the Buffalo suburbs.

There were Black Vulture sightings in Lewiston again but no evidence of breeding other than their presence in summer (and throughout the year). It will be a challenge to locate nesting evidence during the NY BBA III project for this species that has probably been breeding in the area in recent years.

There were summer sightings of three other species that could possibly represent new Regional breeding species at some point in the future. Fish Crow has yet to be confirmed as a breeder in Region 1 although scattered summer reports, increasing reports in other seasons, and documented nesting to the immediate west and east of the Region provide reasonable assurance that it's only a matter of time. A group of eight Fish Crows found by Joel Strong, Rachel Wilson, and Willie D'Anna at Olcott on 9 June represents a new Regional maximum. A **Black-necked Stilt** was photographed by Paul Leuchner on 19 June while kayaking on the Niagara River near the newly created Frog Island WMA. As I commented two years ago when a stilt stuck around Iroquois NWR into June, this species should be considered as a breeding possibility based on breeding records around the Great Lakes in this century. While this bird was not refound, there have now been sightings in two of the last three Junes, with May reports in both of those years (2017, 2019) as well. Reports of American White Pelican have increased in recent years and there were two sightings this summer including a long-staying bird on the Buffalo waterfront. With recent news that pelicans have been documented nesting in western Lake Erie, it's well within the realm of possibility that they eventually find the colonial waterbird colony islands of the Niagara River.

There wasn't much of note from the less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report. Upland Sandpiper was only found at a landfill adjacent to Tillman Road WMA again, plus a nocturnal flyover report. Another sharp decline in breeding distribution should be expected for the upcoming atlas for this species. There were no mid-summer reports of Common Nighthawk in Buffalo or Jamestown, the only recent locations of suspected breeding. Sandhill Cranes were present in Iroquois NWR and Randolph although I'm not aware of confirmed breeding this year. Merlins bred at several locations; it will be interesting to see how much expansion there will be in the upcoming atlas. Sedge Wren was found at one

location, although little effort is typically spent trying to find this species. Clay-colored Sparrow sightings continue to expand to new locations, especially near Lake Ontario. Golden-winged Warbler was not found other than two likely migrants in late August. Prothonotary Warbler was documented at Tonawanda WMA, the only regularly documented breeding location in the Region; however, I suspect there are more locations around Iroquois NWR and the adjacent WMAs as well as elsewhere in Region that this species could occur. Hopefully we find more locations in the next few summers of atlas searching.

Least Bittern presumably nested at Times Beach NP for at least the second summer in a row, with several reports of five bitterns and even a careful count of seven on 31 August by Shelley Seidman. Their presence is one of the many rewards from the 5+ year invasive species removal and natural habitat restoration demonstration project undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Information on this project can be found at <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/District-Projects/Times-Beach/>.

There were some notable shorebird sightings in early June at the end of spring migration including a Red Knot at Dunkirk Harbor, a Whimbrel at Buffalo Harbor, and a Willet in Wilson, where rare for Niagara County. “Fall” migrant shorebirding produced a few interesting reports but overall was rather dull as no good concentration areas were found until mid-August when North Marsh at Oak Orchard WMA produced some good numbers and variety. Woodlawn Beach SP on Lake Erie produced one American Avocet on 30 July and two on 28 August. Willets were reported at three locations including eight at Times Beach NP on 18 August, and a Whimbrel was spotted in Wilson on 17 July.

Joel Strong took definitive photos of an adult “Thayer’s” Iceland Gull at Point Breeze on 14 June, which represents a very unusual summer record. A Glaucous Gull at Woodlawn Beach SP was on the late side for 1 June, while a juvenile Laughing Gull found there by Dean DiTommaso on an August morning could not be relocated after park staff groomed the beach. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found along Lake Ontario in June at Wilson and Olcott, consistent with early summer sightings in recent years. The lone Forster’s Tern report came from Wilson Pier in July. Black Terns appeared to do well based on their numbers at Iroquois NWR and adjacent Tonawanda WMA; there were no sightings away from this core area.

The most notable summer waterfowl occurrence was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**. Dean DiTommaso heard and then sighted one flying off Lake Erie at Buffalo Harbor SP on 1 June. Despite searching Tiffn NP and other nearby areas the duck could not be relocated. A few days later, Doug Mutton reported one hanging out at a small pond in Clarence next to the Town Hall and Library buildings, which was very likely the same bird that DiTommaso saw. On 7 June, two days after Mutton’s sighting, Sue Barth found the whistling-

duck at the same Clarence pond and many birders were able to see this rare and handsome duck. This was the first Erie County record and fifth for the Region, all of which occurred in the decade.

Summering diving ducks included a Canvasback and 1-2 Lesser Scaup at Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ruddy Ducks were present there throughout the summer, but numbers are much lower in recent summers than previously. Doug Beattie identified a Horned Grebe there in mid-June, while Eared Grebes went unreported there this summer.

There were a few Pine Siskin reports including one that was sighted through most of the summer attending the Zebeazy feeders in Orchard Park. Tony Dvorak spotted a **Nelson's Sparrow** at Times Beach NP on 4 June that several birders were able to re-find throughout the day; this marks a rare spring migration record for the Region. Two White-crowned Sparrow reports in Niagara County in the first half of June can likely be attributed to late migrants, but I'm not sure what to make of one at Lakeside Beach SP found by Don Bemont on 16 July.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FMCSP** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Pt Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:
BufH 1 Jun (DD!); Clarence ERIE 5, 7 Jun (DM, SB, mob); first ERIE record; 5th Reg record, all this decade.

Mute Swan: DH thru; max 14 WTSP 22 Jun; 4 GHSP 5 Jul; 6 Carlton ORLE 17 Jul; 7 Olcott NIAG 7 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 + 7 yg INWR 7 Jun thru (mob), bred at this location for 2nd straight year.

Wood Duck: 150, 123 INWR 1, 20 Aug; max 161 TWMA 31 Aug; 120 BWWT 31 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Olcott NIAG 7 Aug; 12 TBNP 18 Aug; max 32, 66 INWR 22, 29 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 2 Unity I NR 3 Jun; TBNP 4 Jun; max 33 BWWT 31 Aug.

Gadwall: Somerset NIAG 1, 5 Jun; max 8 Dunkirk CHAU 16 Aug.

American Wigeon: DH 6, 15 Jun; only reports.

American Black Duck: Wilson NIAG 12 Aug; 4 DH 28 Aug; only reports.

Northern Pintail: 3, 1 INWR 18 Jul, 1 Aug; only reports.

Green-winged Teal: 5 INWR 18 Jul; 4 RWNP 22 Jul; max 60 INWR 20 Aug.

Canvasback: BWWT 16 Jun, 13 Jul; 8 Aug (DBea), rare in summer.

Redhead: 2 TWMA 3 Jun; 4 INWR 8 Jun; 3 Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 23 Aug (GV), unusual loc for date; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: INWR 8 Jun; only report.

Lesser Scaup: 2, 1 BWWT 16 Jun, 19 Jul (DBea); only report.

Common Merganser: 3 + 11 yg INWR 10 Jun (TS), unusual breeding location; max 36 Buffalo NR 21 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: 4 Olcott NIAG 1 Jun; FMCSP, 2 Wilson NIAG 10 Jun; Hanover CHAU 13 Jun; max 18 LBSP 29 Aug.

Ruddy Duck: 6 Middleport NIAG 1 Jun; Tift NP 2 Jun; 6, 4 INWR 7 Jun, 1 Aug; 9, 20, 12 BWWT 16 Jun, 13 Jul, 18 Aug, regular summer location but reduced numbers in recent years.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 19, 34 INWR 19 Jul, 20 Aug (CM).

Horned Grebe: BWWT 16 Jun (DBea); only report.

Common Nighthawk: Caneadea ALLE 1 Jun; Newstead ERIE 7 Jun; Boston ERIE 11 Jun; 2 Jamestown CHAU 19 Aug; INWR 25 Aug; 3 Tonawanda ERIE 26 Aug; max 5 TWMA 31 Aug.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 1-3 CSWMA thru; 1-3 BMAC thru; Ischua CATT 11 Aug (JR); 2 Hanging

Bog WMA ALLE 26 Aug; only reports away from INWR.

Sora: BWWT 16 Jun; GHSP 1 Jul; BMAC 10 Aug; only reports away from INWR.

Common Gallinule: 35 TWMA 15 Jul; max 36, 42 INWR 20 Jul, 20 Aug.

American Coot: Tift NP 3 Jun, 16 Aug; TBNP 6 Jun, 20 Jul; max 24 INWR 20 Jun.

Sandhill Crane: 3 Randolph CHAU 8 Jun; 2, 5 INWR 9 Jun, 30 Aug; 3 OOWMA 20 Aug; no direct evidence of breeding this year but may have occurred around INWR again.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Frog Island WMA NR ERIE 19 Jun (PL ph!), not refound; 3rd regional record.

American Avocet: 1, 2 WoBSP 30 Jul, 28 Aug (JSa, SK); only reports.

Black-bellied Plover: BufH 2 Jun; last Somerset NIAG 5 Jun; only reports.

American Golden-Plover: arr Attica WYOM 31 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 Wilson NIAG 8 Jun; arr Somerset NIAG 18 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 TRWMA 11 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 12 Aug (PY), nocturnal flight call; only reports.

Whimbrel: last BufH 1 Jun (SB); arr Wilson NIAG 17 Jul (WD); only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: 5 BufH, 3 Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; last BufH 6 Jun; arr PB 20 Jul; BufH 21-28 Aug.

Red Knot: DH 3 Jun (GV); only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 Porter NIAG 17 Jul; OOWMA 18, 26 Aug; INWR 29 Aug; only reports.

Sanderling: las BufH 2 Jun; arr Olcott NIAG 31 Jul; 22 WoBSP 29 Aug; max 24 BufH, 13 Barcelona CHAU 31 Aug.

Dunlin: last Somerset NIAG 10 Jun.

Least Sandpiper: last Eden ERIE, Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; arr Buffalo ERIE 1 Jul; max 36 Wilson NIAG 17 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: BufH 2 Jun (SB); last 1, 1 Somerset NIAG 5, 10 Jun (JSt).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Wilson NIAG 19 Jul; max 11 OOWMA 20 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 135, last 13 Wilson NIAG 2, 6 Jun (WD); arr Somerset NIAG 18 Jul; 23 OOWMA 22 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 Hartland NIAG 11 Jul; 3 Wilson NIAG 18 Jul; 1, 4, 7 INWR 25 Jul, 20, 24 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 22 OOWMA 27 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Albion ORLE 5 Jul; max 8 OOWMA 16 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 INWR 13 Jul; max 37 OOWMA 16 Aug.

Willet: last Wilson NIAG 2 Jun (WD); arr Hanover CHAU 19 Jul (GV); max 8 TBNP 18 Aug (SB, SS); 3 WoBSP 18 Aug (SB, TJM).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 LBSP 14 Jul; max 17 INWR 20 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 48 Wilson NIAG 10 Aug.

Laughing Gull: WoBSP 19 Aug (DD!), not refund.

“THAYER’S” ICELAND GULL: ad PB 14 Jun (JSt ph!), first summer record of Thayer’s.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Olcott NIAG 9 Jun (WD, JSt, RW); Wilson NIAG 10, 28 Jun (WD); early summer reports becoming more regular.

Glaucous Gull: WoBSP 1 Jun (SB ph!), late.

Caspian Tern: max 75 BuffH 1 Jun; Ischua CATT 16 Aug, unusual location; 73 Olcott NIAG 12 Aug.

Black Tern: max 40 INWR 24 Jun, good breeding conditions at this location.

Common Tern: 27 Wilson NIAG 22 Aug, highest count away from NR.

Forster's Tern: Wilson NIAG 17 Jul (WD); only report.

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: 2 Somerset NIAG 8 Jun; NF 29 Jun, 12 Jul; 3, 1 Ellery ChauL 30 Jun, 14 Aug; LBSP 1 Jul; 3 Mayville CHAU 7 Jul; Busti CHAU 20 Jul; N Collins ERIE 8 Aug (SB), unusual location for date.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 DH 15 Aug.

American White Pelican: INWR 3 Jun (CM); BuffH 23 Jun – 12 Jul (HM, mob); followed increased spring presence.

American Bittern: BMAC 15 Jun; max 3 INWR 1 Aug; Tiff NP 23 Aug.

Least Bittern: 2, 2, 3 Tiff NP 2 Jun, 8 Jul, 1 Aug; BeSP 5 Jun; max 3, 4, 7 TBNP 23 Jun, 14 Jul, 31 Aug (SS); 3 TWMA 27 Jun; 1, 2, 2 INWR 27 Jun, 20 Jul, 1 Aug.

Great Blue Heron: max 176 INWR 20 Aug.

Great Egret: 40 Tonawanda NR 4 Jul; max 50, 143 INWR 18 Jul, 20 Aug; 102 TWMA 31 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 17 INWR 1 Aug, good count away from NR.

Black Vulture: 3, 3, 1 Lewiston NIAG 12 Jun, 27 Jul, 18 Aug; regular at this location in recent years.

Osprey: increasing.

Bald Eagle: increasing.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Wilson NIAG 1 Jun; INWR 8, 22 Jun; Tiff NP 15 Jun; 4 FLC 25 Jul, 5 Aug; E Otto CATT 16 Aug; 4 Olcott NIAG 16 Aug; DH 24 Aug; decent showing.

Merlin: 2 nests, 4 ad + 2 yg Buffalo ERIE 8 Jun, 30 Jul (PY); cont nesting in the city.

Peregrine Falcon: Porter NIAG 17 Jul; juv Wilson NIAG 18 Aug; only reports away from nesting locations.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: WoBSP 1 Jun; last Alfred ALLE 5 Jun; arr EvSP 14 Aug; five other Aug reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: LBSP 2 Jul (DBem), more evidence of expansion in NIAG, ORLE; last INWR 31 Aug (DBem), recorded.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Lockport NIAG 28 Aug.

Fish Crow: 8 Olcott NIAG 9 Jun (JSt, RW, WD); new Reg maximum.

Common Raven: increasing.

Purple Martin: 410 Batavia GENE 7 Jul; max 8000, 3000 BuSP 28, 30 Aug (AH, CR), coming to roost at Grass Island before dusk.

Tree Swallow: 100 TBNP 24 Aug; max 300 BWWTP 31 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 50 Unity I NR 12 Jul.

Barn Swallow: max 125 INWR 1 Aug.

Sedge Wren: N Harmony CHAU 22 Jul (KV); only report.

Swainson's Thrush: 1, 3 AISP 1, 22 Jun; last Buffalo ERIE 5 Jun.

Cedar Waxwing: 779 GHSP, 750 LBSP 1 Jun (JSt, RW, DBem), lakeshore migration.

Purple Finch: 10 Fredonia CHAU 13 Aug; max 15 Orchard Park ERIE 13, 20 Aug.

Pine Siskin: Attica WYOM 1 Jun; 3 Sprague Brook CP 4 Jun; Forestville CHAU 30 Jun; Orchard Park ERIE 30 Jun – 2 Jul, 5, 11 Aug (MZ), probably same bird thru.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2, 1, 1 Krull CP NIAG 8 Jun, 1 Jul, 26 Aug; 1, 1 John White

WMA GENE 12 Jun, 23 Jul; Carlton ORLE 16 Jun; Bond L CP NIAG 29 Jun, new summer location.

Vesper Sparrow: Sheridan CHAU 2 Jun; 2 Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 5 Jun; INWR 25 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1, 1, 2 Buffalo ERIE 3, 4, 27 Jun (SS); 3, 1, 1 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 9 Jun, 1 Jul, 1 Aug; 2 Wilson NIAG 13 Jun; max 6 TRWMA 13 Jun; John White WMA GENE 23 Jul.

Nelson's Sparrow: TBNP 4 Jun (TD ph!), rare spring record.

White-throated Sparrow: max 4 Alfred ALLE 5 Jun.

White-crowned Sparrow: Newfane NIAG 2 Jun (JSt); Wilson NIAG 15 Jun (WD); LBSP 16 Jul (DBem), rare in summer.

Bobolink: max 48 Charlotte CHAU 8 Jun; 26 TWMA 31 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: INWR 9 Jun; 2 Franklinville CATT 12 Jun; LBSP 17 Jun; 2 AISP 21 Jun; Westfield CHAU 24 Jun; 2 WoBSP 17 Aug; 2 Krull CP NIAG 26 Aug; Attica WYOM 31 Aug; apparent increase throughout Reg.

Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from five locations.

Northern Waterthrush: arr TBNP 15 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 31 Aug (DC, KS); only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: 2 AISP 1 Jun; Alma ALLE 15 Jun; Carrollton CATT 14 Jul; arr INWR 16 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 3 INWR 17 Jun (DC, DBea), regular breeding location.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 BeSP 23 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: Alfred ALLE 1 Jun; 2 Sprague Brook CP ERIE 4 Jun; last PG 6 Jun; arr TBNP 22 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 31 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 3 AISP 22 Jun (DC); 2, 2, 1 INWR 25 Jun, 14 Jul, 3 Aug; known breeding locations.

Northern Parula: 2 AISP 4 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 9 Jun; Carrollton CATT 13 Jul; arr Lockport NIAG 31 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr OOWMA 22 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 Lockport NIAG, Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 31 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 3 BeSP 23 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last EvSP 5 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 22 Jun (JP), interesting location.

Pine Warbler: arr 2 Tift NP 26 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Tift NP 21 Jun; Grand Island ERIE 23 Jun, interesting locations for dates; arr 6 Tift NP 16 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TBNP 24 Aug.

Canada Warbler: arr TBNP 18 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last GHSP 1 Jun; arr WTSP 29 Aug.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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A relatively normal Rochester area summer this year, other than Lake Ontario levels at record highs for most of the season. June started cool and warmed slowly to summer temperatures. Temperatures averaged 66.0° F, 0.2° below normal, with about half the days above and below normal and nine days above 80°. Precipitation totaled 3.94", 0.60" below normal, with over 1/3 of that falling in the 24 hours from 19-20 June. The heaviest rain passed to our south. July was basically warm and dry, starting warm then cool to the 10th and hot and humid after that except for brief breaks. Temperatures averaged 74.1°, 3.3° above normal, with 26 days 80° or higher and five days >90°. Precipitation

totaled 2.64", 0.69" below normal, with 2/3 of that falling on 5-6 July. The last two weeks of the month saw only 0.15" of rainfall. Remnants of Tropical Cyclone Barry passed well to our south but pushed a surge of tropical heat and moisture north and our local heat index to 105° mid-month. August ended the season as a pleasant mid-summer month and a bit on the dry side. Temperatures averaged 70.1°, 0.8° above normal, but with only one day reaching above 90°, a major contrast with last August. Precipitation totaled about half the normal amount at 1.74", 1.73" below normal, with about 1/3 of that total falling on the 17th. There were two periods of severe thunderstorms accompanied by some local wind damage and heavy rains on the 8th and 15th-18th.

Generally, it was a good summer for birding, though the high water was an issue at times, like two years ago, and some prime birding sites were not accessible. The new, constructed barrier beach at the mouth of Braddock Bay off the East Spit produced some good records in spite of difficult access. The weather was also great for growing plants, so vegetation was lush. Each month, nearly all expected species were reported, those missing typically irregular or hard to find. Species totals each month were well above their 10-year averages, August's total near record high. eBird data downloads were near to prior-year numbers or to about 10% higher. The species counts and 10-year averages are: June – 196 vs. 183.2; July – 184 vs. 174.2; and August – 209 vs. 196.3. The eBird download totals were about: 33282, 26354, and 26450, respectively. Off-list rarities were few and will be covered in context following. The fall Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding effort was off to a slow start in August.

Moving on through our new taxonomic groupings of species, we still begin with waterfowl. As usual, numbers were relatively low this season, and most special observations were from the south shore of Lake Ontario or the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), most often in the marshlands at the end of Van Dyne Spoor Rd. in the SE corner of Wayne County, often interchangeably appearing on records as the Sandhill Crane Unit. The only goose record of special note was a Snow Goose seen off and on in the NMWMA and in areas to the south and west into other parts of the Montezuma NWR complex in Region 3. Mute Swans remained most abundant on Irondequoit Bay or on the ponds along the Lake Ontario shore in the Town of Greece. Trumpeter Swan reports were mostly from the NMWMA area, with nesting observed. Other than Mallard, most breeding puddle duck reports and the best counts were from the NMWMA. Numbers increased and more fall arrivals were added in August. Among the more interesting records were: N. Shoveler on Sodus Bay from 10-20 June and arriving on Braddock Bay on 28 August; a record early Eurasian Wigeon found by Tim Lenz in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) on 3 August; 500 Mallards on 27 July and 650 on 30 August in the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.) area; 100 Blue-winged Teal on

28 August; 43 Northern Pintails in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) on 24 August; and two Green-winged Teal on N. Hamlin Rd. on 2 August.

Diving ducks are always scarce in summer other than the small numbers breeding in the NMWMA or lingering on Lake Ontario plus some early arrivals in August. The most interesting of these were: late White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck off Hamlin Beach State Park on 17 and 17-18 June, respectively; two female Common Goldeneyes on the Seneca River near the NMWMA Morgan Rd. DEC office; Greater Scaup on Braddock Bay on 31 July; Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, and Common Goldeneye in early August along the Lake Ontario shore; and six Ring-necked Ducks on 29 August and Red-breasted Merganser on 31 August at Hamlin Beach. Red-necked Grebe was first reported by Andy Guthrie off Hamlin Beach on 31 July, with several more reports scattered through August, and with Horned Grebe first reported passing off Edgemere Drive, Greece on 31 August.

We next encounter the first Eurasian Collared-Dove report of the year by Mike Wasilco in Parma on 14 July. Among the nightjars, we have only a decent count of 48 Common Nighthawks over Long Pond, Greece, on 4 June and the fall return of two on 23 August. A count of 100 Chimney Swifts at the York Central School in Greigsville is a preview of the usual larger numbers there in the fall. August again produced the usual high number of 419 lines in eBird of Ruby-throated Hummingbird with the passing of migrants. Last summer, reduced vegetation late in the summer in the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd./Sandhill Crane Unit) left large numbers of Common Gallinule and American Coot visible. This year there was little vegetation all season over much of the area and peak counts were down quite a bit to 105 Common Gallinules and 180 American Coots in late August. Sandhill Cranes were present all season in both the Town of Richmond in Ontario County north of Honeoye and in the Montezuma complex. The peak Sandhill Crane count was 21 on 21 July in the NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes) area.

Once again, high waters followed by a dry late summer left us with scarce shorebird habitat. However, the beaches and piers on the south shore of Lake Ontario and flooded areas in the NMWMA produced some good shorebirding. In June, we had a good selection of the expected late spring migrants, with Red Knot and Sanderling of less than annual occurrence. Numbers were generally poor, but there were good counts of Semipalmated Sandpiper, with 175 in the Carncross Road area of the NMWMA on 2 June and 154 found on Moscow Road, Town of Hamlin, on 3 June. In July, there were no special weather events like last year; still 19 species of shorebirds were recorded, with records of special interest: American Avocet on the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 11 July and then at Irondequoit Bay Outlet on 22 July; a tie with record early Black-bellied Plover at Sodus Point on 17 July; good counts of 25 Whimbrel at Sodus Point and 38 at Bear Creek on 30 July; Upland Sandpiper in Hamlin on 29 July; and two Willets at Sodus Point on 19 July. August brought more fall arrivals

and 26 species reported. The rarest were American Avocet at East Spit of Braddock Bay on 30 August; Marbled Godwit at Braddock Bay on 30-31 August; and a Western Sandpiper photographed by Mike Gullo at Sodus Point on 28 August. Less rare but scarce were: two Upland Sandpipers back at the Geneseo airfield on 1 August; Whimbrel on several dates through the month; Red Knot at the East Spit on 24 August; and Long-billed Dowitcher there on 31 August.

Among the larids, we had Bonaparte's Gull and some of the terns lingering later into June than their usual mid-month departure dates. A Bonaparte's Gull was even spotted on 1 July—late spring or early fall? In June, most interesting were: a rare immature **Laughing Gull** photographed by Mike Gullo at Sodus Point on the 13th and seen again the next day; a late Iceland "Thayer's" Gull photographed by Joel Strong at Point Breeze, possibly only seen slightly into Region 1, on 14 June; four Lesser Black-backed Gulls; and a first summer large, pale, likely hybrid gull photographed by Joe Wing and seen by others at Sodus Point on 4-5 June. Continuing into July, we find seven more reports for Lesser Black-backed Gull and a couple of good tern counts—138 Caspian Terns at Sodus Point on 31 July and 126 Black Terns at the Van Dyne Spoor Rd. area on 21 July. August was weak for the larids, with the best a lone Parasitic Jaeger passing Hamlin Beach SP on the 31st; a controversial second winter Little Gull photographed at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 23 August; and only two Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Both loons were reported into late June, then only a single Common Loon in July and several reports in August; typical. Double-crested Cormorant was good through the season, with a maximum of 600 counted at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 23 August. American White Pelican was first reported at the south end of Irondequoit Bay on 17 August then in the NMWMA on 18 August. There was little note of wandering herons and egrets, but good reports include: 246 Great Blue Herons and 36 Great Egrets at the Sandhill Crane Unit of the NMWMA on 15 July; Cattle Egret at the Rochester International Airport on 2 July and at the south end of Irondequoit Bay 11-15 July, found by Candy Giles and then seen and photographed by 26+ other observers; and Glossy Ibis seen and photographed in the Carncross Road area of the NMWMA on 2-3 June. Black Vulture was recorded in small numbers in each month.

Turning next to the hawks, we had good numbers of Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk all season, no Northern Goshawk reports, and few Red-shouldered or Broad-winged Hawks away from the hawk watch. An unofficial hawk watch continued at Braddock Bay into June, with peak counts of 95 Turkey Vultures, 20 Bald Eagles, and 49 Broad-winged Hawks on the late date of 25 June. From late July through August, a team of volunteers carried out an official daily hawk watch at Braddock Bay. Earlier, on 11 July, the best day for that month had 45 Turkey Vultures, 67 Bald Eagles, and eight Broad-winged Hawks, with 108 Turkey Vultures the day before and 94 Red-tailed Hawks on 28 July. Mike

Tetlow noted that the high Bald Eagle count was a surprise at that date, as timing and appearance of the birds was not right for the late spring dispersal of southern breeders and it was too early for eagle families near us to be dispersing. Numbers were better in August, with counts at the hawk watch and at the Manitou Beach Road-Owl Woods parking area across the Bay. Peaks were 70 Broad-winged Hawks at Manitou Beach on 8 August and 414 Red-tailed Hawks at the hawk watch on the same date. More daily details can be found at the www.hawkcourt.org website. The bird of the month/season was also a raptor, the Region's fifth **Swallow-tailed Kite** spotted passing overhead at the Manitou Beach site by Dave Tetlow on 1 August. All three regular, local falcons were well reported all season. However, the only serious suggestion of Merlin nesting was from Fairport. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons fledged four, three males and a female, all banded 18-21 June. Unfortunately, the female was found dead nearby on 23 June. The others were monitored until they dispersed from the area in July.

Among the non-passerine landbirds, we note only a nice uptick in Red-headed Woodpecker reports in July, with 25 reports from seven locations, and the usual good counts of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from their breeding areas serving to illustrate possibilities if one searches and counts.

As for the past several summer seasons, essentially all expected passerine species were reported but relatively few rarities. The tail end of spring ended with nearly all the usual late migrants continuing into June. Only Philadelphia Vireo and Cape May Warbler were missed. Some good counts included: 22 Acadian Flycatchers in Letchworth SP by Joe Stevenson on 8 June; seven "Traill's" Flycatchers banded at BBBO on 5 June; 23 Red-eyed Vireos at H. H. Spencer State Recreation Area on 9 June; and 750 Bank Swallows at Beechwood SP in Wayne County on 12 June. June rarities included: a Sedge Wren found at Cranberry Pond, Town of Greece, by Greg Lawrence on 6 June; Clay-colored Sparrow at three sites; Prothonotary Warbler at the usual Armitage Road site in the NMWMA, continuing to be reported to 8 July; and a Yellow-throated Warbler found and photographed by Kyle Gage in Letchworth SP on 23 June. July brought some good counts, with 29 Red-eyed Vireos in the H. H. Spencer State Recreation Area on 4 June; counts of 2000 Tree Swallows, 1000 and 1200 Bank Swallows, and 300 Barn Swallows; and 50 Marsh Wrens in the Braddock Bay marshes by Rhonda Roaring while kayaking on 9 July. BBBO and MAPS banding in the Manitou area on the NW corner of Braddock Bay produced surprises in Nashville Warbler banded on 14, 21, and 22 July, with five banded on the 21st; Magnolia Warbler on 14 July; and Yellow-rumped Warbler on 21 July. Other interesting reports scattered about were: 1-2 Clay-colored Sparrows still reported on Cook Rd., Town of Hamlin, on 14 & 21 July; White-throated Sparrow at Hamlin Beach SP on 16 July; and a Tennessee Warbler in Caledonia, Livingston County, on 13 July. Moving into August and fall arrivals appearing, we ended up with a nice list of 27 warbler species.

Among the more interesting reports were: eight reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher, high for recent years; 19 Least Flycatchers tallied by Andy Guthrie and Chris Wood in the Owl Woods area on 24 August; Clay-colored Sparrow still at Cook Rd. on 10 August; a White-throated Sparrow in the Town of Byron, Genesee County, on 11 August; a White-crowned Sparrow in the Town of Wolcott, Wayne County on 1 August; Prothonotary Warbler seen at Braddock Bay – East Spit by Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala on 20 August; and a Connecticut Warbler found and well described at the 4-Mile Creek Preserve in Webster by Jim Miles at a record early date on 22 August.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece MONR; **BB-ES** – East spit of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay hawk watch; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **CLI** – Conesus L In, including WMA marshes, LIVI; **DE** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester at Lake Ontario; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T of Hamlin, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – trails at west end of park; **HB-YC** – Yanty Creek area of HB; **HHS** – Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area, above S end of Honeoye L ONTA; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P and vicinity at S end of Irondequoit Bay; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou, NW side of Manitou Beach Rd. MONR; **M-OW** – Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Rd., west side of BB; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P MONR; **NMWMA (CR)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Carncross Rd.; **NMWMA (MRM)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Morgan Rd. Marshes, WAYN; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Sandhill Crane Unit often interchangeable with the Van Dyne Spoor Rd. label; **NMWMA (VDS)** – Van Dyne Spoor Rd. area, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **SB** – Sodus Bay, WAYN; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC, LIVI.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: NMWMA (SCU) thru; off and on all season.

Mute Swan: max 103 Buck Pd, Greece 5 Jun; 75 IB-S 13, 29 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: max 10 NMWMA (CR) 6 Jun.

Wood Duck: max 200 NMWMA (VDS) 30 Aug (RB, NK).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 BB-ES 21 Jul, unusual loc for date; 2 N. Hamlin Rd 21 Jul, unusual loc for date; max 100 NMWMA (VDS) 28 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 1 m SPT 10-20Jun, unusual loc for dates; arr 5 BB 28 Aug.

Gadwall: max 45 NMWMA (VDS) 28 Jul, scarce in summer; arr BB 28 Aug.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug (TL), Reg record early.

American Wigeon: SPT 21 Jun (JWi), 7-17 Jul (MG, JWi), unusual in summer; arr Beatty Pt, Greece 25 Aug.

Mallard: 500 NMWMA (VDS) 27 Jul; max 650 NMWMA (VDS) 30 Aug; good counts.

American Black Duck: max 12 NMWMA (SCU) 13 Aug, very low max.

Northern Pintail: arr 43 NMWMA (SCU) 24 Aug (TL, ST), early.

Green-winged Teal: last NMWMA (SCU) 7 Jun (GC), late; N Hamlin Rd 2 Jul (AGu), unusual loc for date; arr 4 BB 20 Aug; max 90 NMWMA (VDS) 30 Aug, usually scarce in summer.

Ring-necked Duck: last TCEA & NMWMA (Deep Muck) 6 Jun; arr 6 NMWMA (VDS) 29 Aug (JC), early.

Greater Scaup: BB 31 Jul (SG, ph), scarce in summer.

Lesser Scaup: 1 f BB-ES 10 Aug (JiM, BeB), scarce in summer.

White-winged Scoter: last HB 17 Jun (AGu), late; HB 3 Aug (DT), scarce in sum.

Long-tailed Duck: last HB 17-18 Jun (AGu), late.

Common Goldeneye: 2 f Seneca R, NMWMA (MRM) 28 Jun (ES, ph), late, unusual loc; BB-ES 10 Aug (MBE), scarce in sum.

Common Merganser: max 45 Beechwood SP WAYN 31 Aug (TL, LK), good count for date.

Red-breasted Merganser: last HB 24, 26 Jun (AGu), late; arr off Edgemere Dr, Greece 31 Aug.

Ruddy Duck: last 5 NMWMA (VDS) 5 Jun (GD), late.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 75 NMWMA (VDS) 31 Aug, good count.

Horned Grebe: arr off Edgemere Dr, Greece 31 Aug (JiB), early.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 31 Jul (AGu), early; 1-3 HB 7-25 Aug (9 obs), early.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 T Parma MONR 14 Jul (MW), first for year.

Common Nighthawk: max 48 Long Pond, Greece 4 Jun (KGa); last 2 TCEA 11 Jun; arr 2 Casey P, T Ontario WAYN 23 Aug.

Chimney Swift: max 110 York Central School, Greiggsville LIVI 11 Jul (JK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 419 lines in eBird many loc Aug, *intro*.

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: max 105 NMWMA (VDS) 29 Aug, down from last year, *intro*.

American Coot: max 180 NMWMA (VDS) 31 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: max 21 NMWMA (MRM) 21 Jul (BMcG, SD); 2-3 T Richmond ONTA 1 Jun, 7 Jul, 1, 10 Aug (Eaton Birding Soc, BH); E Lakeshore Marshes WAYN 6 Jun (MGU).

AMERICAN AVOCET (R2): arr BB-ES 11 Jul (MT, MG, ph, PMar); IBO 22 Jul (JiM, 11 oth obs, phs); BB-ES 30 Aug (JiM, LMa, 5 oth obs).

Black-bellied Plover: last 6 NMWMA (CR) 5 Jun; arr SPT 17 Jul (MG), Reg record early.

American Golden-Plover: arr SPT 21 Aug; no good counts.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 Moscow Rd, Hamlin 10 Jun; BB-ES 12 Jul; max 35 T Savannah WAYN 31 Aug, low max.

Killdeer: max 80 off T Webster 21 Aug (PW), low max.

Upland Sandpiper: Hamlin 29 Jul (AGu); 2 Geneseo airfield 1 Aug (JK); now rare.

Whimbrel: arr HB 12 Jul (DKa); 25 SPT 30 Jul (JWi); max 38 Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 30 Jul (JWi); BB 1, 31 Aug; SPT 21-24 Aug, sev ph; 2 SPT 22 Aug, ph.

Marbled Godwit: BB-ES 30-31 Aug (KGr, GL, mob), rare.

Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 BB-ES 5 Jun; arr PtB 20 Jul (AGu, CW), early.

Red Knot: last IBO 14 Jun (JiM), late; arr BB-ES 24 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 NMWMA (VDS) 27 Jul.

Sanderling: last Moscow Rd, Hamlin 5 Jun; arr BB-ES 17 Jul; max 32 SPT 21 Jul (TL, LK).

Dunlin: last Moscow Rd, Hamlin 11 Jun; arr BB 26 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2 SPT 13 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 2 last Moscow Rd, Hamlin 3 Jun; arr BB-ES 1 Jul; max 30 NMWMA (SCU) 4 Aug, low max.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (SCU) 5 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last BB 19 Jun (SG), late; max 175 NMWMA (CR) 2 June (SPe); 154 Moscow Rd, Hamlin 3 Jun (AGu); arr 3 BB 8 Jul; max 250 BB-ES 23 Jul (RB), good count.

Western Sandpiper: arr SPT 28 Aug (MG, ph, W&MR, DE), scarce.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr BB 15 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr BB-ES 31 Jul (LBe, ph).

dowitcher sp.: 14 BB 11 Jul (AGu), scarce now.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (SCU) 12 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 N. Hamlin Rd 3 Jul; max 27 N. Hamlin Rd 17 Jul, low max.

Willet: 2 SPT 19 Jul (MG, ph, W&MR, JWi).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Hogan Pt Rd, Greece 13 Jul.

Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs: BB 28 Jun (SG), interesting date.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr HB 31 Aug (NK).

Bonaparte's Gull: last 2 SPT 24 Jun (MG, W&MR), late; 1 BB-ES 1 Jul (RB), usually scarce at date; arr 2 BB 16 Jul (SG, PMar), early; max 50 SB 14 Aug, low max.

Little Gull: 2nd win BB-ES 23 Aug (RRe, phs), a plumage we almost never see here, some continuing discussion around ID, see P. J. Grant, Gulls: A Guide to Identification, Buteo Books: 1982, pp. 108-109.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 imm SPt 13, 14 Jun (MG, ph, W&MR).

Iceland “Thayer’s” Gull: 1 ad SPt 14 Jun (JStr, ph), late, poss only just west of Reg in Region 1.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4 rep, 5 ind 3 loc 4-21 Jun; total 7 at 4 loc 6-28 Jul (6 obs); 1 ad OB 14 Aug, ph; 1 2nd sum Summerville Pier 27 Aug; good numbers for summer.

gull sp: large, pale, 1st sum SPt 4-5 Jun (JWi, ph, JWo, W&MR, JMo), hybrid?

Caspian Tern: max 138 SPt 31 Jul (MG).

Black Tern: max 126 NMWMA (VDS) 21 Jul (MT), good count.

Common Tern: max 48 SPt 17 Jun.

Forster’s Tern: SPt 21 Jun, 20 Aug (JWi); SPt 26 Aug (MG); only reports.

LOONS - FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: dep HB 24 Jun (AGu), late.

Common Loon: dep HB 1 Jul (AGu), late, only Jul rep; 7 rep HB 5-31 Aug; max 6 HB 24 Aug; CLI 12 Aug (TB).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 600 BB-ES 23 Aug (CGi).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R2): IB-S 17 Aug (DH, PMab); NMWMA 18 Jul (JCo, JWi).

Great Blue Heron: max 246 NMWMA (SCU) 15 Jul (CW, MBa, ES), high count.

Great Egret: max 36 NMWMA (SCU) 15 Jul (CW, MBa, ES), good count.

Cattle Egret: Rochester Int’l Airport 2 Jul (RBi); IB-S 11-15 Jul (CGi, 26+oth obs, phs), rare in sum.

GLOSSY IBIS (R2): NMWMA (CR) 2-3 Jun (8+ obs, many ph), rare.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): 1-2 LSP 9, 22, 23 Jun, 4 Aug (DRa, RSt, SBu, JMcC, KGa, SBa); Pittsford 30 Jul (TSm).

This summer there was an organized, volunteer hawk watch from late July thru August at the BB-HW and across the Bay at the M-OW parking area. Some data is included with the species listing, a more detailed summary is in www.hawkcount.org.

Turkey Vulture: 95 BB-HW 25 Jun; max 108 HANA 10 Jul (PW); 45 & 46 BB-HW 11 & 16 Jul;

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: M-OW 1 Aug (DT), 5th Reg.

Bald Eagle: 20 BB-HW 25 Jun; 67 BB-HW 11 Jul (MT), high for date & sum migr,

origins?, *intro*; 20 BB-HW 6 Aug; 29 M-OW 8 Aug (DT).

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 reps Jun; 1 rep Jul; 5 rep Aug, plus 1 & 2 BB-HW 18 & 21 Aug, from hawkcount.

Broad-winged Hawk: 49 BB-HW 25 Jun; 8 BB-HW 11 Jul; 68 BB-HW 6 Aug; max 70 M-OW 8 Aug (DT).

Red-tailed Hawk: 94 BB-HW 28 Jul; 309 BB-HW 6 Aug; 145 SB – Shaker Tract 6 Aug (MT); max 414 BB-HW 8 Aug (DBr, *et. al.*).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 25 rep, 1-3 ind 7 loc Jul, good showing for this Reg.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 11 & 12 at 2 sites HHS 28 Jun (R&SSp); max 13 HHS 4 Jul (BH); typical of counts in breeding areas.

American Kestrel: total ~ 36 ind 30 loc Jun; ~ 40 ind 26 loc Jul; ~ 64 ind 33 loc Aug.

Merlin: nesting pr Fairport 1 Jun (*vide* S. Carroll); Geneseo 13 Jun (JK); HP 24 Jun

(R&SSp); ~ 8 ind 7 loc 10-29 Jul; total 10 ind 10 loc Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: total 8 ind 7 loc Jun; total 7 ind 5 loc Jul; total 9 ind 9 loc 1-28 Aug; 3m, 1 f fledged Rochester 18-21 Jun, f found dead 23 Jun, oth tracked thru Jul, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last DE (CGi) & MP (JMo) 1 Jun; 8 rep 7 loc 15-28 Aug, good number for recent years.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last LSP – Mount Morris Dam 9 Jun (JaG, RRe); arr ICW 10 Aug (BeB), early; total B 7 BBBO 15-23 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 22 LSP 8 Jun (JSt), high count.

“Traill’s” Flycatcher: max B 7 BBBO 5 Jun; total B 3 BBBO 15-30 Aug, low.

Willow Flycatcher: max 13 MP 18 Jul (CGo), good count.

Least Flycatcher: max 19 M-OW 24 Aug (AGu, CW); high count; total B 14 BBBO 23-31 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr HB-WE 20 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: 23 HHS 9 Jun (NK); max 29 HHS 4 Jul (BH); 20 HB-WE 24 Aug (5 obs); typical high counts; total B 21 BBBO 15-31 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 35 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, LIVI 13 Aug, low max.

Purple Martin: max 110 Beatty Pt, Greece 25 Aug (CW).

Tree Swallow: max 2000 NMWMA (VDS) 27 Jul (KR,AD).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 200 BB 9 Jul (RRo).
Bank Swallow: 750 Beechwood SP WAYN 12 Jun (SBe, LC-B); 240 HB 24 Jun & 11 Aug (AGu); max 1200 HB-WE 14 Jul (AGu).
Barn Swallow: max 300 MP 26 Jul (CGo).
Winter Wren: total ~12 ind 10 loc Jun, good number; arr HB-YC 20 Aug (R&SSp), early.
SEDGE WREN (R2): Cranberry Pnd area, Greece 6 Jun (GL), now rare in Reg.
Marsh Wren: max 50 BB 9 Jul (RRo), while kayaking.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last MP 7 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last LSP 16 Jun (KEC); arr 1B BBBO 31 Aug.
Gray Catbird: max 27 Whiting Rd NP, Webster 15 Aug (GF); total B 76 BBBO 15-31 Aug.
Cedar Waxwing: max 65 HB 24 Aug, low max.
Pine Siskin: last Caledonia LIVI 19-20 Jun (MW); Greece 2 Jul (RB); LSP 24 Jul (TB); scaece mid-sum.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 Cook Rd, Hamlin 3-8 Jun, 14, 21 Jul, 10 Aug (sev obs); Honeoye Crk WMA 1-4 Jun (15+ obs); 2 Ganondagan survey 17 Jun (CJ, HN).
Savannah Sparrow: max 28 Nations Rd survey 4 Jun (MW), good count.
Grasshopper Sparrow: ~ 35 ind 14 loc Jun, good numbers.
Song Sparrow: total B 20 BBBO 15-29 Aug, high banding number.
White-throated Sparrow: last Webster 4 Jun (AGw); Highland Ave, Rochester 20 Jun (JL); HHS 28 Jun (R&SSp); HB 16 Jul (AGu); T Byron GENE 11 Aug (DBea); interesting dates & loc.
White-crowned Sparrow: Cemetery Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 1 Aug (W&MR), unusual date for loc.
Bobolink: max 56 Nations Rd survey (MW); 50++ flyovers T Canadice ONTA 20 Aug (BH); good counts.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 4000 NMWMA (SCU) 31 Aug.

Common Grackle: max 1016 T LeRoy MONR 25 Jul (MW), good count.
Ovenbird: max 15 LSP 8 Jun (JStE).
Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler: LSP 22 Jun (SBu); 2 Pittsford 16 Jul (MLa).
Black-&-white Warbler: arr HB-WE 24 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru 23 Jun (mob), 6-8 Jul (JBri, RK, EZ), nesting; 1 ad 3 FL NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 15 Jun (STo), with audio in eBird; BB-ES 20 Aug (RB, NK).
Tennessee Warbler: last DE & MP 1 Jun; Caledonia LIVI 13 Jul (SBu, JMcC); arr 2B BBBO 16 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: 1B, 5B, 1B BBBO 14, 21, 22 Jul; arr Ellison P, T Penfield 8 Aug (JiM).
Connecticut Warbler: Four-Mile Crk Preserve, Webster 22 Aug (JiM), Reg record early.
Mourning Warbler: BBBO area 26-27 Jun (RB, 4 oth obs), unusual loc for date; arr BB-ES 10 Aug (BeB).
American Redstart: max 18 HHS 9 Jun (NK); total B 16 BBBO 15-31 Aug, good number.
Cape May Warbler: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 20 Aug (JiM).
Magnolia Warbler: 1B BBBO 14 Jul, unusual date for loc; arr T Ontario WAYN 20 Aug (JWi); total B 1 BBBO 30 Aug, very low.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last Cranberry Pd, Greece 6 Jun; arr M-OW 24 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr M-OW 24 Aug.
Yellow Warbler: max 21 HB 9, 10 Aug, low max; total B 52 BBBO 15-31 Aug, high number B.
Blackpoll Warbler: last North PNDS P, Webster 12 Jun (JiM); arr MP 31 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Cranberry Pnd Trail, G 1 Jun; arr Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 25 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1B BBBO 21 Jul, unusual date for loc.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R2): LSP 23 Jun (KGa, ph).
Canada Warbler: last 1B BBBO 5 Jun; arr 1B BBBO 20 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: last G 1 Jun; arr Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 23 Aug.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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June and August 2019 were cooler and wetter than normal. July was warmer and slightly drier than normal. In Ithaca, in June, the average high temperature was 74.3° F, 1.7° below normal, the average low was 52.1°, 1.2° below normal, and the total precipitation was 5.47", 1.48" more than normal. The average high temperature in July was 81.7°, 1.8° above normal, the average low was 60.4°, 2.7° above normal, and the total precipitation was 3.72", 0.11" below normal. In August, the average high temperature was 77.7°, 0.9° below normal, the average low was 54.3°, 2.0° below normal, and the total precipitation was 4.81", 1.18" above normal.

Waterfowl were present in the Region in good numbers and diversity. Observers reported high numbers of Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, and Double-crested Cormorants in August. Small numbers of Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Common Loons lingering into early June were nonetheless high summer counts for those species. Other lingerers from spring migration included Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. Unusual species were a **Red-throated Loon** that Jessie Barry and Chris Wood saw on Cayuga Lake on 1 June, and a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** that Carol Cedarholm found at SS Park in Ithaca 17 June. Many observers were able to enjoy seeing this bird during its 10-day stay. Tim Lenz found two **Red-necked Grebes** at Lakefront Park on **20 July**. David Wheeler first reported an **American White Pelican** at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Logan Kahle found an early **Eurasian Wigeon** at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on 31 August.

Shorebird species reported in high numbers were Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, and Semipalmated Sandpiper in June, and American Golden-Plover and Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs in August. Greg Dashnau found a **Black-necked Stilt** in Montezuma NWR in early June. The stilt continued to be seen over the next three weeks. Wesley Hochachka found two **Red Knots** at Montezuma NWR on 2 June. They were last seen that afternoon.

High counts for Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls all occurred in August. Observers reported a high count of Common Terns in June, a high count of Black Terns in July, and a high count of Forster's Terns in August.

Waders reported in high numbers were Sandhill Cranes and Great Egrets, both in August and both at Montezuma NWR. Dave Kennedy found a **Glossy**

Ibis in early June and a **Snowy Egret** in late August at Montezuma NWR. Tim Lenz found the Region's first **White Ibis** at Montezuma NWR in late August.

For raptors, observers reported high counts of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. High counts were also reported for Red-headed, Red-bellied, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers. Miscellaneous species with high counts included Mourning Dove, Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Marsh Wren. Steven Benedict discovered a singing **Sedge Wren** while doing a grassland bird survey at Montezuma NWR in late July. The bird continued there for a few days.

Nocturnally migrating Swainson's Thrushes over Northeast Ithaca on 31 August produced a summer high count for that species. The maximum counts for Hermit and Wood Thrushes, however, were low counts for those species. Observers reported high counts of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches. William Evans observed an **Evening Grosbeak** in early July in Newfield. Nita Irby also observed one in Dryden in mid-August. Estevao Santos and Chris Wood saw and recorded **Red Crossbills** in Summerhill State Forest in early June.

There were high counts for Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Michael Palermo found the Region's only **Clay-colored Sparrow**, in Hopewell. The growing population of Orchard Orioles in the Region yielded a high count at Salt Point Natural Area.

High counts for the Region's breeding species of warblers included Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Pine, and Prairie Warblers. High counts of transient species included Cape May, Blackpoll, and Wilson's Warblers. On 17 August, Gregg Dashnau was the first of several observers at Montezuma NWR to hear and identify the Region's only **Dickcissel**. The bird continued to give flyby calls and, rarely, sightings through the end of the season.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CP – City Pier, ONTA; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest; **LP** – Lakefront P; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca; **RHPP** – Roy H P Preserve, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest, TOMP; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SSF** – Summerhill State Forest, CAYU; **StP** – SSt P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TVar** – T Varick, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

StP 17-26 Jun (mob, ph).

Snow Goose: max 16 SLSP 2 Jun.

Mute Swan: MNWR 23 Jun; T Lodi SENE 5-18 Jul; Hornell 4-24 Aug; MNWR 15 Aug.

Tundra Swan: Horseheads Marsh CHEM thru 28 Jun (mob, ph).

Wood Duck: max 480 MNWR 25 Aug (JMc!), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 60 MNWR 25 Aug (mob!), high.

Northern Shoveler: max 55 MNWR 25 Aug (mob), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR 31 Aug (LK!), early.

Mallard: max 2000 MNWR 8 Aug (TL); 2000 MNWR 22 Aug (JMc, LS), high.

Northern Pintail: last 4 MNWR 15 Jun, early; arr 8 MNWR 9 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 300 MNWR 31 Aug (mob), high.

Ring-necked Duck: StP 9 Jun; MNWR 19 Aug.

Greater Scaup: SenL 9 Jun thru (mob).

Lesser Scaup: max 5 LP SENE 2 Jun (TL!), high.

BLACK SCOTER (R3): last CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS!).

Long-tailed Duck: last CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS).

Bufflehead: max 8 SLSP 2 Jun (TL), high; 1-8 SLSP thru 20 Jul.

Common Goldeneye: last CygL, TVar 1 Jun; 2 LP SENE 20 Jul (TLe).

Hooded Merganser: max 11 Myers Pt TOMP 17 Jul (JMc), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 SenL SENE 7-8 Jun (DCz, ph), high.

RED-NECKED GREBE (R3): 2 LP SENE 20 Jul (TLe, ph).

Mourning Dove: 208 NEI 26 Aug (TSc!), high.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 9 MNWR 10 Aug, low.

RAILS-LARIDS

Sandhill Crane: max 25 MNWR 23 Aug (JBa, CW!), high.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: MNWR 5-23 Jun (mob, ph).

American Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 24 Aug; max 58 MNWR 31 Aug (mob!), high.

Semipalmated Plover: last 8 MNWR 5 Jun; max 100 MNWR 2 Jun (TLe), high; arr MNWR 22 Jul.

Killdeer: max 34 MNWR 3 Aug, low.

Upland Sandpiper: T Seneca Falls SENE 8 Jul.

Whimbrel: arr MNWR 29 Aug, late.

Ruddy Turnstone: last CP 3 Jun; MNWR 3 Jun; max 46 MNWR 2 Jun (WH!), high; arr MNWR 13 Aug.

Red Knot: 2 MNWR 2 Jun (mob, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 18 Jul; max 12 MNWR 29 Aug.

Sanderling: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 5 Aug.

Dunlin: max 30 MNWR 1-2 Jun; last 3 T Tyre SENE 9 Jun; arr 6 MNWR 31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 18 Aug; max 2 MNWR 25 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 50 MNWR 3 Jun; arr MNWR 9 Jul; max 120 MNWR 25 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr & max 7 MNWR 11 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 13 Jul; max 12 MNWR 31 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MNWR 11 Jun; max 1300 MNWR 3 Jun (TLe!), high; arr 3 MNWR 14 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CP 6 Jul (BHo), early; max 42 MNWR 25 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 2 Aug; max 5 MNWR 17 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: last Goetchicus Preserve 5 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 15 Jul; max 21 MNWR 8 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 30 Jun.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 MNWR 30 Jun; max 300 MNWR 19 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 2 Jul; max 200 MNWR 25 Aug (mob), high.

Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 17-19 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 LP SENE 13 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: last 2 Paine's Creek mouth CAYU 8 Jun; SLSF 8 Jun; arr CygL SP 28 Jun (KBU, ph), early; max 8 Myers Pt TOMP 24 Aug (JMc, LS), high.

Laughing Gull: MNWR 16 Aug thru (mob, ph); SenL, Geneva 21 Aug (TLe!).

Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 LP SENE 24 Aug (TLe), high.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: StP 14-22 Jul (TLe, JMc, LS).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 15 LP ONTA 21 Aug (TLe), high.

Black Tern: max 48 MNWR 8 Jul (EZ), high.

Common Tern: max 11 LP SENE 2 Jun (TLe!), high.

Forster's Tern: 2 SenL, Geneva 17 Aug (TLe!); max 10 CP 28 Aug (KG, ph), high.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: last Aurora High Banks CAYU 1 Jun (JBa, CW), late.

Common Loon: max 35 CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 Ithaca 24 Aug (DNi), high.

American White Pelican: 1-2 MNWR 16 Aug thru (mob, ph).

Great Egret: max 207 MNWR 23 Aug (JBa, CW!), high.

Snowy Egret: MNWR 21-24 Aug (mob, ph).

WHITE IBIS: MNWR 28 Aug (mob, ph).

Glossy Ibis: MNWR 2 Jun (DK, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 105 Stevenson Rd compost piles TOMP 16 Aug (JMc), high.

Bald Eagle: max 34 MNWR 1 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 Trumansburg 12 Aug (JD, ph), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Robert Treman SP 23 Jun (BGa), high.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 8 SHSF 11 Jun (JCu, WL, AS), high.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 6 TDan 14 Jul (MGi), high.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Finger Lakes Trail SCHU 23 Jul (CW!), high.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last SW 4 Jun; arr TVE 14 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 SW 6 Jun; arr Jim Schug Trail TOMP 10 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Owasco L Inlet CAYU 18 Jun, low.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr NEI 26 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 32 T Fayette SENE 8 Aug (TLe!), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 TVE 10 Jul (JoCo), high.
Sedge Wren: MNWR 27 Jul-1 Aug (mob, rec).
Marsh Wren: max 62 MNWR Jun 1 (JMc!, LS), high.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 2 SW 4 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last FLNF SCHU 8 Jun (JBa, CW!), late; arr NEI 18 Aug; max 10 NEI 31 Aug (JMc), high, nocturnal.
Hermit Thrush: max 5 SW 22 Jun; 5 Beaver Dams 4 Jul; 5 T Brooktondale TOMP 4 Aug, low.
Wood Thrush: max 8 TDan 29 Aug, low.
Evening Grosbeak: T Newfield TOMP 2-4 Jul (WEv); T Dryden TOMP 18 Aug (NI).
Purple Finch: max 14 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo); 14 TVE 11-12 Jul (JoCo), high.
Red Crossbill: 5 SSF 9 Jun (ES, CW, rec); SSF 15 Jun (AK, ST, rec).
Pine Siskin: NEI 1 Jun; FLNF SCHU 12 Jun; 2 Addison 15 Jun; RHPP 22 Jun.
American Goldfinch: max 85 MNWR 25 Aug (NK, GL), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 14 Long Pt SP 3 Aug (BS), high.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 T Hopewell ONTA 8-23 Jun (MiP, rec).
Savannah Sparrow: max 45 T Seneca Falls SENE 19 Jun (DSh, MT), high.
Song Sparrow: max 68 MNWR 4 Jul (DDa!), high.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 East Ithaca Recreation Way 1 Jun; 1-2 SSF 14 Jun thru; 2 RHPP 22 Jun; 2 FLNF SCHU 2 Jul; 2 T Groton TOMP 15 Jul; 2 TDan 18 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: max 8 Salt Pt Natural Area 16 Jul (JMc!), high.

Ovenbird: max 18 TVE 6 Jun; 18 SHSF 11 Jun, low.

Worm-eating Warbler: Taughannock Falls SP 6 Jul; Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve 14 Jul.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 5 Jun; last Watkins Glen SP 13 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: NEI 25 Aug (TSc!).

"Brewster's" Warbler: The Boyd Farm CHEM 31 Aug (BO!, JO).

"Lawrence's" Warbler: FLNF SCHU 12 Jun (mob, ph, rec).

Mourning Warbler: max 5 Arnot Forest TOMP 1 Jun, low.

Cape May Warbler: arr Monkey Run TOMP 26 Aug; max 6 RHPP 30 Aug (JMc), high.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SW 23 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 15 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 14 Jul (JMc, LS), high.

Yellow Warbler: max 50 MNWR 7 Jun (DSh, MT), high.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 20 Arnot Forest TOMP 7 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 4 T Aurelius CAYU 1 Jun (JBa, CW), high; last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 6 Jun; arr The Boyd Farm CHEM 31 Aug.

Pine Warbler: max 6 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo); 6 TVE 16 Jul (JoCo), high.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 SSF 7 Jul, low.

Prairie Warbler: max 7 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 4 Jun (AP), high.

Wilson's Warbler: last Durland Preserve TOMP 2 Jun; arr RHPP 17 Aug (Harikrishnan CP, Matthew D Medler!), early; max 2 TVE 29 Aug (JoCo), high.

Scarlet Tanager: max 7 SHSF 12 Jul; 7 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 14 Jul, low.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 TVE 15 Jun-13 Jul, low.

Dickcissel: MNWR 17 Aug thru (mob, ph).

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2019 was a bit cooler than average regarding temperature and slightly wetter than normal. July was three degrees warmer than the long-term norm and was slightly drier than average. August was slightly cooler than normal but was about average in terms of rainfall.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Fifteen birds, including thirteen juveniles in various stages of development, were seen there. This was the third year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh. There were perhaps ten blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region, so it is not a very common breeder in the Region.

Conveniently visible from a viewing platform at Pharsalia State Forest two adult Sandhill Cranes were photographed and confirmed nesting on 21 June by Mike DeWispelaere. He reported that this nest appeared to be their second attempt, and on 24 June it looked as though they were off the nest and might be tending young, but no colts were seen. There was also a third bird that appeared to be sitting on a nest nearby, but the location was obscured by high grass. Unfortunately, no colts were ever seen. In previous NY Breeding Bird Atlas projects begun in 1980 and 2000, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes breeding in the Region.

In late August there were several reports of good numbers of Common Nighthawks migrating through the Region, many of which were seen near the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was just one pair of Sanderlings seen in the Region in late August compared to multiple reports of Sanderlings last year. On 28 August three Black-bellied plovers were photographed in a marsh in Sherburne, and on 30 August an American Golden Plover was also seen and photographed in Chenango County.

There were 208 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 27 reports in the 2018 summer season. It seemed that Great Egrets were both widespread and relatively numerous. Perhaps low water levels in the rivers made for better habitat, but it really is unknown, at least to me, why there was such an increase.

A Black Vulture was sighted over Owego on 12 June during a Breeding Bird Survey, and there was speculation that it could have been nesting in the area. In the 2000-2005 atlas work there were two blocks with reports of possible breeding in the Region, both in Delaware County.

Swainson's Thrushes were recorded singing in New Michigan State Forest on 8 and 9 July by different observers. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed nesting. The use of audio recordings in eBird seems to be on the increase which is great for documenting breeding behaviors, especially for rare breeding birds in the Region like the Swainson's Thrush.

In contrast to last season with multiple reports and good numbers, there was only one report of a Pine Siskin. Red Crossbills were also scarce with only four reports.

In total, 28 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which included Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers. This number of species is about average for the Region.

In summary, 181 species (last year 182) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations for the Region. If there is a reasonable number of reports I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers when reporting the number of reports in the Region. There were 44,459 observations in eBird for our Region, so I want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqTP – Aqua-Terra P, BROO; **BoPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CaGr** – Carantouan Greenway, TIOG; **CannRes** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NMSF** – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusR** – Susquehanna Ri, BROO; **TomakRd** – Candor, TIOG; **UL** – Upper Lisle P, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 2 Pd Deposit DELA 6 Jun-31 Jul; CannRes 4-24 Aug.
Gadwall: 3 WHP 1 Aug, ph, only rep.
Green-winged Teal: 5 SHM 28 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: 2 SHM 3-7 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: MHL 1 Jun-31 Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 35 reports throughout Region.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 69 reports throughout Region.
Common Nighthawk: max 30 Johnson City BROO 26 Aug; 20 Owego TIOG 28 Aug; 17 Vestal BROO 28 Aug; 15 MHL 28 Aug; 30 other scattered rep most in late Aug, good numbers.
Chimney Swift: max 250 WHP 30 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 623 lines in eBird, many from feeders.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 6 SHM 31 Aug, 2 ad, 4 juv, ph; 4 MHL 14 Jul, recording, mob; TomakRd 21 Aug.
Sora: max 3 MHL 6 Jun; MHL Jul 14, recording, mob.
Common Gallinule: 15 SHM 13 Aug, 2 ad, 13 juv, ph, intro; MHL 31 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 2 Jun, 4 ad; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 28 Jun, 3 ad, CO, but no colts seen (MD), *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: 3 SHM 28 Aug, ph, only rep.
American Golden Plover: Kilroy Rd CHEN 30 Aug, ph, only rep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 7 BoPd 2 Jun.
Sanderling: 2 SusR 28 Aug, ph, mob.
Least Sandpiper: max 17 SHM, 29 Aug, ph.
Pectoral Sandpiper: SHM 10 & 14 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: 7 SHM 14 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 SusR 29 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 8 Cornell Ln Hartford CORT 27 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Pd Deposit DELA 29 Jun; TomakRd 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr WHP 12 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 UL 12 Aug.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 UL 12 Aug.
Black Tern: UL 11 Aug.

LOONS - FALCONS

Common Loon: max 3 CannRes 31 Aug.

American Bittern: MHL 1 JUN; Davenport Center DELA 19 Jun; E. Maine Rd Johnson City BROO 5 Jul.
Great Egret: max 10 UL 28 Jul; 208 rep thru Region, *intro*.
Black Vulture: Owego TIOG 12 Jun, *intro*.
Osprey: 3 Colliersville OTSE 4 Aug; approx. 45 rep throughout Region.
Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 25 scattered rep.
Eastern Screech-Owl: Palmer Rd Sherburne CHEN 12 Jun, juv, ph.
American Kestrel: max 9 T Plymouth CHEN 12 Aug; 6 TomakRd 22 Aug.
Merlin: max 4 Cortland CORT 13 Jul; TomakRd 15 Jun.
Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Binghamton BROO 4 Jun, 2 ad 2 juv, many rep of resident downtown pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: 2 Downsville DELA 6 Jun; AqTP 20 Aug; T German CHEN 21 Aug; FMHW 25 Aug; TomakRd 19 & 27 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: OTSE 21 & 24 Aug; TomakRd 27 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Cranberry Bog Rd Natural Area OTSE 1 Jul.
Horned Lark: 4 Cornell Ln Hartford CORT 15 Jun.
Purple Martin: Lockheed Martin Pd TIOG 12 Aug.
Winter Wren: max 6 NMSF 22 Jun.
Marsh Wren: most reports from BoPd and MHL.
Eastern Bluebird: max 23 TomakRd 24 Aug.
Swainson's Thrush: NMSF 8 & 9 Jul, recordings, *intro*.
Red Crossbill: 4 rep from state forests in CHEN.
Pine Siskin: Smyrna CHEN 18 Jun, feeder, ph, only rep.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: T Bovina DELA 2 Jun, only rep.
Bobolink: max 72 TomakRd 24 Jul.

**PHOTO GALLERY
SUMMER 2019**



Two black-and-white shearwaters, near Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 22 Jul 2019:
Audubon's Shearwater (top) and Manx Shearwater (bottom), © Sean Sime.



Clay-colored Sparrow, Albany Pine Bush Preserve, *Albany*, 1 Jun 2019, © Scott Stoner.



Carolina Wren, *Albany*, 31 Aug 2019, © Scott Stoner.



LeConte's Sparrow, Willsboro Pt, Essex, 12 Aug 2019, © Derek Rogers.



American White Pelican, Montezuma NWR-Knox Marsellus and Puddler Marshes, Seneca, 31 Aug 2019, © Kyle Gage.



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Middletown, Orange, 18 Jun 2019 (top) and 21 May 2019 (bottom), © Joyce Depew. See article, pp. 314-316.

Orchard Oriole: max 2 Lockheed Martin Pd
22 Jun; 2 MHL 19 Jun; Daisy Hollow Rd
CORT 2 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 3 Griggs Gulf
SF CORT 6 Jun-9 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: Walnut Grove Hill
Rd OTSE 28 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 5 Morgan Hill SF
CORT 27 Jun; TomakRd 28 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: max 6 High Vista Nature
Preserve CORT 16 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: High Vista Nature
Preserve CORT 16 & 17 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: MHL 1 Jun, only rep.



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Weather during summer 2019 was unremarkable overall but for the exceptionally high water levels that continued from spring. Most of the west barrier bar at Fair Haven continued to be flooded, with some low-lying but normally dry spots under as much as 12" of water. Matters improved throughout June and July with entrance road and paths eventually passable by car and on foot. A similar scenario played out elsewhere along Lake Ontario, with flooding in low-lying areas improving slowly throughout the summer but remaining much higher than normal for the date. Inland water, especially Onondaga Lake, was also much higher than normal with only a little mud emerging at the south end in late August. June average temperature for Syracuse was within a degree of historical norms, but rainfall was 1.08" higher at 4.39". Mid-July brought us our only real heat wave and the month averaged 85.6 ° F, a substantial 4.0° above average and with eight days above 90° (compared to a typical of three). August was quiet with no hot days (above 90°) recorded and average temps, but with 5.20" rain, 1.63" more than normal. The authors wonder to what extent high water levels in June affected ground nesting birds.

Trumpeter Swans were confirmed nesting by Gregg Dashnau at Three Rivers WMA for the second year in a row. Six young were hatched. Pairs were reported in mid June from the Rte 6 marsh in Volney and Beaver Lake, but nesting status is unknown. Successful nesting in the Howland Island area continues and a pair in northern Cayuga County will likely try if they haven't already. Joe Carey reported Blue-winged Teal with eight chicks, a scarce nester in the Region, from the pond at Sterling Nature Center. Fewer than normal Green-winged Teal were reported in August, perhaps due to high water levels.

Bill Lenhart found a Common Goldeneye on 15 June at Sunday Lake, a remote location north of Old Forge. The bird, a female or immature male, is intriguing as a possible nester for the area. An injured Greater Scaup was seen in August at Oswego Harbor. Gary Meyers reported a good year for nesting Hooded Mergansers at the Madison Street impoundment in Hamilton, while Common Merganser sightings came mostly from the Region's northeast area. Elizabeth Frascatore found Ruddy Ducks nesting at the McKoons Road marsh in Herkimer County and reported four chicks, another unusual nesting species for the Region. August was exceptionally poor for dispersing dabbling ducks, with usual hotspots like Delta Lake having high water and little edge habitat.

Matt Perry found a Common Nighthawk in downtown Utica on 4 July. The species formerly nested atop gravel-covered roofs in upstate NY but is thought mostly absent now. The bird was likely a failed nester or immature bird as its continued presence would have been noticed during the Utica Peregrine Falcon fledge watch. Still, the authors hope some may persist, unnoticed, flying above the cities of central NY around dusk. Frank Brosch recorded a calling Whip-poor-will from his home south of Oswego on 8 June, and included excellent audio with his eBird checklist. The species is considered a late-April/early-May migrant along the Ontario lakeshore but is virtually unknown there in June. The bird, likely an immature, was in an undeveloped area and perhaps happy to have moths over the city all to itself. Gary Lee reports that 45 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded at the Stillwater Hotel in northern Herkimer County on 6 July. This seems to be a typical number for the site and its ample feeders, but an impressive count nonetheless. Along Onondaga Lake's west shore near the Nine Mile Creek outlet, Gregg Dashnau confirmed breeding of Common Gallinule for the first time in many years. Five adults and eight young were seen, increasing to 16 total birds by late July and 19 in mid-August. Habitat restoration along the west shore seems to have paid off for the species, likely absent from the area since the 1970s when the outlet area sustained a cattail marsh. Phragmites had completely taken over for at least the last 20 years, with the associated loss of marsh nesters. While west shore development/restoration may have claimed the lake's Bank Swallow colony with removal of the waste-bed bluffs, efforts may finally be paying off for other species. Several American Coots were seen starting in late July but are not thought to have bred there (yet). Molly Jacobson reported eight Sandhill Cranes from Cook Pond on Howland Island on 4 August. Some juveniles were seen but it is not known whether they nested on the island or in the now-traditional nearby areas of Wayne County. Another crane was seen flying over Ditch Bank Road in Madison County on 28 June, a possible nester in the area, and Matt Brown observed a flyby at Deer Creek Marsh on 2 June.

Shorebird migration, much of which occurs during the summer reporting period, was average to poor for both northbound and southbound birds. Exceptionally-high water levels along Lake Ontario in early June continued

through the period and flooded much shoreline habitat. At Sandy Pond, none of the usual north-spit beach was exposed during the period, and little of the south-spit beach also. David Wheeler estimated the Carl Island sandbar was under 1-2 feet more water than normal, with no chance of emerging in time for use by gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Recreational pressure on the area is extreme under the best of circumstances, but Piping Plovers again nested successfully at Sandy Island Beach State Park under the watchful eye of park personnel. Three chicks were hatched and two were known to fledge, with most human users respectful of the situation. The female bird was known to leave first for points south, the male left to attend to matters into late-July. The authors hope continued cooperation among stakeholders will assure the success of these special nesters, absent from the Region since the early 1970s. Elsewhere, Drew Weber found a single Black-bellied Plover with 40 American Golden-Plover at the Sky-high Turf Farm in Lakeport. Another Black-bellied was seen at Sandy Pond. No Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found through the end of August. A single Upland Sandpiper, not seen during spring at the Oswego County airport in Fulton, was found by Gregg Dashnau on 26 July. The airport grounds are large and adjacent to a capped, grassy landfill that contains much habitat for the species. Hopefully it continues there. Whimbrel were seen twice at both Sandy Pond and Fair Haven with Mike Gullo tallying five birds on 19 August. Ruddy Turnstone was reported but a single time, on 22 July. Deborah Dohne found a Stilt Sandpiper at the south end of Onondaga Lake in spite of high water levels.

Black Tern went unreported for the Region, save for a single bird seen cruising only feet over the Wayne/Cayuga County line by David Wheeler while kayaking the Seneca River west of Howland Island and in the Region 'in name only.' Two more under identical circumstances were seen the next day. The Region's main hope for the species to continue as a nester lies with Deer Creek Marsh north of Port Ontario. While not reported there this summer, difficult access is hopefully to blame. Sandy Pond hosted a late nesting attempt by a Common Tern pair, likely frustrated by high water levels a month earlier. Eggs were laid in mid-July amid incredible disturbance by recreational users. On one visit, Wheeler observed boaters playing horseshoes within 20 feet of the roped-off nest. The terns incubated faithfully early on, dealing with matters surprisingly well, but were often absent thereafter. While the eggs may not have been viable due to constant flushing of the birds, they suddenly disappeared overnight in late-July. A trail cam set up at the site caught the culprit, a fox. After all the human disturbance and efforts to protect the nest therefrom, things came to a thoroughly natural end. Other sightings at Sandy Pond included a dead Least Bittern on the Lake side, a known nester in the pond's northeast marsh, but noted by Wheeler as his first ever for the channel area. Gary Kosmoski photographed an **American White Pelican** near the south shore of Oneida Lake east of Lakeport. It was not seen again. Mary Magistro had the good luck to photograph a flyby Black-crowned Night-Heron from the bluff at

Fort Ontario on 22 June. Seen off and on at Oswego Harbor over the years, the species is thought to nest in Snake Swamp west of the city. It continues as a scarce breeder known only from a few spots. Kevin Topping found a **Black Vulture** in Herkimer County on 30 August.

The inaccessible wilderness of northern Herkimer County contains boreal nesters, presumably at lower density than found in the higher elevations of the central Adirondacks. Bill Lenhart found a Black-backed Woodpecker at Sunday Lake, a very remote spot 15 miles north-northwest of Old Forge. The species has a long history in the area and is found occasionally in swamps closer to the village. Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in traditional locations such as Fair Haven, Verona Beach, and the central portion of Oneida Lake's north shore. Two seen at Toad Harbor on 3 July were likely nesting. Meanwhile, a pair continued at Derby Hill and were thought by Gerry Smith to be nesting east of the north lookout. Matt Brown found four at Sandy Pond on 11 August, presumably a family group, and an unusual location. Utica's Peregrine Falcon fledge watch followed the antics of the adults and four fledglings as they fine-tuned their skills before dispersing in late July.

Though it may contain suitable nesting habitat, an Acadian Flycatcher heard at the west-side parking lot on Howland Island on 1 June was not found again. A bird continues holding territory at Sterling Nature Center and is hopefully nesting successfully there. One or possibly two pairs continue at Whiskey Hollow, a traditional location. Though Region 5 lies at the northern edge of the species range, more nesters are likely present in the dark ravines of the 'southern highlands' area of Madison and Onondaga Counties. Perhaps these will be found during the upcoming Breeding Bird Atlas III. Common Ravens have indeed become fairly common, with 248 separate reports submitted to eBird during the season. Gregg Dashnau observed 25 Cliff Swallows on 28 August at Oswego Harbor. The bird has traditionally nested on the library building at SUNY-Oswego thus they were presumably of local origin, staging before heading south. David Wheeler recalls finding the nests while atlasing during summer 2003, with House Sparrows commandeering a few and seeming 'out of place' so high up. Destruction of Cliffie nests on commercial buildings continues to be a problem, with Wheeler noting that nests in a shopping center in Cicero disappeared suddenly in early June. The swallows rebuilt, one glob of mud at a time, and were hopefully undisturbed until fledging. Some of the nests were only seven feet above the ground. An excellent initiative for local bird clubs would be to communicate and educate store managers about the birds and their protected status.

Throughout July Gregg Dashnau monitored a singing Sedge Wren at Three Rivers WMA, a second confirmed on 6 August. In a summary to the authors Dashnau wrote of the thick weeds at the area and the skulky behavior of the bird, thinking they may have fledged young without anyone knowing. Matt Brown contributed as many as 30 Marsh Wrens from Deer Creek Marsh,

testimony to continued excellence of the spot. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks were found in the Herkimer County town of Manheim on 8 July by Larry Hall, the only report. Did they breed successfully? Ida Sheppard contributed Pine Siskins to eBird on a near-daily basis from her Oneida County patch. All reports of the species were in June.

A Clay-colored Sparrow, presumed initially to be a migrant, continued from May and took up residence at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse. The bird's daily activities were carefully documented by Deborah Dohne (both in her own field notes and on eBird) as it advertised territory in this very unusual location. The species is known as a scarce, thinly-distributed nester in New York state. Would it find a mate? Things got interesting fast for Dohne, as the bird paired up with a female Chipping Sparrow and commenced breeding. Her article documenting this very unusual and significant breeding event may be found on pages 317-323 in the present issue of *The Kingbird*. Elsewhere, the Region's only other consistent Clay-colored Sparrows continue at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Oneida County. Matt Perry could not confirm successful nesting but noted a male bird returning to the same place and singing the same Chipping-like song of previous years.

On 24 June Chris Wood, Jessie Barry, and Estevao Santos recorded a singing Lincoln's Sparrow in a remote area southeast of Old Forge. As mentioned earlier, the unbirded portions of northern Herkimer County likely contain far more boreal nesters than currently known. Hopefully the forthcoming Breeding Bird Atlas starting next summer will provide more insight. Wood also turned up a first-year male Orchard Oriole at Peter Scott Swamp near Phoenix. He remarked in his field notes "presumably scarce here" and it is indeed a first record for the spot in eBird despite seemingly good habitat for the species. Lack of summertime coverage of this excellent birding spot is likely to blame. This theme sadly applies to Louisiana Waterthrush as well, reported only twice (!) during the season though presumably found along most flowing creeks in the southern part of the Region. Present-day birding emphasizes listing and the species is often twitched soon after it arrives, not to be bothered with again until the following April. This disappointing trend in birding habits affects other species as well, including Golden-winged Warbler. The only visually-confirmed report this season came from Fabius where Andrea Burke had good looks on 18 August, supplemented by several heard-only records of birds singing the appropriate song (which is no longer adequate to assume a pure bird). Paul DeBenedictis wrote in the summer 1985 *Kingbird* report that Golden-winged still outnumbered Blue-winged in central Oswego County. While this is no longer the case, the area may still hold a few nesters.

Several observers, including Jay McGowan, Livia Santana, and David Wheeler kayaked the Seneca River north from Carncross Road in June and found as many as six Prothonotary Warblers, most in the flooded woods on the west side of the river across from Howland Island. Much of the waterway that

loops the island has good quality habitat and may contain dozens of these gorgeous birds. Status of the birds at the traditional Toad Harbor spot is unknown. They were last reported there in 2012 but the Three Mile Bay Area contains substantial (but hard to reach) habitat. Meanwhile, Deborah Dohne found Northern Parulas twice in late June. One was atop Morgan Hill State Forest, vaguely suitable for the species to nest, and the other bird in a decidedly curious spot along McCloud Road near the Three Mile Bay WMA. Dave Nicosia birded the Shackham Road-area conifer forest near the Onondaga/Cortland County line and came up with excellent counts of Ovenbird, Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers, and Blue-headed Vireo. Elizabeth Frascatore contributed an early migrant Wilson's Warbler from her yard in Herkimer County.

This season a total of 203 species and two hybrids was reported, which is five below the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: Blue-winged Teal, Common Nighthawk, Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, **American White Pelican**, **Black Vulture**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Clay-colored Sparrow, Clay-colored x Chipping Sparrow (hybrid), Lincoln's Sparrow, and Prothonotary Warbler.

Summer 2019 produced 60,155 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Hummingbird v5.1. Reports were contributed by 465 people.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HI** – Howland Island WMA; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **LoopR** – Loop Rd Unit, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **Ppt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson River P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skani** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: FH 4 Jun; OswH 14 Jul; only reps.
Canada Goose: 221 Dolge 12 Aug; max 250 WP 17 Aug.
Mute Swan: 4 OnonL 13 Aug; max 22 FH 14 Jul.
Trumpeter Swan: 5 HI 1 Jun; 2 Volney 16 Jun; 2 BLNC 24 Jun; 6 FH 5 Aug; max 8 TR 22 Jun.
Wood Duck: 29 CM 31 Jul; 39 DC 9 Aug; max 60 UM 11 Aug; 33 MW 24 Aug.
Blue-winged Teal: 9 SNC 7 Jul, f. with young (JCa); max 14 DC 31 Aug (MB); reps from 6 other locs.
Gadwall: no reps.
American Wigeon: 2 OnonL 12 Aug, only rep.
Mallard: max 250 OLC 28 Jul.
American Black Duck: 4 OF Adk 8 Jun; 4 OnonL 16 Aug; max 5 Eaton 14 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: OnonL 14 & 28 Jul; MSI 27 Aug; max 5 DL 25 Aug; only reps.
Ring-necked Duck: 6 WP 1-9 Jun; last 2 WP 11 Jun; 2 OF 11 Jun; only locs.
Greater Scaup: OswH 1-13 Aug, injured; only rep.
Lesser Scaup: WP 1-9 Jun; only rep.
Common Goldeneye: HI 7 Jun; Sunday Lake HERK 15 Jun; OF 1-13 Aug; only reps.
Hooded Merganser: 10 Skan 9 Jun; max 17 Madison 24 Jun, 2 f with young.
Common Merganser: 11 OF 26 Jul; max 13 Fayetteville 2 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2 Bville 6 Jun, one thru 25 Aug; only rep.
Ruddy Duck: max 6 MW 4 Jul, adults with 4 imms, only rep.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 12 Great Swamp Conservancy 29 Jul; 2 Chittenango 19 Aug; singles from 6 other locs.
Ruffed Grouse: 4 Williamstown 5-6 Jun; max 6 Pulaski 26 Jun.

Wild Turkey: 13 Eagle Bay ADK; 12 Jun; 13 Herkimer 25 Jul; max 30 Hamilton 12 Aug.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 UM 9 Jun, ad with young.
Rock Pigeon: max 70 OswH 22 Aug.
Mourning Dove: max 64 OnonL 28 Jul; 32 Dolge 6 Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 Const 26 Jun; singles at about 25 other locs.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 DB 3 Jun, 2 Coldbrook 27 Jun; singles from about 30 other locs.
Common Nighthawk: last 2 Pulaski 1 Jun; Cicero 18 Jun (DN), 2 OSP 29 Jun (DA), Utica 4 Jul (MP), unusual dates; 6 Earlville 26 Aug; 6 TR 28 Aug; 1-2 NBT Bank Stadium lights 26-27 Aug; 6 TR 28 Aug; max 8 WP 28 Aug; relatively reps.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: Oswego 8 Jun, unusual loc, date; ONEI 19 Jun; max 3 Salisbury 29 Jun; only reps.
Chimney Swift: 17 Syr 1 Aug; max 25 Dolge 22 Aug; low numbers.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 45 Stillwater ADK 6 Jul (GL); 41 DCM 29 Aug (MB).

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 3 TR 19 Jun; max 4 UM 15 Aug.
Sora: max 2 DC 8 Jun & MSI 30 Jul; PSS 10 Jun; MW 18 Aug; only reps.
Common Gallinule: 19 OnonL 12 Aug, incl juv, *intro*; max 20 UM 15 Aug, breeding; 9 HI 25 Aug.
American Coot: max 4 OnonL 23 Aug, all reps same loc.
Sandhill Crane: DC 2 Jun (MB); DB 28 Jun (DW); max 8 HI 4 Aug (MJ).
Black-bellied Plover: SP 2 Aug (DD); SHTF 29 Aug (DWe); only reps.
American Golden-Plover: max 40 SHTF 29 Aug (DWe); SP 29 Aug (MB); only reps.
Semipalmated Plover: 3 Mannsville 26 Jul; max 11 SP 24 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER (R5): 2 ad breed SP, 3 juv hatch, 2 juv & ad thru early Aug, *intro*.
Killdeer: 35 Osw Airport 22 Jul; max 76 Marietta 25 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Osw Airport 26 Jul (GD); Poland 29 Jul (BLH); only reps.
Whimbrel: FH 12 Jul (DW); max 5 FH 19 Aug (MG); SP 14, 19 Jul; (DW); only reps.

Ruddy Turnstone: FH 22 Jul (GD); only rep.
Stilt Sandpiper: OnonL 25 Jul (DD); only rep.
Sanderling: arr SP 14 Jul; 7 FH 22 Jul; max 9 SP 27 Jul & 17 Aug; small num 3 other locs.
Least Sandpiper: arr Fayetteville 11 Jul; max 24 Skan 15 Jul; 16 Madison 27 Aug; 18 SHSF 29 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr OnonL 8 Jul; 2 MW 22 Jul; 2 MSI 11 Aug; small num 3 other locs.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 4 HI 13 Jul; 7 OnonL 25 Jul; max 23 SP 14 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: SP 11, 20 Jul (DW); MW 23 Jul (BLH); only reps.
American Woodcock: 4 Manlius 3 Jul; max 6 TR 29 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: 3 MW 8 Aug; max 5 Richfield Springs 22 Aug; few reps.
Spotted Sandpiper: 8 OnonL 25 Jul; max 19 Eaton 29 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Barneveld 2 Jun; 8 Osw Airport 22 Jul; max 13 Eaton 6-14 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr MW & Skan 14 Jul; max 38 Skan 15 Jul; 20 MW 21 Jul; 16 OnonL 5 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr HV 10 Jul (DW), unusual loc; 3 SH 26 Aug; max 6 Skan 27 Aug.
Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 Skan 14 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 6 SP 8 Aug; max 117 SVB 18 Aug; 28 Const 27 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: 400 OswH 9 Aug; max 1500 DB 18 Aug; 400 OnonL 20 Aug; 400 Marietta 25 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 100 FH 23 Jun.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 18 SVB 18 Aug; 4 SP 24 Aug.
Caspian Tern: 70 SP 5 Jun; 75 SP 24 Jun; max 206 FH 9 Aug; 52 SP 21 Aug; 34 OswH 22 Jul, unk Jun num at OswH due to no reps.
Black Tern: Seneca River/HI 7 (DW), 8 Jun (JM, LS), just over Reg border, only reps.
Common Tern: 100 Const 26 Jun; 100 SP 17 Aug; max 221 OSP 20 Aug; 115 SP 21 Aug; 80 SP 24 Aug; accurate count not available from OneiL breeding colony near Const; attempted breeding SP beach late July, *intro*.

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: max 9 OF; 7 Moss Lake, ADK 8 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1700 SP 24 Aug (MB), flocks flying south; 500 OLC 26 Aug.

American White Pelican: OneIL Lakeport 21 Aug (GK).

American Bittern: max 2 DC 11 Jun: reps of singles from 9 other locs.

Least Bittern: max 2 DeWitt 18 Jun & UM 11 Aug; SP 28 Jun, 12 & 28 Jul, 21 Aug; singles 6 other locs.

Great Blue Heron: max 50 SNC 8 Jun, breeding colony; 32 HI 8 Jun.

Great Egret: 13 MW 21-23 Jul; max 21 UM 4 Aug; 12 OnonL 7 Aug.

Green Heron: 6 SNC 15 Jun; max 7 SP 14 Jul; 6 Madison 11 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: OswH 22 Jun (MM); max 3 OLC 26 Jul; WP 22 Aug; only reps.

Black Vulture: Middleville 30 Aug (KT).

Turkey Vulture: max 67 Canastota 12 Jul; 48 Little Falls 20 Jun; 48 DC 29 Aug.

Osprey: max 7 Bville 18 Aug; 6 OnonL 25 Jul; 6 FH 29 Jul.

Northern Harrier: max 3 DC 29 Aug; 2 SHTF 29 Aug.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: relatively few reps.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 BLNC 24 Jun; max 3 Fayetteville 21 Jul-6 Aug; 2 SH 27 Aug.

Northern Goshawk: OF 24 Jun, only rep (CW, JB).

Bald Eagle: max 28 HI 8 Jun (JM, LS); 16 DH 18 Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: DB 21 Jun; WP 26 Jun; Fairfield 28 Jun; SH 4 Jul; Pulaski 21 July; WMonroe 25 Aug; Hastings 31 Aug; only credible reps.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 51 DH 18 Aug; 8 SFNS 24 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: 34 DH 6 Aug; max 55 DH 18 Aug.

Eastern Screech-Owl: singles from 6 locs.

Great Horned Owl: max 2 Kirkland 14 Jun; singles from 6 other locs.

Barred Owl: max 3 BLNC 24 Jun; reps from over 40 locs.

Long-eared Owl: no reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reps.

Belted Kingfisher: 6 SP 14 Jul; max 11 HI 16 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 DH thru, likely nesting (GS); FH thru, likely nesting; 2 WMonroe 3 Jul (DD), unusual loc; 4 SP 11 Aug (JCh); VBSP thru & max 5 VBSP 29

Aug, incl juvs; scattered reps north shore OneIL.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 HI 8 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 GLSP 15 Jun, 4 SFNS 14 Jul.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Sunday Lake HERK 11 Jun (BL); only rep.

Downy Woodpecker: 6 HI 26 Jun; max 7 Dolge 26 Jun.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Dolge 12 Jun.

Northern Flicker: max 7 HI 1 Jun & Syr 19 Aug.

Pileated Woodpecker: 4 WP 3 Jul; 4 GLSP 3 Jul; max 5 SFNS 20 Aug.

American Kestrel: 5 Earlville 9 Jul; max 6 Dolge 9 Aug; scattered reps.

Merlin: max 3 OF 24 Jun; 2 Syr 31 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: max 6 Utica Jun-Jul (MP) fledged 4 young; Little Falls 30 Jun; 2 MCL 19 Aug; a few other reps from expected locs.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 14 HI 8 Jun; 7 SP 20 Aug.

Eastern Kingbird: 12 HI 8 Jun; max 16 WP 22 Aug, great number.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Syr 20 Aug; SP 25 Aug; only reps.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 12 HI 1 Jun; 8 SFNS 20 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: reps from 5 locs.

Acadian Flycatcher: HI 1 Jun; max 3 WH 12 Jun; SNC 16 Jun; only locs.

Alder Flycatcher: 6 SFNS 1 Jun; max 10 Otter Lake 4 Jun; 6 TR 5 Aug.

Willow Flycatcher: max 14 HI 6 Jun; 10 DB 1 Aug.

Least Flycatcher: max OnonL 7 Jun, 10 Jul; 5 SP 25 Aug.

Eastern Phoebe: 6 Dolge 6-30 Jun; max 8 Oswego 19 Aug;

Yellow-throated Vireo: 5 Otter Lake 4 Jun; max 23 HI 8 Jun, great number.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 15 SH 8 Jul; 5 OF 25 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: max 25 HI 8 Jun; 12 FH 24 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: 28 OF 23 Jun; max 30 SH 8 Jul.

Canada Jay: no reps.

Blue Jay: max 100 Kirkland 25 Aug, 100 WP 28 Aug.

American Crow: max 196 Dolge 12 Jul; 107 Marcy 11 Aug.

Fish Crow: max 3 OnonL 11 Jul; 2 Herkimer 23 Jul; reps from 8 other locs.

Common Raven: max 4 Camillus 9 Jun; 4 TR 10 Jun; 4 Hast 22 Jun-8 Jul.

Horned Lark: max 11 SHTF 30 Aug; singles and small numbers at 3 other locs.

Purple Martin: 20 Const 26 Jun; max 38 RRP 27 Aug; more locs than typical.

Tree Swallow: 60 MW 23 Jul; max 235 Cicero 27 Jul; 60 SP 31 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 8 SNC 1 Jun; 13 HI 13 Jul; max 15 UM 15 Jul.

Bank Swallow: max 40 Volney 21 Jun; 20 Oswego 26 Jul; 21 Cicero 27 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: 6 TR 25 Jul; 6 Brew 1 Aug; max 25 OswH 28 Aug; small numbers at several other locs.

Barn Swallow: max 90 OnonL 12 Aug; 50 TR 17 Aug; 65 Mexico 21 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: 17 BLNC 1 Jul; max 22 SH 28 Jul.

Boreal Chickadee: no reps.

Tufted Titmouse: max 21 Atwood Lake HERK 19 Jul.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 ADK 1 & 24 Aug; most reps from SH & n HERK.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 mult locs.

Brown Creeper: max 4 HI 8 Jun.

House Wren: 8 DB 1 Jul & 1 Aug; max 11 Cazenovia 30 Jun & Pulaski 25 Aug.

Winter Wren: max 8 SH 8 Jul.

Sedge Wren: TR 14 Jul-6 Aug (GD); 2 TR 6 Aug (GD), nesting status unknown.

Marsh Wren: 8 HI 8 Jun; max 30 DC 11 Jun (MB), good num.

Carolina Wren: most reps from ONON.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 15 HI, good num.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 20 SH 8 Jul; most reps SH & n. HERK.

Eastern Bluebird: max 9 GLSP.

Veery: max 14 Const 23 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 reps, all n. HERK.

Hermit Thrush: max 10 HV 10 Jul & Atwood L 29 Jun.

Wood Thrush: max 14 GLSP.

American Robin: max 35 Syr.

Gray Catbird: 35 Utica 27 Jun; 43 UM 15 Aug.

Brown Thrasher: max 6 GLSP 4 Jun; scattered locs.

Northern Mockingbird: most reps ONON; max 3 OakC 20 Aug.

European Starling: max 2500 Pulaski 29 Aug (MB).

Cedar Waxwing: max 60 Phx 7 Aug.

House Sparrow: max 35 Liverpool 15 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 TManheim 8 Jul (BLH), only rep.

House Finch: max 12 UM.

Purple Finch: max 24 Dolge 10 Aug.

Pine Siskin: 1-2 Cassville ONEI & Dolge thru Jun, only reps.

American Goldfinch: max 60 Rome 17 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 6 SFNS 8 Jun; max 7 GLSP 10 Jul.

Chipping Sparrow: 20 Clay 4 Jul; 30 OakC 15 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: OakC thru 19 Jul (DD), *intro*; max 2 SFNS 22 Jul (MP).

Clay-colored x Chipping Sparrow (hybrid): 3 juv OakC mid-July (DD), *intro*.

Field Sparrow: 14 TR 22 Jun; max 16 GLSP 4 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: Waterville 28 Jun; Dolge 3 Aug; TR 6 Aug; max 5 TManheim 22 Jul; only reps.

Savannah Sparrow: 6 Osw Airport 22 Jul; max 7 SH 31 Jul; few reps than expected.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 3 MSI 5 Jul; Jul-Aug Mason Hill, Hamilton; singles 5 other locs, scarce in Reg.

Song Sparrow: max 30 multiple locs.

Lincoln's Sparrow: n HERK 24 Jun (CW, JB); only rep.

Swamp Sparrow: max 23 PSS 16 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 5 Atwood L 14 Jul; low nums.

White-crowned Sparrow: Hamilton 3 Jun; last SNC 9 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 30 SH 8 Jul.

Bobolink: 55 TR 22 Jun; 65 SFNS 24 Aug; max 80 Pulaski 16 Aug (MB).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 22 Osw Airport 22 Jul; low nums elsewhere.

Orchard Oriole: HI 6, 8 Jun; 3 DB 3 Jun; PSS 10 Jun; 2 Marcellus 22 Jun; max 7 GLSP 22 Jun; SFNS 4, 14 Jul; only reps.

Baltimore Oriole: max 8 HI 8, 14 Jun.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 400 SHTF 22 Aug.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 25 Rome 7 Jul.

Common Grackle: max 216 Dolge 26 Jul.

Ovenbird: max 40 SH 8 Jul.
Louisiana Waterthrush: Jamesville 15 Jun; Redfield 27 Jun (DN); only reps, *intro*.
Northern Waterthrush: max 4 TR 22 Jun & LH 18 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: Fabius 18 Aug (AB); only rep.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 HI 1 Jun.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Pulaski 15 Jun & 20, 23, 28 Aug; only rep.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 McKeever BBS HERK 23 Jun.
Prothonotary Warbler: 6 HI 7, 8 Jun; only reps, *intro*.
Tennessee Warbler: Fayetteville 1 Jun; last SFNS 2 Jun; arr Oswego 28 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: max 3 Sunday L HERK 11 Jun; most reps n. HERK.
Mourning Warbler: max 3 SH 2 Jun.
Common Yellowthroat: max 23 GLSP 10 Jul; 20 TR 25 Jul.
Hooded Warbler: max 5 Kirkland 5 Jun; Camillus 9 Jun.
American Redstart: max 25 HI 8 Jun.
Cerulean Warbler: WMonroe 26 Jun & 2 Jul; Cicero Swamp 20 Jul; max 24 HI 8 Jun; only locs.

Northern Parula: WMonroe 26 Jun (DD), unusual loc; SH 29 Jun (DD); max 5 Atwood L 26 Jun.
Magnolia Warbler: max 15 SH 8 Jul.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 25 SH 8 Jul.
Yellow Warbler: max 25 HI 14 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 5 SH 2 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 3 SVB 4 Jun; last FH 11 Jun.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 10 SH 23 Jun.
Pine Warbler: max 5 OF 24 Jun; few reps.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 SH 1 Jun & n. HERK 24 Aug; low nums.
Prairie Warbler: no reps.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 11 n. HERK 23 Jul.
Canada Warbler: 3 LH 9 Jul; max 4 n. HERK 5 Jul.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr Dolge 31 Jul; BLNC 20 Aug; Erieville 29 Aug.
Scarlet Tanager: max 7 Erieville 7 July.
Northern Cardinal: max 17 Elbridge 22 Jul.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 9 Pulaski 15 Jun; max 10 Minetto 28 Aug.
Indigo Bunting: 7 HI 1 Jun; max 8 DB 4 Aug.



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer began cool and wet but warmed up and dried out by mid-summer. Watertown’s mean June temperature was 62.3° F, 1.2° below normal, and the 4.26" of rain that fell that month was 2.1" above normal, making for the second consecutive very wet month. Temperatures warmed considerably in July, with a mean temperature of 71.3° that was 2.7° above normal. August was more seasonable, as Watertown’s mean temperature of 66.8° was within 0.3° of normal. July rainfall was about 0.6" below normal but August saw 0.6" more rain than usual.

The most significant weather-related event of the season was the extremely high water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River that

resulted from the spring's record rainfall in the western Great Lakes. Shorebird habitat was essentially nonexistent along these bodies of water, and many nesting islands were extensively flooded, limiting nesting sites for colonial water birds. Nest counts for several species were lower than in recent years, perhaps most notably for Caspian Tern at Little Galloo Island, where the 1,715 nests counted by DEC biologists was 57% fewer than the record high count from 2018. Common Terns had recently recolonized Little Galloo Island, but no nests were found this year. However, one Common Tern nest on a log in the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area marsh fledged three chicks. The unusual location of this nest likely reflects the scarcity of traditional nest sites for this species.

Northbound migrants passed through during the first few days of June in numbers that seemed unusually high. Two flocks of Brant totaling about 100 individuals passed over Butterfield Lake and Canton on 2 June. On that same day 22 Blackpoll Warblers were at Little Sucker Brook Park. Other typically late migrants, such as Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers were well reported during early June. Many of these species were conspicuous to about 6 June.

Waterfowl numbers were mostly unexceptional, but the only true rarity of the season was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** Nick Leone found in Frenchman's Bay in the town of Clayton on 17 June. Unfortunately this flashy duck did not stick around for others to see it. Trumpeter Swans continued their gradual expansion in the Region, with sightings from six locations, although nesting was not confirmed at any new sites. Blue-winged Teal continue to be scarce during the summer and certainly seem to be harder to find during this season than they were a decade or so ago. An adult female Common Goldeneye at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA in early July was a surprise, but was not found after mid-July and was assumed to be moving. It is unclear whether a juvenile of the same species at Murray Island during late August was from a local breeding attempt or was an early arrival from farther north.

Very few shorebirds sightings came from the Lake Ontario shoreline, not surprising given the extremely high water levels there. Nearly all of the season's migrant shorebird reports came from Perch River WMA, where one pool was lowered for construction and briefly had suitable habitat before the exposed mud dried out, or from Wilson Hill WMA and nearby areas along the St. Lawrence River. Often this stretch of river, between the Iroquois and Moses-Saunders Dams, can be good for shorebirds in late summer when increased power generation results in lower water levels. This year the river was not lowered as much as usual, and when it was, surprisingly few shorebirds appeared. Probably the most noteworthy shorebird sightings were of an early Dunlin at Perch River on 14 August and an American Golden-Plover on a lawn west of Ogdensburg on 29 August. Overall it was the poorest summer for shorebirds in at least five years.

Several grassland birds of conservation concern continue to hang on the in the Region. Upland Sandpipers were at Fort Drum and three other locations in northwest Jefferson County, about typical for the past decade. A total of 13 Henslow's Sparrows were reported at Chaumont Barrens, Perch River WMA, and Fort Drum in just about the only locations this increasingly rare species has been found over the past 4-5 years. A Short-eared Owl at Fort Drum was in the same location that a pair nested in 2018, but it was not seen after early July and nesting was not confirmed. It was a good year for Sedge Wrens with at least 30 individuals at eight locations, the largest number occurring on Fort Drum.

Many birders visit southeastern St. Lawrence County during the summer to search of boreal birds, with Massawepie Mire representing the biggest draw. Despite numerous visitors no Spruce Grouse were detected this summer, which was a little surprising because reports of this rare breeder have increased at Massawepie over the last couple of years. The five Boreal Chickadees Shelley Rutkin and Derek Hudgins found in Piercefield were the only ones reported all summer, which was not surprising as Boreals have been increasingly difficult to find in St. Lawrence County for quite some time. Red Crossbills apparently nested at Massawepie Mire and the Horseshoe Lake area but were not found elsewhere.

Thanks to eBird the number of observers reporting in Region 6 has been steadily increasing for several years and seemed to reach a new high this year, so it was a bit surprising that only 199 species were documented for the lowest summer total since 2010. A general lack of shorebirds contributed to this low species tally and was a major disappointment generally. Clearly the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was the greatest rarity found this season, but as so often happens in Region 6, did not stick around for anybody to see it, another disappointment.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BI** – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **IRL** – Indian River Lakes; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LGI** – Little Galloo I; **LPd**—Leanoard Pd trail T Colton; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SH** – Sackett’s Harbor; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **SLWG** – St. Lawrence Grassland and Wetland Management District; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

T Clayton 17 Jun (NL) not seen again.

Snow Goose: T Henderson 30 Jul (JC) only report.

Brant: LSBP 2 Jun; max 70 RRT 2 June; 30 Butterfield L 2 Jun; last reports; high for Jun.

Mute Swan: max 7 WISP 23 Jun.

Trumpeter Swan: up to 10/day PRWMA thru; 2 WHWMA 2 Jun; 8 T Alexandria 16 Jun; max 11 ULLWMA 10 Jul; 2 T Lisbon 25 Aug; 2 Dexter Marsh 29 Aug.

Wood Duck: max 660 PRWMA 17 Aug (JB).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 reports PRWMA Jun; AFWMA & T Hammond 9 Jun; only reports before mid July; max 185 PRWMA 24 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: AFWMA 9 Jun & T Clayton 8 Jul only reports before Aug; max 3 PRWMA 17 Aug thru.

Gadwall: 5 BI 11 Jul; PRWMA 24 Aug; only reports.

American Wigeon: 2 PRWMA 17 Aug; WHWMA 25 Aug; only reports.

American Black Duck: max 9 Lowe’s Lake 8 Jul.

Green-winged Teal: none before Aug; max 16 PRWMA 17 Aug, WHWMA & WP 25 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 76 ULLWMA 13 Aug.

Common Goldeneye: ad f ULLWMA 5-10 Jul (JB); juv Murray I 23 Aug (HM, phl).

Common Merganser: max 17 (f w 16 juv) Murray I 16 Jul;

Red-breasted Merganser: WHWMA 25 Aug (BB) only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 36 PRWMA 19 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 22 reports from 14 locations; max 3 ICNC 1 Jun & LBSF 14 Jul.

Black-billed Cuckoo: about 70 reported from 43 locations.

Common Nighthawk: Star L T Fine 9 Jun (DN) & SBSP 12 Jun (DC) only Jun or Jul reports away from FD area where still regular breeder; breeding season max 12 FD 17 Jun; Natural Bridge T Wilna 29 Jun & T Leray I Jul near FD boundary; migrants arr T Carthage 15 Aug; max 28 T Watertown 28 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: max 45 FD 17 Jun; multiple counts also from CB, T Lyme, IRL area.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 14 reports from 11 locations.

Sora: 6 reports from 4 locations.

Common Gallinule: max 49 PRWMA 24 Aug (JB).

Sandhill Crane: 2 T Lisbon 13 Jul only report.

Black-bellied Plover: 3 T Dekalb 5 Jun; PRWMA 6 & 22 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: T Oswegatchie 29 Aug (BS) only report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 13 PRWMA 6 Aug.

Killdeer: max 200 PRWMA 14 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: CB 7 Jun (GD); T Clayton 6 Jul (DD), 2 ad 4 juv 2 T Lyme 1 Jul (LE) where 2 still present 10 Aug (SK); only reports away from FD where 6+ terr (JB).

Sanderling: 5 SBSP 24 Aug only report.

Dunlin: WHWMA 2 Jun; PRWMA 14 Aug (AK, KB, KR, early).

Least Sandpiper: max 50 PRWMA 14 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 3 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 13 WHWMA 2 Jun last northbound migrants; max 22 PRWMA 4 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 3 PRWMA 17-19 Aug; WHWMA 25 Aug only other report.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Cranberry L 12 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 25 PRWMA 15 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 8 SH 9 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 996 nests LGI down from 1159 in 2018.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 WP 18 Aug.
Caspian Tern: 1715 nests LGI far below previous year's record high (*intro*).
Black Tern: 7 Wilson Bay marsh 9 Jun; 2 SBSP 12 Jun; up to 10/day WHWMA Jun where rare in recent years; 31 ULLWMA 10 Jul; up to 50/day PRWMA Jun & Jul; 2 Swamp Rd T Lyme 18 Jul; Grant Rd CV 27 Jul; 2 AFWMA 11 Aug.
Common Tern: nest on log LWMA 5 Jul fledged 3 y; no nests LGI for first time since at least 2013; 1070 nests SLR lowest since 2010.

LOONS-FALCONS

Double-crested Cormorant: 3051 nests LGI 12 Jun highest since 2004; record high counts on 8 islands E L Ontario & STLA.
American Bittern: max 6 FD 7 Jun.
Least Bittern: 13 reports from 8 locations; max 3 PRWMA 18 Jul.
Great Egret: max 16 Bombay SF 4 Aug & WP 18 Aug.
Green Heron: max 10 Perch L 12 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 126 nests Murphy I record high.
Northern Harrier: about 50 reports from 21 locations.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 13 reports.
Cooper's Hawk: only 7 reports from 6 locations low.
Northern Goshawk: LPd 21 Jun & MM 7 Jul.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 8 reports IRL Jun & Jul; only 7 reports elsewhere.
Eastern Screech-Owl: T Clayton 8 Jun; FD 17 Jun; only reports.
Short-eared Owl: FD thru 3 Jul only report.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 11 FD 22 Aug; T Pinckney 28 Jun (GS) & 2 T Champion feeder 12 Aug (SM) only other reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: recent expansion into Adirondacks including Cranberry L 6 Jun (NG) & Massawepie L 23 Aug (NK).

Merlin: reports from 25 locations.

Peregrine Falcon: FD 1 Jun prob migrating; MM 24 Aug unusual location.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RRT 2 Jun; PRWMA 4 Jun; T Pinckney 11 Jun; only reports outside Adirondacks.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: northbound migrants outside Adirondacks include 5 RRT 2 Jun, FD 3 & 4 Jun; max 8 MM 7 Jun likely breeders; southbound migrants include FD 26 Aug & RRT 31 Aug.

Alder Flycatcher: max 26 FD 6 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: max 27 FD 23 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 CV (DM) & 2 T Canton (RM) 2 Jun likely late northbound migrants; Crooked Creek Preserve 22 Jun (BB) & FD 23 Jun (JB) unusual locations; T Croghan 10 Aug (MR) likely early southbound migrant.

Canada Jay: max 8 MM 7 Jul.

Tree Swallow: numbers generally low but high counts 935 FD 16 Jul & 550 ULLWMA 1 Aug.

Bank Swallow: 110 FD 4 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 200 BI 11 Jul.

Boreal Chickadee: max 5 T Piercefield 15 Aug.

Sedge Wren: T Waddington 2 Jun (JB); French Creek WMA 22 Jun (GS); 1 Judson St Rd T Canton 30 Jun increased to 6 by 9 Jul (JB, BD); max 13 FD 1 Jul; Bevins Rd T Clayton 13 Jul (KR); 2 SLWG 22 Jul (JB); PRWMA 9 Jul (MM) where 2 18 Jul (GB); 2 AFWMA Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: ICNC 10 Jul; Alcoa Ponds T Massena 7 Aug; PRWMA 15 Aug; only reports away from L Ontario shore.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 T Clayton 11 Aug only report away from Adirondacks or Tug Hill.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: uo to 4/day Cranberry L thru; Hitchens Pd 7 Jul; T Pinckney 25-30 Aug only report outside Adirondacks.

Swainson's Thrush: southbound migrant arr FD 19 Aug.

Northern Mockingbird: T Canton 2 Jun; T Hounsfield 7 Jul; KPSP 27 Jun; T Croghan 3 Aug; scarce FD where usually regular breeder.

House Finch: only 16 reports unusually scarce

Purple Finch: max 13 T Fine 8 Jun.

Red Crossbill: 10 reports 1-2 each from 5 locations in extreme SE STLA; no other reports.

Pine Siskin: Cranberry L 13 & 24 Jun only reports.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Taylor Rd T Leray 6 Jun (SG); Swamp Rd T Lyme & CV 8 Jun-21 Jul (SK, mob); Holmes Rd T Leray 9 Jun (JB); max 16 FD 7 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: PRWMA 30 Jun (AVK) & CV 2 Jul (DM) only reports away from FD; max 45 FD 21 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: T Lyme 18 Jul; 6 reports 1-2 PRWMA 7 Jun -11 Aug; max 32 FD 29 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 CB 6 Jun (GD); up to 5/day FD Jun-Jul; max 6 PRWMA Jun-Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 6 MM 27 Jun & 7 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: T Philadelphus 7 Jun (FB); FD 12 Jun (JB); T Canton 14 Jul (JB); T Pinckney 4 Aug (GS); only reports.

Rusty Blackbird: 3 Cranberry L 16 Jun (NG); 2 Lowe's L 7 Jul (AB).

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Lake of the Woods 5 Aug (SM).

Golden-winged Warbler: several reports 6-9/day FD & IRL Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 12 FD 5 Jun.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 9 FD Jun; 4 elsewhere.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: different locations FD 8 & 12 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: last spring migrant FD 6 Jun; Tug Hill WMA 9 Aug (JH) local breeder?

Nashville Warbler: max 12 FD 20 Jun.

Mourning Warbler: max 8 FD 5 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: Tooley Pd Rd T Clare 24 Jun (AB) rare breeding season; southbound migrants arr RRT 18 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 5 LBSF 6 Jun & T Dekalb 9 Jul.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr RRT 24 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 22 Little Sucker Brook Park 2 Jun high for Jun; FD & T Morristown 6 Jun last obvious northbound migrants; Low's Ridge, Upper Dam Trail 7 Jun last migrant or breeder?

Palm Warbler: max "Yellow" 14 MM 1 Jun; "Western" fall arr PRWMA 17 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: max 27 FD 21 Jun.

Canada Warbler: max 10 FD 16 Jun

Wilson's Warbler: last 2 spring migrants FD 6 Jun; southbound arr FD 19 Aug.



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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June continued May's unusually cold and wet weather. Temperatures averaged 1-3 degrees cooler than normal over most of Region 7 with cooler pockets in the extreme southwest of Hamilton County and the southern portions of the Champlain Valley. Precipitation was lightest in the northern portion of the Region averaging 3-4 inches and increasing to 6-7 inches in the southernmost areas.

The cold wet weather of June finally gave way to more seasonal

temperatures in July. Temperatures were warmest in the low-lying areas of the Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Valleys where they were 3-5 degrees warmer than average. In the Adirondacks the temperatures were only 1-3 degrees above normal. Throughout most of Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties an average of 2-3 inches of precipitation was recorded with a drier pocket in Clinton County of 1-2 inches and a wetter pocket of 4-5 inches in Franklin County. Precipitation in Hamilton County averaged 3-4 inches except in the southwest where the average was 4-5 inches. Unfortunately for birding possibilities the remnants of Hurricane Barry in the middle of the month mostly spared the area.

Rainfall in August produced a patchwork pattern on the map of Region 7. The lower Champlain Valley recorded the lowest totals with an average of 2-3 inches. Most of the remaining portions of the Region measured 3-4 inches while northern Clinton County and the northern half of Hamilton reported totals of 4-5 inches and the southern half 5-6 inches. Temperatures for the whole of Region 7 averaged 1-3 degrees below normal except for small pockets around Lake Placid and Saranac Lake which were, on average, 3-5 degrees colder.

The plot of the level of Lake Champlain for this season closely paralleled the graph for Summer 2018. Only the actual values were different. On 1 June 2019 the lake level stood at a fraction under flood stage of 100'. (On the same date in 2018 it was 97.7'.) At this level the mudflats associated with the Chazy Riverlands (CR) were hopelessly underwater. From there the lake level dropped in an almost perfectly smooth curve to 96.7' on 15 July and 94.6' on 31 August 2019. (It was 94.25' on the same date in 2018.) At these levels good conditions for migrating shorebirds at the CR were present only from mid July until mid August. After that the entire area was too dry. However, the lower lake levels improved the shorebird habitat at Noblewood Park. Even with these less than ideal conditions an above-average 19 species of shorebirds, residents plus migrants, were seen.

A very rare summer sighting of **Red-necked Grebe** was reported from Owls Head. The only other summer record for Region 7 was also in August and also away from Lake Champlain. Breeding of **Sandhill Crane** was recorded in the Region for the fourth consecutive year. The two reports of **Upland Sandpiper** sightings were the first in Region 7 since 2010. **Little Gull** made an exceptionally strong showing with multiple sightings from 10 August to the end of the season. At least three distinct individuals were identified though no more than two were seen at the same time. The report of the first breeding record of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** for Clinton County that appeared in *The Kingbird* (Vol. 68, p. 334, 2018) drew this response from Jackie Wrenn: "Evidence of breeding was witnessed [most years from 2013 to 2018] by the fact that the male would bring one or two juveniles to the suet feeders." Thus confirming the conviction that this woodpecker had bred here long before the 2018 record. The juvenile **LeConte's Sparrow** found near Willsboro early in August was a first record for the Champlain Valley and a "very rare summer record for New York

and the entire east coast. According to the current eBird range map...there are no existing [summer] records south of Canada on the east coast.”

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIC – Adirondack Interpretive Center; **AFR** – Altona Flat Rock; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BaP** – Bartlett Pd; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BBr** – Black Brook; **BMR** – Blue Mountain Rd; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **BS** – Big Slide; **Bur** – Burke; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **ChR** – Chubb Ri; **CL** – Clorojast; **CM** – Cascade Mountain; **CMR** – Cemetery Rd; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRd** – Chapman Rd; **CRF** – Cedar Ri Flow; **DRB** – Dexter Rd Bog; **EC** – Essex Co; **Es** – Essex; **FB** – Ferd's Bog; **FBR** – Four Brothers Islands; **GM** – Goodnow Mountain; **HB** – Holsington Brook; **HHF** – Heaven Hill Farm; **HRN** – Hudson R North; **HT** – Heaven Trails; **HuM** – Hurricane Mountain; **HuR** – Hurricane Rd; **KM** – Keese Mills Rd; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LL** – Long L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MRP** – Moose Ri Plains; **MRv** – Moose Ri; **NE** – North Elba; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OB** – Oseetah Bog; **OH** – Owls Head; **PH** – Port Henry; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RFR** – Reagan Flats Rd; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SPB** – Spring Pd Bog; **SpL** – Spy L; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TR** – Trout Ri; **VTV** – Vermontville; **WF** – Whiteface Mountain; **WL** – Wilmington; **WLS** – Willis L Swamp; **WP** – Westport; **Wpt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WV** – Westville.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: 29 BBr 2 Jun (AVK).
Wood Duck: 13 HB 17 Jun (RB), CO-FL; 96 TI 26 Aug (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: 3 HB 10 Aug (MM).
Gadwall: 3 NP 22 Aug (SR).
American Wigeon: CR 13 Jul (BK).
Mallard: 19 CR 15 Jul, CO-FL.
American Black Duck: 9 SpL 23 Jun (TD), CO-FL.
Northern Pintail: AP 23 Aug (MK); 8 OH 7 Jul (JT), CO-FL.
Green-winged Teal: 4 TR 16 Aug (HW).

Ring-necked Duck: 7 PS 22 Jul (KR), CO-FL.
Bufflehead: 2 Ap 23 Aug (MK), early.
Common Goldeneye: 5 CH 5 Jun.
Hooded Merganser: 10 AP 29 Jul (SR).
Common Merganser: 25 SB 6 Jun (SB), CO-FL.
Ring-necked Pheasant: EC 24 Jun (J&PT).
Ruffed Grouse: 3 BRR 11 Jun (G&MC), CO-FL.
Spruce Grouse: BMR 8 Jun (ZS-W); 2 DRB 29 Jun (AB), CO-FL.
Wild Turkey: 6 WP 16 Jun (JS), CO-FL.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 CR 15 Jul (BK), CO-FL.
Red-Necked Grebe: OH 4 Jul (RH), rare in summer.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: HHF 15 Jul (GB).
Black-billed Cuckoo: LP 15 Jul (BMc).
Common Nighthawk: 12 AFR 7 Jul (JC).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: 10 AFR 7 Jul (JC).
Chimney Swift: 12 PB 6 Jun (ZC).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 12 WLS 2 Jun (KC).

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 4 LA 3 Aug (GR).
Sora: AP 29 Jun (CV).
Common Gallinule: HG 17 Jul (JK).
American Coot: no reports.
SANDHILL CRANE: 4 OB 11 Jun (SMc), CO-FL.
Semipalmated Plover: CR 2 Aug (BK).
Black-bellied Plover: SB 6 Jun (SR); CH 9 Jul (BK).
Killdeer: 15 CR 13 Jul (BK), CO-FL.
Upland Sandpiper: Bur 22 Jun ((WR); HuR 4 Aug (DRg).
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 PH 6 Jun (SR).
Sanderling: CR 13 Aug (BK).
Dunlin: SB 6 Jun (SR).
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 13 Aug (BK).
Least Sandpiper: 2 CR 13 Jul (BK).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: NP 28 Aug (DRg).
Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 16 Jul (BK).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 SB 6 Jun (SR).
Short-billed Dowitcher: CR 15 Jul (BK).
American Woodcock: TL 7 Jul (GB).
Wilson's Snipe: 2 NP 31 Aug (MM).
Spotted Sandpiper: 4 HRN 18 Jul (SR), CO-FL.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 LP 23 Jun (DM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 CR 13 Jul (BK).
Greater Yellowlegs: CR 13 Jul (BK).
Bonaparte's Gull: 307 NP 20 Aug (DRg).
Little Gull: 3 NP 10-31 Aug (MM, SR, GC).
Great Black-backed Gull: 6 PH 22 Aug (SRu).
Caspian Tern: 7 BWB 23 Jul (SR), CO-FL.
Black Tern: no reports.
Common Tern: 4 NP 30 Aug (MM).

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: 8 SB 6 Jun (SR); 2 MRv 19 Jun (GC), CO-NE.

Double-crested Cormorant: 350 CP 29 Aug (SR).
American Bittern: 2 BB 25 Jul (KD).
Least Bittern: AP 18 Jun (BK).
Great Blue Heron: 10 AP 21 Jun (BMc), CO-ON.
Great Egret: 8 BR 20 Jul (SR).
Green Heron: 2 BR 3 Aug (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 HG 17 Jul (JK); 5 FBR 29 Jul (SG), CO-FL.
Turkey Vulture: 3 CR 12 Jun (GC).
Osprey: 5 CP 13 Aug (BK).
Northern Harrier: 2 CP 24 Aug (AB).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4 CL 24 Aug (JH).
Cooper's Hawk: 2 CP 10 Aug (SR).
Northern Goshawk: DRB 29 Jun (AB).
Bald Eagle: 2 LCI 16 Jun (RB), CO-ON.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 HuM 8 Jun (NT).
Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Es 8 Jun (NT), CO-CF.
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 BRR 14 Jun (G&MC).
Golden Eagle: no reports.
Eastern Screech Owl: IL 14 Aug (TO'B).
Great Horned Owl: CP 6 Jul (SR).
Barred Owl: 2 SLB 3 Jun (AB).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: OH 31 Aug (JT).
Belted Kingfisher: 7 AP 29 Aug (SR).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 BRR 23 Jul (G&MC), CO-FL.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 BRR 8 Jul (MC), CO-NY.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 4 ChR 8 Jun (DRg), CO-ON.
Pileated Woodpecker: 4 DMt 11 Jun (JS), CO-ON.
American Kestrel: 3 Es 24 Aug (MM).
Merlin: 2 CH 12 Aug (NO); 2 LP 24 Jul, CO-CF.
Peregrine Falcon: WF 25 Aug (G&MC).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 BB 13 Aug (AB).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 7 AP 29 Jul (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 SLB 3 Jul (AB).
Alder Flycatcher: 3 CMR 19 Jul (J&PT), CO-FL.
Willow Flycatcher: 3 WRS 7 Jul (HT).
Least Flycatcher: 4 SLB 3 Jul (AB).
Eastern Phoebe: ES 9 Jul (MO), CO-ON.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 7 AP 18 Jun (BK).
Eastern Kingbird: 3 CMR 21 Jul (J&PT), CO-FL.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 3 LC 1 Jul (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: 4 LP 10 Jul (SR).
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 SPB 1 Jun (AM).
Warbling Vireo: 5 CP 6 Jul (SR).
Red-eyed Vireo: 15 Es 1 Jun (LK); 3 AIC 10 Jul (JL), CO-CF.
Canada Jay: 2 BB 15 Jun (SJ), CO-FL.
Fish Crow: PB 6 Jun (ZC).
Common Raven: 3 Bur 15 Jul (SR).
Horned Lark: 3 VTV 23 Jul (WHS).
Purple Martin: 4 RFR 7 Jul (HvdZ); 3 LA 3 Aug (GR).
Tree Swallow: 9 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FY.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 13 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FY.
Bank Swallow: 4 CR 24 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: 8 WP 7 Jul (MM).
Barn Swallow: 9 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FL.
Black-capped Chickadee: 4 SL 11 Jun (SJ), CO-ON.
Boreal Chickadee: GM 10 Aug (CP); CO-FL.
Tufted Titmouse: 5 BRR 8 Jul (MC), CO-FL.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 LL 6 Jul (SB), CO-FL.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 3 PH 29 Jun (SR), CO-FY.
House Wren: 4 CP 7 Jun (SR).
Winter Wren: 14 WL 1 Jun (JC); 2 BRR 14 Jun (GCh), CO-FL.
Sedge Wren: no reports.
Marsh Wren: 6 CR 31 Jul (BK).
Carolina Wren: 4 Es 31 Jul (DMo).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 3 TI 1 Aug (GC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 BMT 23 Jun (CW), CO-FL.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 CM 13 Aug (JL), CO-FL.
Eastern Bluebird: HT 23 Jun (DM), CO-CF.
Veery: 12 LA 17 Jun J&PT).
Bicknell's Thrush: 11 WF 1 Jun (AM).
Swainson's Thrush: 9 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Hermit Thrush: 3 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Wood Thrush: 5 RFR 4 Jul (RS).
Gray Catbird: 10 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-CF.
Brown Thrasher: 2 TI 17 Jun (SR).
Northern Mockingbird: 5 PB 13 Aug (PS).
Cedar Waxwing: 3 LP 23 Jun (DM), CO-FY.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 Es 21 Aug (LE).
Purple Finch: 8 BS 15 Jul (BC).
Red Crossbill: MRP 9 Jun (OB).

White-winged Crossbill: WF 5 Jul (BC).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 5 RFR 7 Jul (RS).
Chipping Sparrow: 6 RFR 7 Jul (RS).
Field Sparrow: 3 PtR 8 Jul (KA).
Vesper Sparrow: BB 14 Aug (BMc).
Savannah Sparrow: 16 CR 5 Aug (BK).
LeCONTE'S SPARROW: WPT 12 Aug (DRg).
Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 DRB 29 Jun (AB), CO-FL.
Swamp Sparrow: 4 CRd 15 Jul (SR), CO-CF.
White-throated Sparrow: 10 BMR 15 Jul (JC), CO-NY.
Dark-eyed Junco: 14 WF 22 Jul (JeL).
Bobolink: 8 CR 15 Jul (BK), CO-FL.
Eastern Meadowlark: 28 RFR 7 Jul (HvdZ).
Baltimore Oriole: 4 CP 6 Jul (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 CP 6 Jul (SR).
Rusty Blackbird: 2 KM 22 Jun (DM).
Ovenbird: 11 PS 1 Jun (BC); 5 NP 7 Aug (SR), CO-FL.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 4 TI 11 Jul (GC).
Northern Waterthrush: 3 BaP 24 Jun (SR).
Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: no reports.
Black-and-white Warbler: 4 AP 29 Jul (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: PS 15 Jun (JR).
Nashville Warbler: 12 PS 1 Jun (BC) 3 FB 23 Jun (CW), CO-CF.
Mourning Warbler: 3 BT 9 Jul (J&PT).
Common Yellowthroat: 16 BB 3 Jun (JS); 4 PS 17 Jul (BMc), CO-FL.
American Redstart: 11 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FY.
Cape May Warbler: 2 NE 29 Aug (CM).
Northern Parula: 5 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Magnolia Warbler: 12 PS 1 Jun (BC); 4 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Bay-breasted Warbler: OB 30 Aug (N&EM).
Blackburnian Warbler: HT 23 Jun (DM), CO-CF.
Yellow Warbler: 3 WRS 7 Jul (HT), CO-FL.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 BaP 9 Jul (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: 70 AP 2 Jun (TC), max; 2 WF 29 Jul (MJ), CO-FY.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 10 Es 1 Jun (LK); 6 CRF 25 Jul (SR), CO-FY.

Palm Warbler: 5 LP 21 Jun (DM), CO-CF.
Pine Warbler: CMR 27 Jul (J&PT), CO-DD.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 12 PS 1 Jun (BC);
 7 BMR 15 Jul (JC), CO-FY.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 10 Es 1 Jun
 (LK); 7 BMT 23 Jun (CW), CO-FY.
Canada Warbler: 5 WV 9 Jun (BB).

Wilson’s Warbler: BB 27 Aug (BMc).
Scarlet Tanager: 2 PtR 7 Jul (BS).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 BMR 4 Jul
 (AB).
Indigo Bunting: CMR 12 Aug (J&PT), CO-
 DD.



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Tom Williams

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The monthly weather for June 2019 featured near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation in the Region 8 counties. Both Albany and Glens Falls saw at least an inch more than the usual amount of rainfall, but it came well dispersed throughout the month. July offered well above normal temperatures with lower than usual precipitation amounts. The most prolonged heat wave occurred on 3-6 August, and Albany maxed out at 95° F on 20 August. August ended up close to the long-term averages for both temperature and rainfall. There were no significant cool air intrusions towards the end of August as would normally occur; Albany did not drop below 52° all month.

Temp	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	68.0°	67.2°	+0.8°	64.3°	64.3°	0.0°
Jul	76.2°	71.8°	+4.4°	72.3°	68.8°	+3.5°
Aug	71.7°	70.1°	+1.6°	67.0°	67.0°	0.0°

Precip	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	5.15"	3.79"	+1.36"	4.56"	3.55"	+1.01"
Jul	3.99"	3.86"	-0.13"	2.89"	4.09"	-1.20"
Aug	4.12"	3.46"	+0.66"	2.85"	3.68"	-0.83"

The bird of the season was undoubtedly a lone **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** that showed up at the Indian Pond on the campus of U Albany, discovered by Brian Smith on 4 June. This is the first sighting of the species for Region 8 in at least a decade. It was part of an incursion that developed throughout June in the Northeastern U.S., as well as Quebec and Nova Scotia. The duck, a one-day wonder, was not observed subsequently.

Zach Schwartz-Weinstein found and photographed an interesting calidrid sandpiper at Cohoes Flats on 10 July. After review and analysis by many

experienced shorebirders, the consensus was a very pale, out-of-season, out-of-range **Western Sandpiper**. This was a rare inland sighting for the Northeastern states away from the Great Lakes.

Continuing the uptick in Regional reports over the last decade, a Clay-colored Sparrow was sighted at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve-Blueberry Hill unit on a 1 June Birding Big Day outing. A second bird was reported from Wilton Wildlife Preserve in Saratoga County on 9 July.

At least two Sedge Wrens were reported again this season from the Ft. Edward Grasslands IBA in Washington County. First noted on 15 June, one was still singing occasionally in the first week of August.

Reports of cuckoos of both expected species seemed much higher this summer. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed in at least three dozen locations, and Black-billed Cuckoo numbers maintained the fine showing from 2018. There were no breeding season reports of Common Nighthawks locally. The first “fall” migrant nighthawks arrived during the second week of August. Peak numbers appeared to have declined again, with the thirty-four observed at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve on 26 August representing the maximum. In other nightjar news, the Chuck-will’s-widow(s) that had been noted in the West Mountain. region of Warren County for the last few years went undetected this season. Eastern Whip-poor-will continue in their local strongholds, namely Luther Forest in Malta, Coeymans Hollow near Stanton Pond, and the northern reaches of the Lake George area. Increasing numbers of calling birds were detailed at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, where as many as five birds were recorded on a single evening by surveyors.

Marshall Schmidt discovered a **Cattle Egret** in farm country west of Ballston Spa on 1 August. It was the first summer season sighting in the Region in quite some time, and quite random. The few that are seen here are normally much later in fall. Two Sandhill Cranes were observed on the west side of the Hudson River between Ft. Miller and Ft. Edward on 3 July. In addition to the Western Sandpiper mentioned previously, there were a few other uncommon sightings in this shorebird-challenged Region. Upland Sandpiper continues to breed in sections of the Ft. Edward grasslands and vicinity, as well as in similar habitat in Montgomery County. Lindsey Duval watched a Ruddy Turnstone drop in to Cohoes Flats for a breather on 1 August. Two reports of Sanderling were received during August. Naomi Lloyd found one on 26 August at Cohoes Flats, and Gary Chapin photographed the other one at Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park in the Town of Wright, at the south end of Lake Champlain, on 30 August. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen on consecutive days, at Stockport Flats on 16 August, and at Cohoes Flats on the following day. Both sightings were recorded by David Harrison.

An out-of-season Red-throated Loon was discovered and photographed on Peck Lake in Fulton County on 20 July. It was fun to see a breeding-plumaged

bird in the Region, as they are usually a passage migrant in early spring and late autumn.

Sean Sime awoke to the hooting of a Long-eared Owl while overnighing near the Roaring Kill section of the Catskill Mountains. in Greene County on 31 August. He heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl there as well. Breeding-season reports of Bicknell's Thrush were received from several observers in the Hunter Mountain and Plateau Mountain areas of Greene County.

Hooded Warbler continues to expand northward into the area. On 26 July Matt Medler visited the Sanders Preserve in Glenville, Schenectady County and found two singing males and an agitated female, suggesting the presence of a nest in the vicinity. The preserve has been lightly birded in the past, and rarely in breeding season, so it isn't clear if this represents a first, or ongoing, attempt. Golden-winged Warbler continues to hang on in Region 8 with a few individuals found this June northeast of Whitehall in Washington County.

Bob Yunick provided field notes for the breeding season, as excerpted here:

NESTING SEASON (1 JUN 1 - 31 JUL 2019) – Robert P. Yunick

The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady, NY area: **1)** feeder in my yard (**yard**) at Sch'dy; **2)** my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (**JL**) at 1250 ft. elev. 5 mi W of Corinth, Saratoga Co, NY; my nest box monitoring at **3)** West Hill (**WH**, 55 boxes), Town of Rotterdam, Sch'dy Co, NY; **4)** Landis Arboretum (**LA**, 40 boxes), Town of Esperance, Schoharie Co, NY; and **5)** birding on the Mohawk River (**MR**) east of Sch'dy at Lock 7 (**L7**), Niska-Isle (**NI**) and the old Niskayuna RR Station (**RRS**).

Highlights – overall, a disappointing season at JL.

1) Nest box monitoring – cooler and wetter weather during the season (before the extreme heat in Jul) led to far less blow fly infestation particularly in **Tree Swallow** nests as noted by far fewer blow fly pupae in used nests during removal following fledging. In my experience, blow fly activity is much greater in seasons when high temperatures occur during the peak of the swallow season in Jun. Twenty-four boxes at **WH** produced **94 banded nestlings**, 8 banded ad/F (5 of which were ASY age) and 2 ASY/F returns from previous years. Thirteen boxes at **LA** produced **56 banded nestlings**, and 1 banded SY/F and 1 return ASY/F. The **E. Bluebird** count was **20 banded nestlings** in 5 boxes at **WH** 5/22 to 7/16 with **4 boxes** still containing **14 eggs** on 7/16; and 2 boxes at **LA** produced **7 banded nestlings** 6/12 and 7/8. Lack of earlier coverage in May missed the first broods. Early **House Wren** nesting activity was somewhat suppressed by swallow and bluebird competition, but once swallows fledged and nests were removed, wren activity increased. At **WH 5 boxes** 6/24 to 7/16 produced **22 banded wrens** while **5 boxes at LA** 6/12 to 7/8 produced **23 banded nestlings**.

The **House Sparrow** problem these past few years at **WH** was much reduced this year. No nestlings reached banding stage and only 4 nests with or without eggs were removed. While House Sparrows are accustomed to adding all sorts of junk to their nests making for a very messy looking nest compared to the elegant neatness of a bluebird nest, one

sparrow female that made 2 nesting attempts must have found a dead Mourning Dove nearby because she used dove body feathers in both attempts including 30-40 breast feathers in the first attempt. I've never seen a House Sparrow nest with so many feathers.

2) Purple Finches at JL had another very disappointing breeding season due to climate change. At peak season as on 6/2/19, I operated 4.5 mist nets for 4 hrs from 0700 to 1100 and did not catch a one. For some strange reason, 2 weeks later on 6/15, I caught a season max of 18 consisting of 15 new birds banded and recaptures of one return bird and two repeats. It was all down hill after that with none caught on 7/13 and only one F on 7/20. The season total so far, from Apr is 1 banded in Apr, 7 in May, 20 in Jun and 8 in Jul; **total of 36. Only 4 of those are HY birds: 2 banded 7/6 and 2 on 7/27.** Years ago I banded dozens and dozens. Climate change is wiping out the recruitment needed to maintain the population.

Sunflower seed consumption mirrors this decline. After peaking at nearly 1400 g/day in Dec as part of large Blk-c Chickadee irruption, it dropped to below 500 g/day in Apr and peaked again at 1050 g/day in early Jun only to then continually decline thereafter to a low of 210 g/day by 7/28. In the past Purple Finches swarmed the feeders by late Jul consuming 1000-2000 g/day of seed.

On top of this climate issue, the dominant JL white pine population is under serious attack by White Pine Needle Disease (WPND), now recognized by NYS Dept. of Envir. Conservation as a serious threat to NY forests. Needles are under attack by 4 species of fungi causing premature needle drop in Jun/Jul (normally needles fall in Sep). I first noticed this phenomenon in Jul 2013 and it has occurred every year since this year's fall starting earlier than ever on 6/14 and being the heaviest I've ever seen at JL. The one-time dense canopies of these trees were a solid green; now they are so sparse one can see through them.

3) R-thr Hummer season is also disappointing for reasons not known. Since 5/13, 6 returns have been captured and 23 banded, last on 7/27 but none between 6/30 and 7/26. Four trapping sessions of 1 hr or more on 6/14, 7/5, 7/14 and 7/21 produced no captures. So far, no young have appeared. Sugar-water consumption this season has been below average, peaking at 92 g/day on 5/31 dropping to 7g/day by 7/21. In some past years of greater abundance, it has topped 1000 g/day.

On the contrary, hummer banding conducted by Ted Hicks and myself at a location at **Schroon Lake** in Essex Co, NY was very productive. On 3 dates, 5/25, 6/2 and 6/8, we accounted for **105 hummers**: 60 males (57 new and 3 returns) and 45 females (34 banded and 11 returns, one of which a station record of **8 yrs old**).

203 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon,

David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthall, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Ted Keyel, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Mack McCormack, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Marshall Schmidt, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, 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 P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

Indian Pd, U Albany 4 Jun, *intro*, NYSARC.

Brant: max 50 Papscaene I NP RENS 3 Jun.

Wood Duck: max 81 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 3 Aug.

American Black Duck: max 39 CF 24 Jul.

Ruffed Grouse: max 10 Poestenkill Comm Forest RENS 4 Jun.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 Whitehall, WASH 1 Jun; BCM 2 Jun; Nutten Hooke COLU 4 Aug.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 mult loc.

Common Nighthawk: max 34 APBP 26 Aug; 16 Colonie ALBA 14 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: max 5 Malta Tech Park SARA 21 Jun.

Chimney Swift: max 100 CF 8 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 9 Hillsdale COLU 24 Aug.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 8 Carter Pd WMA

WASH 30 Jul; 7 BCM 2 Jun; 7 FtEG 15 Jun.

Sora: max 2 Whitehall WASH 8 Jun; BCM 9 Jun.

Common Gallinule: 4 BCM 10 Jun; 4 Carter Pd WMA WASH 17 Aug; 2 Whitehall WASH 6 Jun; Putnam WASH 1 Jun; 2 VFNHP 3 Aug; Palatine MONT 8 Jun; CRM 11 Jun; Lions P, Niskayuna SCHE 18 Jun; T Sharon SCHO 30 Jun.

Sandhill Crane: nr Gansevoort SARA 3 Jul.

Semipalmated Plover: max 15 CF 4 Aug.

Killdeer: max 76 The Crossings ALBA 10 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 12 W. Ames Rd MONT 30 Jun; 4 New Swamp Rd WASH 14 Jun; 2 Palatine MONT 3 Jul; Dowmont Rd, Ft Edward WASH 1 Jun; Battenville WASH 21 Jul; Fultonville MONT 29 Jul.

Ruddy Turnstone: CF 1 Aug.

Sanderling: CF 26 Aug; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 30 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 15 CF 25 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 3 CF 3 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 2 Stockport Flats COLU 15 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 6 CF 8 Aug.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (R8): CF 10 Jul, *intro*, NYSARC.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Stockport Flats COLU 16 Aug; CF 17 Aug.

American Woodcock: max 4 Stillwater SARA 14 Jun; Warrensburg WARR 27 Jun.
Wilson's Snipe: max 2 HP 31 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 21 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 3 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 HP 31 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 5 CF 27 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 2 mult loc.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 5 L George WARR 24 Jul.
Ring-billed Gull: max 530 CF 25 Jul.
Herring Gull: max 14 Whitehall WASH 28 Jul.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 4 CF 23 Aug.
Caspian Tern: 4 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 18 Aug; 3 Galway L SARA 5 Jul; L George WARR 1 Jun, 2 Jul; New Baltimore GREE 15 Jul.
Common Tern: 2 Henry Hudson P ALBA 13 Jun; Halfmoon SARA 19 Aug.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: Peck L FULT 20 Jul.
Common Loon: max 12 L George WARR 2 Jul.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 80 TR 8 Aug.
American Bittern: max 4 BCM 2 Jun; Ft Ann WASH 11 Aug, ad & 3 juv.
Least Bittern: max 2 BCM 13 Jun; Stillwater Sch Nature Trail SARA 19 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: max 16 TR 12 Jul.
Great Egret: max 27 Germantown COLU 12 Aug.
CATTLE EGRET (R8): Charlton SARA 1 Aug.
Green Heron: max 8 Schaghticoke RENS 27 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 24 Aug; Sprakers MONT 26 Jun; Niskayuna SCHE 23 Aug.
Black Vulture: max 15 Guilderland ALBA 20 Aug.
Turkey Vulture: max 50 Sprakers MONT 28 Jul.
Osprey: max 6 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 1 Aug.
Northern Harrier: max 3 Seward SCHO 20 Jul.
Bald Eagle: max 10 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 17 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Stillwater SARA 19 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 6 Pine L FULT 24 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 4 APBP 7 Jun, Hunter GREE 15 Aug.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 Stockport COLU 20 Aug.
Great Horned Owl: max 2 mult loc.
Barred Owl: max 5 Clifton Park SARA 24 Jun.
Long-eared Owl: Hunter GREE 31 Aug.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Hunter GREE 31 Aug.
Belted Kingfisher: max 7 Stillwater Sch Nature Trail SARA 6 Aug.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 9 APBP 1 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 White Creek WASH 4 Aug.
Downy Woodpecker: max 9 BMB 14 Jul.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Poestenkill RENS 25 Jul.
Northern Flicker: max 9 Hillsdale COLU 20 Jun.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 mult loc.
American Kestrel: max 11 Sprakers MONT 30 Aug.
Merlin: max 3 Silver Bay WARR 29 Jul, at nest.
Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Dunn Mem Brdg RENS 19 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 10 BMB 14 Jul; 8 APBP 9 Jun.
Eastern Kingbird: max 10 VFNHP 10 Aug; 8 FtEG 14 Jul; 7 APBP 9 Jun; 7 OCA 13 Jul.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: APBP 1 Jun; Pharaoh L Trail WARR 2 Jun; Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 27 Aug.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 12 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Aug; 11 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 22 Jun; 10 BMB 19 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: max 9 BMB 19 Jun; 4 BCM 2 Jun.
Willow Flycatcher: max 23 BCM 9 Jun; 12 FtEG 13 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 11 Mt Tom SF WASH 2 Jun.

Eastern Phoebe: max 30 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Aug.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Lions P Niskayuna SCHE 23 Jun; BMB 14 Jul.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 9 Spruceton Trail GREE 22 Jun.

Warbling Vireo: max 20 Schaghticoke RENS 7 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 33 Plotterkill Pres SCHE 4 Jul.

Fish Crow: max 45 Queensbury WARR 11 Aug.

Common Raven: max 8 Palenville GREE 15 Aug; 7 Johnsbury WARR 5 Aug; 6 FtEG 22 Jun.

Horned Lark: Saratoga County Arpt SARA 27 Jun, only report.

Purple Martin: max 22 Round L Pres SARA 22 Aug; 12 Saratoga Springs Waterfront P SARA 3 Jun.

Tree Swallow: max 600 Ghent COLU 1 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 35 CF 20 Jun.

Bank Swallow: max 50 Staats Island Rd, RENS 13 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 12 Cobleskill Res SCHO 19 Jun.

Barn Swallow: max 187 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 1 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 45 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 28 Jul.

Tufted Titmouse: max 39 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Aug.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Hague WARR 24 Jul.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Aug.

Brown Creeper: max 4 Crystal L WARR 5 Aug.

House Wren: max 7 APBP 9 Jun.

Winter Wren: max 10 Plateau Mt GREE 9 Jun.

Sedge Wren: max 2 FtEG 23 Jun.

Marsh Wren: max 38 BCM 9 Jun; 8 Lions P, Niskayuna SCHE 23 Jun; 8 VFNHP 23 Jun.

Carolina Wren: max 11 Normanskill Farm ALBA 27 Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 8 VFNHP 3 Aug.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 9 Mt Tom SF WASH 31 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 3 Hunter Mt GREE 9 Jun; arr Charlton SARA 27 Aug.

Eastern Bluebird: max 25 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 16 Aug; 20 FR 27 Aug.

Veery: max 26 BMB 14 Jul; 15 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun.

Bicknell's Thrush: max 5 Plateau Mt GREE 3 Jul.

Swainson's Thrush: max 11 Plateau Mt GREE 3 Jul.

Hermit Thrush: max 8 Hunter Mt GREE 9 Jun.

Wood Thrush: max 10 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 24 Jun; Schodack I SP 16 Jul.

Gray Catbird: max 47 BMB 25 Aug.

Brown Thrasher: max 3 mult loc.

Northern Mockingbird: max 7 Albany Int Arpt ALBA 4 Jul; The Crossings ALBA 10 Jul.

Cedar Waxwing: max 50 BMB 20 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: max 4 Oppenheim FULT 31 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 9 Johnstown FULT 6 Aug.

Red Crossbill: Spruceton Trail GREE 23 Jun; Hague WARR 24 Jul.

Pine Siskin: max 6 Livingston COLU 8 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 19 APBP 1 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: max 75 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 31 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: APBP 1 Jun; Sharon Springs SCHO 25 Jun; Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 7 Jul.

Field Sparrow: max 30 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Aug; 16 Putnam WASH 2 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 FtEG 16 Jul; Saratoga County Arpt SARA 10 Jun; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 31 Aug.

Savannah Sparrow: max 25 OCA 6 Jul; 20 Albany Int Arpt ALBA 4 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 FtEG 23 Jun; 3 Saratoga County Arpt SARA 4 Jul; 2 Cobleskill SCHO 4 Jul; SNHP 14 Jun; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 22 Jun; Sharon Springs SCHO 2 Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 Willie Wildlife Marsh FULT 11 Jun, only report.

Swamp Sparrow: max 54 BCM 9 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 7 Spruceton Trail GREE 22 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 12 Mountain Top Arboretum GREE 14 Jul.

Bobolink: max 180 Hillsdale COLU 25 Aug; 80 Halfmoon SARA 31 Aug; 61 OCA 6 Jun.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 7 FtEG 6 Jun, OCA 6 Jun.

Orchard Oriole: max 5 OCA 13 Jul; 4 SNHP 19 Jun.

Baltimore Oriole: max 10 Hoosick RENS 12 Jun.

Ovenbird: max 30 Spruceton Trail GREE 20 Jun; 29 Anchor Diamond P SARA 23 Jun; 15 Poestenkill Comm Forest RENS 4 Jun; 15 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 8 Jun; 15 L Taghkanic SP COLU 26 Jun; 14 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 15 Jun; 2 Alander Mt Trail COLU 7 Jun; Escarpment Trail GREE 7 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 10 Jun; Schor Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 HP 15 Jun; last 2 West Kill GREE 11 Aug.

Northern Waterthrush: 3 Cherry Plain SP RENS 5 Jun; 3 BMB 19 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 Whitehall WASH 4 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 Valatie COLU 14 Jul; 4 Whitehall WASH 28 Jun; 4 Hillsdale COLU 8 Jul.

“Brewster’s Warbler”: Whitehall WASH 1 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 8 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun; 7 Mt Ton SF WASH 2 Jun; 7 Plateau Mt GREE 9 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: max 2 Putnam WASH 1 Jun; last Putnam WASH 2 Jun; arr White Creek WASH 1 Aug, early; Johnsburg WARR 27 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 5 Garnet L WARR 1 Jun; 4 Cat & Thomas Mt Pres WARR 1 Jul; 3 Fox Hill Rd SARA 1 Jun; 3 L Desolation SF SARA 6 Jul;

Mourning Warbler: 2 Fox Hill Rd SARA 1 Jun; 2 Stony Creek WARR 29 Jun; 2 Middle Grove SARA 4 Jun; Oppenheim FULT 30 Jun; Schenectady Co Forest Pres SCHE 8 Jul.

Common Yellowthroat: max 26 BCM 2 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 3 Sanders Pres SCHE 26 Jul; Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 8 Jun; L Taghkanic SP COLU 26 Jun; New Scotland ALBA 27 Jun.

American Redstart: max 30 Papscanee I SP RENS 1 Jun; 28 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun; 12 VFNHP 6 Jun; 12 Alander Mt Trail COLU 13 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: last Johnsburg Warr 1 Jun; arr Pine L FULT 30 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun; 2 Taconic SP COLU 7 Jun; 2 Alander Mt Trail COLU 14 Jun; Ancram COLU 1 Jun; Papscanee I SP RENS 1 Jun.

Northern Parula: 2 Archer Vly SARA 8 Jun; 2 Johnsburg WARR 9 Jun; 2 Stony Creek WARR 28 Jun; 2 Brant L WARR 9 Jul.

Magnolia Warbler: max 13 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun; mig arr Yankee Hill Lock MONT 24 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Cherry Plain SP RENS 1 Jun; arr Hague WARR 31 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 12 Johnsburg WARR 1 Jun; mig arr Hillsdale COLU 23 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: max 31 VFNHP 6 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 14 APBP 9 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 17 Plateau Mt GREE 3 Jul; 16 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun; mig arr Yankee Hill Lock MONT 24 Aug.

Palm Warbler: Warrensburg WARR 7 Jul.

Pine Warbler: max 10 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 10 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 19 Spruceton Trail GREE 22 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: 12 APBP 9 Jun; 5 Putnam WASH 2 Jun; 5 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 7 Jul.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 Plateau Mt GREE 20 Jul; mig arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 25 Aug.

Canada Warbler: max 6 L Desolation SF SARA 6 Jul; mig arr Johnstown FULT 24 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr White Creek WASH 22 Aug.

Scarlet Tanager: max 7 Anchor Diamond P SARA 23 Jun.

Northern Cardinal: max 17 APBP 1 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 9 Summit SCHO 10 Jul.

Indigo Bunting: max 15 Guilderland ALBA 27 Aug.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The National Weather Service records from Poughkeepsie reported a high temperature of 90° F on 28 June and a low of 41° on 4 June. Temperatures overall averaged 0.3° below normal. That was not the case, however, for much of the Region. Sullivan County had many nights throughout the month in the 40s and temperatures for June were well below normal overall. Also, according to the National Weather Service in Poughkeepsie, rainfall was 3.59", 0.83" below normal. This too was not characteristic of much of the Region. Sullivan and Orange Counties experienced above normal rainfall; Sullivan County had only four days out of the month with no rainfall at all. Water levels at locations like Bashakill State WMA and Wallkill River NWR were well above normal throughout the month. July was just the opposite. There was a low of 51° on 1 July and a high of 97° on 21 July. This was 3.7° above normal. The first half of the month was dry. There was 2.56" of rain, 2.09" below normal. Finally, on the night of 16 July, rain began to fall. Thunderstorms hit much of the Region and water levels increased. August came in at just about average. There was a high of 91° on 19 August and a low of 48° on 26 August. The average high temp was 82°, just .9° above normal. There was 4.33" of rain, .13" above normal.

June and July were typical of a "summer doldrums" period. It wasn't until August that things began to pick up. That was short-lived however, with weather and wind patterns not being conducive to shorebird or early passerine migration. August ended with just a taste of what was hopefully still to come.

There were a few interesting waterfowl reports in the Region during the period. As many as two Snow Geese were reported in Ulster and Sullivan Counties in June. Hooded Mergansers were present throughout the period with breeding confirmed in at least four counties. A drake Greater Scaup found at Piermont Pier was unusual in June. Two Bufflehead that had been present throughout the spring period continued at the Rondout Reservoir through the month of June. At least one bird was still present through 31 August.

Sandhill Cranes were seen in the Orange County Black Dirt Region sporadically throughout the period, still present on 31 August. The Region's first grasspiper report was a group of six American Golden-Plover in the Orange County Black Dirt Region on 31 August. That day produced the first fall record of Stilt Sandpiper, also in Orange County. On 28 July, Shelby Grimm looked out at her platform feeder and saw a **White-winged Dove** feeding there. Before she could get her camera, a car pulled into the drive and flushed the bird. The following morning, the bird returned briefly, then took off, not to be seen again.

This was a first record for Orange County and Region 9 and a NYSARC report was filed.

Once again, this season Laughing Gulls occurred along the Hudson River as far north as Croton Point Park in early June. A Black Skimmer was seen in the Rye area 9-11 June.

An amazing event took place on 3 August on the Hudson River. As the Sloop Clearwater was sailing down the Hudson, an immature **Brown Booby** flew in and perched on the ship's mast. The bird remained perched for half an hour to the delight of the passengers. It was well photographed and reported by Thomas Macom. This was also a first record for Orange County and Region 9.

Rapidly receding waters in July provided habitat for waders. A record 67 Great Egrets and 98 Great Blue Herons were recorded in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 20 July. That Great Egret record would be broken on 13 August when 103 were reported in the evening going to roost. Other interesting waders present during the period included seven Little Blue Herons, two birds in Westchester, and one each in Ulster, Orange, Sullivan, Dutchess and Putnam Counties. This species has continued to increase in the Region in recent years. Of special note were two on-going Yellow-crowned Night-herons, this pair continued in Orange County at least through 8 July. Though a nest was built, no eggs were laid, and no incubation occurred. (See the article on pages 314-316 of this issue.) On 1 June, five Glossy Ibis were seen in flight at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Also, at that location, on 22 June a **Mississippi Kite** was seen soaring overhead. A Red-headed Woodpecker was present at Muscoot Farm from early June through at least 30 July. Yet another Red-headed Woodpecker was found at Rockefeller State Park on 12 August.

On 17 August, Larry Trachtenberg found a **Western Kingbird** at Croton Point Park. This cooperative bird remained for eight days, enabling all who sought it out to see it. Pine Siskins put in a show at a couple of locations in July. At least two Grasshopper Sparrows that were present through the spring continued at Croton Point Park through at least to 24 June. The birds were seen again late in July and at least once in August. On 7 July the author found a pair of **breeding** Mourning Warblers on Hunter Road in the Town of Neversink. Two chicks could be heard begging in the thicket and both adults and one chick were photographed. The birds continued at least through 13 July. This is the first breeding record of this species in Sullivan County. Hooded Warblers were reported at Muscoot Farm the first week of July, an unusual location for this species.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mountain SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLH** – Esopus Meadows Light House, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Preserve, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscawana I Nature Preserve, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth

Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island Turf Nursery, **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; ORAN; **RL** – Rhinecliff Landing, DUTC; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center, WEST; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road, ORAN; **SS** – Sleightsburg Spit, ULST; **SSF** – SSt State Forest, ORAN; **TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: Thorton Rd, SULL 14 Jun (SBal, JH, KMi, AB0); 2 Lazy Swan ULST 30 Jun (RM), *intro*.

Wood Duck: 362 BSWMA 28 Aug (JH).

Blue-winged Teal: max 8 WRNWR 18-23 Aug (TS, DBrie, DSp); max 15 MP 29 Aug (JH); 2 MC 30 Aug (GB, TB); 6 Beaver Pd ORAN 31 Aug (BNo, KA, MZ).

Gadwall: WRNWR 14 Jun (VH).

Northern Pintail: Kingston Res ULST 5 Jul (PSch).

Ring-necked Duck: Rye L WEST 5 Aug (DSi).

Greater Scaup: PP 29 Jun-3 Jul (ME, SBal, CCo).

Bufflehead: 2 RR 1-27 Jun (RS, SBal, JH); RR 3 Jul-31 Aug (JH, SBal, KMi, AB). Over summered, *intro*.

Hooded Merganser: 3 HVRT 1 Jun (BM); 2 SFSP 2 Jun (JSh); max 5 CIOES 3-23 Jun (BM); 9 Kingston Res 8 Jun (WT, JP, PSch); 15 BSWMA 8 Jun (AWelb); 6 Isaacson Preserve WEST 8 Jun (GB, TB); 5 Neversink R SULL 17 Jun (JH); 5 Bordens Rd ORAN 17 Jun (CK); 4 Isaacson Preserve 2 Jul (TA); BSWMA 3 Jul (JH); 4 Hurleyville Swamp SULL 14 Jul-15 Aug (JH, KMi), *intro*.

Ruddy Duck: Chadwick L ORAN 12 Aug (KMcD), only report.

Northern Bobwhite: TMR Farm DUTC 5 Jul (DvZ, AS, CP); 4 SSF 5 Jul (AWell).

Ruffed Grouse: Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 1 Jun (AS, DvZ, JAs); Forestburgh SULL 1 Jun (NHa); Catskill P ULST 8 Jun (DH).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Newburgh ORAN 28-29 Jul (SG), *intro*.

Common Nighthawk: Lucas Avenue ULST 1 Jun (MBow); SFSP 22 Jun (EGor); White Plains WEST 18 Aug (GK); 56 BSWMA 28 Aug (JH).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Fahnstock SP PUTN 2-15 Jun (AM, CRo, AS); BSWMA 8-12 Jun (LW, JG, SBal, mob); 2 Dover Plains DUTC 4

Jun (BM, DvZ, MK); Dover DUTC 6-18 Jun (AM, JA); 9 Bald Rocks ORAN 8 Jun (DWa).

RAILS – LARIDS

Clapper Rail: max 13 (2 ad, 11 y) MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (GB, KMcG, BS, mob).

Virginia Rail: 2 SFSP 1 Jun (MSt); max 2 SHSR 2-16 Jun (KA); max 2 WRNWR 5-15 Jun (JCI, VH, GB); SGNWR 12 Jun (BBus); CMACS 15 Jun (HM); max 3 CIOES 16-22 Jun (DFa, DK, AM); Geiger Marsh ULST 18 Jun (PDec); GV 23 Jun (CF); max 6 SGNWR 9 Jul (RT).

Sora: BSWMA 1 Jun (MBo); max 5 WRNWR 1-23 Jun (KA, TP, MY); SGNWR 4 Jun (GB, TB); SHSR 16 Jun (KA); BSWMA 17 Jul (SBal).

American Coot: WRNWR 6 Jun (JCI); WRNWR 24 Jun (FP).

Sandhill Crane: Taconic Parkway DUTC 12 Jun (DK); HVRT 7-10 Jul (CP, AM, DK, mob); WRNWR 18-22 Jul (KMi, LScr, MZ); 2 WRNWR 11-31 Aug (MZ, KA, LScr).

American Oystercatcher: max 7 MC 1 Jun-9 Aug (GB, DJ, TB, mob); 2 EGR 16 Jun-6 Aug (GB, TB, CM); continuing throughout the period.

Black-bellied Plover: MP 10 Aug (JH), only report.

American Golden-Plover: 6 PITN 31 Aug (BNo, KMi, LScr, mob), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 21 EGR 26 Jul-13 Aug (GB, TB); Washington L ORAN 31 Jul-3 Aug (BNo); max 18 MC 3-10 Aug (CRo, KB, SC, mob); max 5 PP 4-8 Aug (LP, ME, SBal, KR); max 3 WRNWR 8-11 Aug (LScr, MZ, KA); MP 23 Aug (JH).

Stilt Sandpiper: Beaver Pd ORAN 31 Aug (BNo, KMi, AM, mob), only report, *intro*.

Upland Sandpiper: SGNWR 5 Jun (DO); CPP 17-18 Aug (CR, UM, RL, ABu, ABa).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 5 Rye WEST 31 Jul-29 Aug (GB, TB, SC).

Least Sandpiper: max 31 Strevler Farm DUTC 20-22 Jul (BM, CP, DvZ, mob); 8 Beaver Pd 22 Jul (KA); max 16 CPP 4-21 Jul (ME, KR, VH); max 12 MP 23 Jul-23 Aug (JH, KMi, mob); max 40 18 Jul-18 Aug (MZ, KA, mob).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Strevler Farm 15-16 Jul (CP, CF, DvZ); EGR 25 Jul (BNi); CPP 28 Jul (SC); MC 7-10 Aug (GB, TB, KBa); MP 13-15 Aug (JH); PP 16 Aug (GC); Pine Hill Rd ORAN 21 Aug (KA).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 15 CPP 18 Jul (KR); max 6 Strevler Farm 21 Jul-22 Aug (BM, SJ, CP); 6 MP 23 Jul (JH, KMi).

Laughing Gull: 3 Haverstraw Bay County P WEST 1 Jun (AKo); max 42 MC 3 Jun-9 Aug (GB, VH, CRi); max 14 EGR 6 Jun-6 Aug (GB, TB); 2 CPP 16 Jun (MF); NCR 22 Jun (EM), *intro*.

Least Tern: max 3 MC 5-13 Jul (GB, SC, SW); EGR 9 Jul (AS, DvZ).

Caspian Tern: 2 SS 14 Jun (JY); 3 Saugerties Lighthouse ULST 14 Jun (RM); 2 KP 17 Jun (PS); PP 27 Jul (ME); max 2 Kingston ULST 4-9 Aug (DWe, FM, LQ, PSch).

Black Tern: Kensico Res WEST 23-25 Aug (NG).

Common Tern: max 58 MC 1-24 Jun (BSh, VH, PDeG, mob); Mills-Norrie SP DUTC 5 Jun (DC); 6 EGR 6-24 Jun (GB, TB, BSt, BNi).

Forster's Tern: max 2 PP 1-2 Aug (KR).

Black Skimmer: Rye Town P WEST 9 Jun (GB, TB); Milton Pt WEST 11 Jun (PCL), *intro*.

LOONS – FALCONS

Common Loon: EGR 2 Jun (CM); Croton Falls Res WEST 13-21 Jun (SC); EGR 25-29 Jun (GB, TB); RR 3-4 Jul (JH, SBal); Ossining WEST 31 Jul (LT); Ashokan Res ULST 17 Aug (MW); max 3 Kensico Res 20-23 Aug (NG).

BROWN BOOBY: Hudson R ORAN 3 Aug (Thomas Macom), *intro*.

Great Cormorant: Five Islands P WEST 21 Aug (VH), only report.

American Bittern: max 2 BSWMA 1 Jun-8 Jul (JH, SBa, KMi, MBoc, mob); WRNWR 5 Jul-13 Aug (JM, DM).

Least Bittern: BSWMA 17-20 Jul (JH, SBa); SHSR 15 Jun-28 Jul (RHan, MZ, KA); max 5 WRNWR 1 Jun-22 Aug (KA, MZ, AM, mob).

Great Blue Heron: 98 WRNWR 20 Jul (MZ, LScr), *intro*.

Great Egret: max 15 MC 1-22 Jun (GB, VH, BSh, mob); max 12 EGR 2-21 Jun (GB, BSt);

2 Haverstraw Bay County P 6 Jun (AWell); PP 8-21 Jun (KR, JT, FD); Route 207 Marsh ORAN 9 Jun (BNo); KP 12-17 Jun (FM, DFe); SS 14 Jun (JY); Rhinecliff Landing P DUTC 15 Jun (BM, DvZ); SS 20 Jun (GC); max 67 WRNWR 14 Jul (KA, KMi, LScr, KMcd, mob); max 2 BSWMA 20 Jul-22 Aug (JH, KMi, SBa, mob); max 103 WRNWR 13 Aug (RJ, DM), *intro*.

Little Blue Heron: CIES 8 Jun (CCh); MC 12-14 Jul (SC, JCu, NHe); SS 16 Jul (JY); Larchmont Res WEST 3 Aug (BNi); Wallkill R ORAN 17 Aug (BNo, JH, MZ, KMi); RR 19-23 Aug (JH, SBa, KMi, NHa, LV, SS); CMACS 22-24 Aug (AM, SC, KB, JK), *intro*.
Green Heron: max 20 Dutchess P L DUTC 27 Jun (LF), high count.

Snowy Egret: max 9 MC 1-24 Jun (JCa, KMcG, PCL); max 4 EGR 6-24 Jun (GB, BSt, BNi); CPP 16 Jun (SRap).

Black-crowned Night-heron: Ossining Train Station WEST 1 Jun (LT); max 3 MC 1 Jun -6 Aug (GB, PCL, DJ, mob); max 2 Masterson P ORAN 9-23 Jun (BNo); 2 Lents Cove P WEST 9 Jun (SR); max 6 EGR 9-21 Jun (GB, BSt); 3 Croton Falls Res WEST 13 Jun (SC); 2 West Branch Res PUTN 14 Jun (SC); Lake Tappan ROCK 18 Jun (KR).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron: max 2 VanBurenville Rd ORAN 1 Jun-8 Jul (JD, JH), *intro*.

Glossy Ibis: 5 WPRR 1 Jun (LW); 3 EMLH 23 Aug (DWe, JSu), *intro*.

Northern Harrier: WRNWR 1 Jun (MY, HL); OCBDR 9 Jun (TP, JAP); Storm King SP ORAN 9 Jun (Aiden Colligan); SGNWR 23 Jun (MFi).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: WPRR 22 Jun (IC), *intro*.

Great Horned Owl: WPRR 1 Jun (LSch); 2 Minnewaska Trail ULST 2-19 Jun (CK); SGNWR 4 Jun (GB, TB); Gypsy Trail Rd PUTN 13 Jun (PL); Teatown L Reservation WEST 14 Jun (CRo); 2 GV 16 Jun (PS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: MF 2 Jun (MS, BSt, GB, TB, mob); Briarcliff Rd WEST 24 Jun (SF); MF 1-30 Jul (SK, AS, FGr, CA, mob); RSP 12-30 Aug (AS), *intro*.

Merlin: BSWMA 2 Jun (SBal); FPNC 6 Jun (RM); WRNWR 24 Jun (BT); Pine Bush ORAN 28 Jul (WH); Wallkill Valley Rail Trail ULST 28 Jul (SM); Hurleyville Swamp SULL 2 Aug (NH); MP 13-27 Aug (JH); RR 22 Aug (JH).

Peregrine Falcon: 2 PP 5 Jun (VH); 2 Hawks Nest ORAN 14 Jun (SBar); 3 Hudson

Highlands SP PUTN 14 Jun (EW); AP 16 Aug (JH).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

WESTERN KINGBIRD (R9): CPP 17-24 Aug (LT, SC, AS, mob), *intro*.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: BMSP 1 Jun (ME, PH, AKo, EL); PHP 3 Jun (DWe); max 2 SFSP 1-4 Jun (JCo, LL); BSWMA 21 Aug (JH); BSWMA 23 Aug (SBal); SFSP 31 Aug (GB, TB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: BMSP 1-4 Jun (ME, RHai); Harriman SP ORAN 6 Jun (DBe); max 2 Slide Mountain ULST 8-19 Jun (EGoo, AKe, MO); Slide Mountain 23 Jun (PS); RNC 25 Aug (GB, TB, PCl, JCl).

Swainson's Thrush: RSP 1 Jun (The Salmons); 3 Pomona ROCK 4 Jun (WM); BSWMA 8 Jun (AWelb); SFSP 24 Jun (EF).

Pine Siskin: Cornwall ORAN 30 Jun- 30 Jul (CS); 2 Rhinebeck DUTC 4 July (SJ); 2 Bedford 9 Jun (GB, TB).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: Indiana Rd ORAN 26 Jun (KMi).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Rockefeller Lane WEST 1 Jun (CP); max 11 SGNWR 1-24 Jun (DK, DWa, SBal, mob); max 2 CPP 1-24 Jun (SK, AS, SC, mob); max 4 OCBDR 4-24 Jun (MOB, DBril, MZ); CPP 22 Jul (AS, BNi, FGr), *intro*.

Yellow-breasted Chat: OMRLMSP 4-11 Jun (JCl, DL, mob); MC 14 Jul (NHe, JCu).

Nashville Warbler: Croton-on-Hudson WEST 15 Aug (CRo).

Mourning Warbler: Catskill Forest ULST 23 Jun (PS); 4 Hunter Rd SULL 7-13 Jul (JH, SBal, ABo), first breeding record Sullivan County, *intro*.

Hooded Warbler: max 2 MF WEST 1-7 Jul (SK, AS, PCl, mob); max 9 Neversink River Unique Area SULL 10 Jul (JH), *intro*.

Blue Grosbeak: RSP 15 Jul (BBR).



REGION 10—MARINE

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Recognition of global climate change as a serious concern continues to grow, particularly in our Region where we have extreme population density and an abundance of coastline. According to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information – State Climate Summaries,* the mean annual temperature has increased approximately 2° F over the last two decades, and “under a higher emissions pathway, historically unprecedented warming is projected by the end of the 21st century.” According to the report, sea level has risen by about 13" since the late 19th century along the NY coast, above the global average rise of 8", and is projected to continue to rise more rapidly than global averages due to local and regional factors. NY has also experienced a large increase in heavy rain events, with further increases projected.

*<https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/ny/>

This summer's weather data again shows higher than normal temps, significantly so in July, and after a wetter than normal June and July in the city, a bit of a drier average in August. Highest temperatures occurred on 21 July, when 99° was recorded in Islip and 95° in Central Park, and lowest on 4 June, with 46° in Islip and 54° in Central Park. Cold fronts sometimes produce low temperatures in August, and the 26th and 27th brought 61° and 54° to Central Park and Islip, respectively.

Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	71.7°	71.4°	+0.3°	69.2°	68.4°	+1.2°
Jul	79.6°	76.5°	+3.1°	78.1°	73.9°	+4.2°
Aug	75.5°	75.2°	+0.3°	73.6°	72.8°	+0.8°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	5.46"	4.41"	+1.05"	3.76"	4.27"	-0.51"
Jul	5.77"	4.60"	+1.17"	3.39"	3.43"	-0.04"
Aug	3.70"	4.44"	-0.74"	3.49"	3.98"	-0.49"

As usual, spring migration continued into June, with 1 June featuring a particularly impressive flight that was both widespread and diverse. One of the most intriguing records of the season involved an unseen bird singing that day at Southards Pond Park in Babylon, Suffolk County. Chase Cammarota obtained recordings and shared them with biologists who confirmed the bird's identity as a **Connecticut Warbler**, a species almost unknown in Region 10 in spring. A reprise of this sort of situation occurred at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, where an unseen bird was recorded on several dates 2-20 June. Initially, finder Heydi Lopes suspected Mourning Warbler, but analyses of her recordings indicated it was a Kentucky Warbler. In both cases at least some experienced consultants remained unconvinced that Northern Waterthrush (Southards) or Mourning Warbler (Floyd Bennett) were conclusively ruled out, but fortunately the archived recordings can be re-visited at any time.

As New York birders prepare for the start of the third breeding bird atlas in 2020, an increase in attention to breeding activity was noticeable during the summer of 2019. Sources of data available to us included research conducted on converted landfills in New York City; surveys at the Greentree Foundation property in Manhasset by Stephane Perreault; the revived Captree June Count, now with five years of current data for southwestern Suffolk County; and informal concentrations of attention to breeding species in the pine barrens, Calverton grasslands, and the Napeague-Montauk savannahs and woodlands. As we anticipate the new atlas, it seems likely that understanding of species such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak is at least broadly accurate. Novelty generates excitement, and this season's breeding season highlights include continuing increases in Bald Eagle

breeding activity, a repeat of last summer's successful Red-shouldered Hawk nesting, and suggestions of attempted nesting by Red Crossbills, continuing from spring. Even more amazing was the work of Taylor Sturm and his crew of owl whisperers; in a limited amount of directed effort, they were able to find multiple Northern Saw-whet Owls in several areas, including no fewer than three in southwestern Suffolk County on the Captree June Count.

But for species that once were common but now are declining, birders tend to seek them only to the extent needed to add them to a year list and not beyond that, and there is a real likelihood that we are in for some unpleasant surprises when the comprehensive atlas data are assembled. In this report, we've made an effort to record data bearing on a wide variety of species. Some, such as Northern Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant are known to be in serious peril, or even functionally extirpated already, in our Region. Others, such as Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows, are thriving in the newly available grasslands atop the erstwhile dumps. But many others are poorly understood, even in our well-studied Region. Nightjars, Yellow-throated Vireo, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, various scarce warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak are either common at other seasons, or at least easy enough to find at traditional breeding sites, that searching out secondary breeding sites is not highly prized. We are left wondering whether reporting of them from alarmingly few sites reflects status or effort. In the first atlas, nesting by Chestnut-sided Warbler was confirmed in 16 blocks on Long Island and probable in two dozen more; this summer the species was not reported in even a possible breeding context in Region 10.

This summer struck us as very unexceptional for shorebirds and seabirds, as broad groups. Counts tended to be low for many species in both groups. For example, classic East Pond species such as Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper again produced dismal maxima. In this context, it is worth noting two Wilson's Phalaropes at the Jerome Park Reservoir in the Bronx, proof that urban birders must be patient and persistent as sites evolve in and out of productive modes over a scale of decades. All of the shearwaters tended to be encountered in very small numbers, whether from shore or from several productive offshore trips. The latter produced the now expected rarities (**Black-capped Petrel**, **Audubon's Shearwater**, **White-faced**, **Band-rumped**, and **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, and a **Bridled Tern**), but, amazingly for old-timers, these are losing their shock-value, and we find ourselves more concerned with the very low counts of common species, such as Great and Sooty Shearwaters.

In something of a contrast, Caspian and Black Terns were very well reported this summer, over a very wide variety of dates, from June through August. Common Terns resembling the eastern Palearctic subspecies *longipennis* have been documented multiple times in recent years on Long Island and elsewhere in the northeastern US. A bird studied and photographed at Nickerson Beach on 22 June was regarded by many as a particularly convincing example: in addition to showing a black bill and very dark legs, this individual also showed extensively and deeply gray underparts and very long tail streamers, extending beyond the

wingtips at rest. These are characteristic of *longipennis* and not expected in immature/non-breeding/senescent variants of the local subspecies, which might show darker than usual bills or legs in June. Even so, the task of ruling out variant *hirundo* is not a simple matter, and an article assessing this problem is in preparation by SSM. There were a couple of **Sandwich Terns** and several **Arctic Terns** in June, all along the southwestern shore of Long Island, from Fire Island Inlet to Brooklyn, and mostly centered at Nickerson Beach. This site has been receiving increasingly intense and capable coverage in recent years, as have Breezy Point and other sites around Rockaway Inlet. This increasing effort is undoubtedly both a cause and an effect of the many noteworthy records these sites have been producing. Arctic Tern was not reported from Moriches Inlet at all this season, absent there for the first time since its occurrence at Cupsogue was first detected in 2005; but one on the Captree June Count reminded both of us of June 1999, when we commenced studying terns together at Democrat Point.

Rarities included up to 12 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks**, continuing around Jones Inlet from spring; **White-winged Doves** at Jones Beach and Coney Island; a long-staying **Sandhill Crane** in Napeague; the **Bridled Tern** at Great Gull Island (in addition to the one offshore, mentioned above), returning for a fourth year; and an unknown number of **Brown Boobies**! One was reported as having spent much of July and August in Freeport, perching on vessels, and one was encountered and photographed by a stunned Vincent Glasser as it sat in a parking lot at Heckscher State Park. There were also two detections via seawatches from Mecox Bay and Robert Moses SP. The increasing vagrancy of this species deserves close attention. **Mississippi Kites** were found on Staten Island, where a series of records have accumulated in recent years, and also in eastern Long Island, where they remain much rarer than elsewhere in NYS. A **Gray Kingbird** was seen briefly and photographed near Moriches Inlet, Suffolk County, on 21 July.

During the summer of 2019, the birding communities of Region 10 and New York State lost two longstanding members who played important roles in the history of the Federation/NYSOA, and also in our own lives. Anthony J. Lauro passed away unexpectedly in early August at the age of 86. Tony was a former Region 10 editor and co-editor and published several pioneering papers on bird identification. He was the voice of the NYC Area Rare Bird Alert for many, many years before Tom Burke took it over, and continued to vet rare bird reports over the phone right up to the end. Skeptical and direct, Tony caused many a caller to squirm under his grilling questions and tongue-in-cheek comments! For decades he was a familiar sight here on Long Island, tooling around the beaches in his Pathfinder, a smoking pipe grasped in his teeth as he held forth with whomever his companions/captives were for that day. Even when he could no longer get around, he remained sharp and interested in the birding world, and continued to fill in for Tom as the voice of the RBA right up to the end. Those who knew him well will remember him variously as generous, deep-thinking, analytical, witty,

mentoring, cantankerous, and authoritative. We hope to be able to assemble a gathering of friends to commemorate his life in the near future.

We came to know Miriam (Mickey) Levine, Manny Levine's wife, during our early years of doing the Southern Nassau CBC, which Manny compiled for many years before handing the baton to us in 2002. Back at the Levine house after the counts, we'd tally up and have a tot with Mickey and get her feeder survey numbers before heading over to Otto's for the compilation. We carried on this tradition even after Manny passed away, always including her in the count activities. Outspoken and possessing a great sense of humor, Mickey would regale us with stories of their early lives and their pioneering trips to Africa and South America—these taken long before the bird tour business simplified the arrangements and guiding. Mickey was a prolific artist, and her sculpture and paintings graced every room in their house. She loved the life and culture of New York City, particularly Broadway shows. An avid reader with a strong moral compass, she was a sharp interpreter of culture and politics—always an interesting conversationalist. We celebrated her 96th birthday with her on 19 August, one week before she died.

Both these dear friends will be sorely missed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BLSP** – Belmont L SP, SUFF; **BNL** – Brookhaven Nat'l Lab, Upton, SUFF; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CICP** – Coney Is Creek P, KING; **CJC** – Captree June Count, a CBC-style count in the Captree CBC circle, southwestern SUFF; **CLP** – Clove Lakes P, RICH; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRSP** – Connetquot Ri SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **DP** – Democrat Pt, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FINS** – Fire Is Nat'l Seashore, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **GGI** – Great Gull I, SUFF; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HC** – Hudson Canyon, SUFF; **HG** – Hunters Garden, Riverhead, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **Jam Bay** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **MBI** – Moriches Bay and In, SUFF; **Mtk** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MPT** – Montauk Pt, SUFF; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **Old Inlet** – Bellport Bay, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Sagg** – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SLP** – SeeLife Paulagics; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **Stonebridge** – Stonebridge Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, SUFF; **TLC** – Top of the Lobster Claw, ~80 mi se Shinn, SUFF; **WPP** – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: max 12 JBSP 3-4 Jun; also 10 together OMNSA 5 Jun and 10 together NB 10-30 Jun; also multiple reps of 2 and 8 at these and other sites around Jones Inlet to early Jul; *intro*.
Brant: max 250 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 1 Jun (C. Finger et al.), lingering northbound migrants.
Canada Goose: 765 CJC 8 Jun, FL; comparable to the past two years and the most numerous species on the count.
Mute Swan: 148 CJC 8 Jun, FL.
Wood Duck: 2 CJC 8 Jun, uncommon and local breeder in Region; max 41 Grist Mill Pd, Stony Brook, SUFF 25 Aug (S&FMu, EMu).

Blue-winged Teal: max 57 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).
Northern Shoveler: max 47 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).
Gadwall: 1 CJC 8 Jun, uncommon and local breeder in Region; max 62 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).
American Wigeon: max 8 Jam Bay 16 Jun (G. Lam).
American Black Duck: 1 CJC 8 Jun, uncommon and local breeder in Region; max 127 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).
Mallard: 196 CJC 8 Jun; max 425 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).
Northern Pintail: max 2 Jam Bay 26 Aug (J. O'Sullivan).

Green-winged Teal: max 27 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Ring-necked Duck: m Blydenburgh P SUFF 7 Jul-21 Aug (S&FMu).

Greater Scaup: only four reps: 1 CJC 8 Jun; 4 Santapogue Cr, SUFF 16 Jun (PJL, SSM); f GK 8 Jul (ACi) and nearby Oakwood Beach 22 Jul (E. Johnson); Bay Shore Marina, SUFF 12 Jul (C. Mahon).

Lesser Scaup: 1 CJC 8 Jun; 2 m Santapogue Cr 16 Jun (PJL, SSM); arr Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 17 Aug (S. Gilbert), early.

Common Eider: 22 CJC 8 Jun; max 183 Shinn 3 Jul (A. Baldelli).

Surf Scoter: 3 CJC 8 Jun; max 7 Orient Pt 9 Jun (JSep).

White-winged Scoter: max 3 Shadmoor SP, SUFF 26 Jun (J. Milton).

Black Scoter: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 140 Pike's Beach, SUFF 23 Aug (TWB, GB).

Long-tailed Duck: 2 CJC 8 Jun.

Bufflehead: f OMNSA 10 Jul (MBK et al.), only rep.

Common Goldeneye: Charles Mem. P, QUEE 1, 5, 24 Jun (R. Serio), only rep.

Hooded Merganser: 6 reps RICH, KING, QUEE, SUFF, the most notable at Wertheim NWR SUFF9 Jun & 27 Aug (A. Blanchard), a site where breeding is conceivable.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 Jam Bay 3 Jun (A. Ruffatti).

Ruddy Duck: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 17 Jam Bay 2 Jun (T. Winston et al.).

Ring-necked Pheasant: a few apparently wild birds persist RICH, KING, QUEE.

Northern Bobwhite: little evidence of natural populations remaining in R10; f Mtk Village, SUFF 1 Jun, possibly wild.

Wild Turkey: max 30 BNL (EL).

Pied-billed Grebe: HLSP 1 Jun (G. Lam); IHP 23 Jun (N. O'Reilly); Jam Bay 18-24 Jun (mob); PBP 20 Aug (PHo).

Rock Pigeon: 69 CJC 8 Jun; max 455 414 E 52nd St, NEWY 1 Jul (A. Farnsworth).

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE: Battery P, NEWY 21 Aug (I. Glovinsky).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: JBSP 5 Aug (S. Meyerheinrich et al, ph.); CICIP 11 Aug (DGo, ph.).

Mourning Dove: 120 CJC 8 Jun; max 75 Miller Field, RICH 23 Aug (ACi).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 3 CJC 8 Jun, low; max 7 BNL 28 Jun (EL).

Black-billed Cuckoo: few reports and no more than 2 per day, KING, QUEE, and SUFF.

Common Nighthawk: just 4 Jun reps: New Dorp, RICH 6 Jun (H. Fischer); Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, RICH (CBa); NB 9 Jun (C. Thomas); 3 Fort Pd, Mtk 14 Jun (FD); 10 arr Stonebridge 14 Aug (PDom); max 148 Stonebridge 30 Aug (PDom et al.).

Chuck-will's-widow: on territory Quogue, SUFF, trad site; two reps from e part of FINS, trad.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: 4 CJC 8 Jun; 2 Manorville SUFF 14 Jul (C. McVoy); 2 Quogue, SUFF many dates; 6 Nap 28 Jun (AnW); 1 Hither Woods, Mtk sev dates; only reps. Other sites where singing birds were recorded in May were not re-surveyed this season.

Chimney Swift: 49 CJC 8 Jun; max 175 CICIP 10 Aug (DGo).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 4 CJC 8 Jun; max 11 RMSP 31 Aug (PJL et al.).

RAILS-LARIDS

Clapper Rail: 7 CJC 8 Jun.

Virginia Rail: 1 CJC 8 Jun.

Common Gallinule: Jam Bay (W Pd) 28 Jun (A. Gilbert, B. Honig); Oakwood Beach, RICH 30 Jul (ACi).

American Coot: PP thru (mob); Baisley Pd, QUEE 16 Jun (C. Finger).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Nap through 13 Jul (mob), from spring.

American Avocet: differently plumaged inds arr 19 Aug: Tiana Beach (E. Schwinn), alt; and Mecox Bay (M. Stokowski), basic; former cont ca. Shinn through 23 Aug; latter joined by alt ind 29 Aug (R. Shea, SSt); basic ind cont Mecox Bay thru 31 Aug; Sagg 29-30, basic, might have been a third ind.

American Oystercatcher: 75 CJC 8 Jun, FL; max 205 JBWE 9 Aug and later (PDom et al.).

Black-bellied Plover: 5 CJC 8 Jun; max 200 SPCP 27 Aug (K. Cashman).

American Golden-Plover: ad HSP 30-31 Aug (mob); ad Islip Beach SUFF 31 Aug (EMu, F&SMu), thought to be same ind.

Semipalmated Plover: max 453 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 18 Aug (M. Benoit, L. DeMarco, JM).

Piping Plover: 24 CJC 8 Jun; max 45 CCP 30 Jul.

Killdeer: 29 CJC 8 Jun, DD; max 60 Jerome P Res BRON 16 Aug (BF).

Whimbrel: rep more frequently and widely than usual; max 17 JBSP 8 Aug (K&SF, MSche).

Hudsonian Godwit: MBI 2 Aug (S. Newbert, SSt, R. Valente); Old Inlet 31 Jul-4 Aug (NG et al.).

Marbled Godwit: arr MBI 1 Aug, with max 11 there 10 Aug (H. Bohne, J. Levin), reps through; Old Inlet 3-17 Aug, with max 3 there 6 Aug (A. Gilbert); 5 JBSP 8 Aug (K&SF); 2 PlumbB 9 Aug (D. Smith); 2 BPT 20 Aug (PPau, L. Ewing); PlumbB 22 Aug (PPau, G. Keri).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 256 CCP 1 Jun (PMo, TS).

Red Knot: max 190 Old Inlet 4 Aug (P JL, SSM).

Stilt Sandpiper: max 9 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk), low.

Sanderling: 29 CJC 8 Jun.; max 4000 Old Inlet 4 Aug (P JL, SSM).

Dunlin: 48 CCP 1 Jun (PMo TS), late for so many.

Baird's Sandpiper: HSP 31 Aug (MBK, D. Mullins, et al.), only rep.

Least Sandpiper: max 100 JBWE 20 Jul (PHo) & 100 CCP 2 Aug (P. Aitken).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 6 CCP 12 Aug (J. Lee).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: FBF 22 Aug (JM et al.), only rep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 9 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 CJC 8 Jun; northbound max 1000 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 2 Jun (M. Passman).

Western Sandpiper: arr JBWE 22 Jul (R. Norton); max 7 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 400 CCP 1 Aug (K&SF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Jam Bay 25 Aug (A. Consler).

American Woodcock: max 6 FBF 13 Jul (H. Lopes).

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 10 WPP 8 Jul (ACi).

Solitary Sandpiper: max 3 FBF 17 Aug (T. Preston); 3 Marine P KING 23 Aug (PPau, M. Yuan); and 3 Bronx Zoo 30 Aug (T. Olson).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 48 Jam Bay 5 Aug (DGo), very low.

Willet: 60 CJC 8 Jun.

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 CJC 8 Jun.

Wilson's Phalarope: NB 4-5 Jun (A. Burke et al.); 2 Jerome Res, BRON 14-17 Aug (PHo, mob).

Red-necked Phalarope: SPCP 2 Aug (A. Perkins).

Parasitic Jaeger: 4 reps RMSP: 19 Jun (K&SF), 29 Jun (JGI), 26 Aug (SSM), 28 Aug (MMcB et al.); GGI 26 Jun (MSche); L Mtk In 10 Jul (FD); MPt 7 Aug (FD).

Bonaparte's Gull: Mtk near offshore waters 12 Jun (FD); GKP 10 Jul (EJ); SPCP 24 Aug (K. Arvin); HSP 24 Jul (KT); PlumbB 11 Aug (G. Keri, R. Manian, D. Hrehowsik); Seaside Wildlife P, RICH 16 Aug (ACi).

Laughing Gull: 369 CJC 8 Jun, ON; colony continues in Great South Bay.

Ring-billed Gull: 38 CJC 8 Jun.

Herring Gull: 272 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: numerous through season, exclusively along s shore of LI, from Coney I, KING to Mtk. QUEE max 3 BPT 6 Aug (DGo, PPau, SSI) & 20 Aug (PPau); NASS max 13 JBWE 9 Jun (C. Thomas); 39 CJC 8 Jun; overall max 42 RMSP 25 Jun (PPau); 12 RMSP 5 Jul (PDom, D.Futuyma, JGI), max for Jul; 29 Old Inlet 4 Aug (P JL, SSM), max for e SUFF.

Great Black-backed Gull: 173 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

BRIDLED TERN: ad GGI 8 Jun-17 Aug (JDC), fourth summer present; TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW).

Least Tern: 335 CJC 8 Jun, NE.

Gull-billed Tern: 4 NB & vic. through Jun & Jul; Jam Bay 4 Aug (L. DeMarco, JM); PlumbB 11 Aug (D. Hrehowsik, R. Manian); CCP 25 Jul (K&SF), rare SUFF.

Caspian Tern: well reported but exclusively along s shores of SI and LI; 2 Old Inlet 7 Jun (NG); 2 HSP 10 Jun (P JL); arr southbound RMSP 22 Jul (KF, K. Kleinpeter, SSM); ca. 14 reps of 1-2 inds 30 Jul though 31 Aug.

Black Tern: at least 8 sites 3 Jun-7 Jul, all outer coast from NB to Southampton, SUFF, except GGI 30 Jun (L. Beausoleil); many reps mid Aug through, max 25 Nap Harbor 17 Aug (C. Gangemi, M. Stokowski).

Roseate Tern: widely rep Orient and Nap and eastward, related to GGI mega-colony: max 3,000 various dates (JDC); 2 Maidstone P, SUFF 22 Jun (A. Lusty) recall the colony at nearby Sammy's Beach; relatively well-reported westward this season, too, e.g 14 CMB 18 Jun (TS), many for so far west on the North Shore; 4 NB 1-16 Jun, with singles there to 6 Jul (F&SM); 7 RMSP 8 Jun (P JL et al.), CJC; 6 Old Inlet 29 Jun (D. Rogers); and smaller numbers eastward at Shinn, Sagg, etc. **Common Tern:** 372 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 18,000 GGI various Jun dates (JDC); apparent

longipennis NB 22 Jun (SSM, PJJ, P. Post, S. Walter, ph.); *intro*.

ARCTIC TERN (R10): ad NB 1 Jun (T. Gabe, A Scott); 2 ads NB 2 & 3 Jun (MMcB, SSM et al.); ad NB 6 Jun (A. Burke, A. Collerton); SY South Line 1 7 Jun (SP, SSM); second-summer type DP 8 Jun (PJJ, SSM, PMo, A. Perkins), CJC.

Forster's Tern: 115 CJC 8 Jun.

Royal Tern: well reported along the south shores of Staten I and LI, max 93 Old Inlet 5 Aug (DF); three reps from western LI Sound: 4 PBP 24 Jul (R. Aracil), ad alt CMB 11 Jun (TS), and Old Field Pt 29 Aug (B. Marrs).

SANDWICH TERN: PlumbB 2 Jun (PPau et al.); Jam Bay 2 Jun (T. Winston et al.), probably same as prev; NB 17 Jun (PJJ, SSM, Pat Martin).

Black Skimmer: max 750 NB 2 Jun (T. Healy).

LOONS-PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: CCP 5 Jun (NG), only rep.

Common Loon: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 5 JBWE 17 Aug (J. Drucker, L. Fried).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: well-reported offshore, max 538 TC 4 Aug (AnW); many single-digit counts from SUFF ocean shore 11 Jun-early Jul, max 46 RMSP 29 Jun (JGI); notable sites include 6 NB 20 Jun (MMcB); 2 L Mtk In 24 Jul (R. Lucier).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: HC 17 Aug (SSi et al.; SLP); 2 TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (R10): 13 TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW); SLP trip found small numbers at numerous sites along continental slope se from HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSI et al.); ca. 30 mi s Shinn 5 Jul (NB), notable over shallow shelf water.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 2 TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW); 24 or more at 7 sites along HC, from shelf-break to deep water 22 Jul (DGo, SSI, et al.).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 2 deep water beyond HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSI), SLP.

Cory's Shearwater: max 7 ca. 40 mi s Shinn 5 Jul (NB) and 6 RMSP 13 Jun (PJJ, SSM); widely reported from usual SUFF ocean vantages and from shelf waters, but invariably in small numbers this season.

Sooty Shearwater: NB 21 Jun (SSi), furthest w; max counts just 2 each RMSP (13 Jun), MBI 4 Jun), and Shinn (13 Jun); max offshore 3 Mtk near offshore waters 12 Jun (FD); Mtk

near offshore waters 19 Jul (R. Valente et al.), last.

Great Shearwater: NB 2 Jun (SSi), notably far w; widely rep from usual ocean vantages and offshore trips, but in small numbers (<8) except for one exception; 7 RMSP 21 Jun (K&SF, SSM), max from shore; 43 ca. 40 mi s Shinn 5 Jul (NB), max.

Manx Shearwater: off Shinn 8 Jun (JSh, AnW); ca. 40 mi. s Shinn 5 Jul (NB); Mtk near offshore waters 10 Jul (FD); HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSI et al.; SLP); Sagg 25 Aug (PMo, PJJ, SSM); RMSP 26 Aug (SSM), only reps.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER (R10): two singles over deep water beyond HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSI et al.), SLP; TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW).

BROWN BOOBY: HSP 28 Jul (V. Glasser, ph.); Freeport 14 Aug (M. Albanese); Mecox Bay SUFF 23 Aug (TWB, GB, D. Schulman); RMSP 26 Aug (SSM); *intro*.

Northern Gannet: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 25 RMSP 13 Jun (K&SF).

Double-crested Cormorant: 370 CJC 8 Jun, NY; max 800 CIPC 1 Aug (DGo).

Great Cormorant: max 4 Orient Pt, SUFF 8 Jun (JSep).

Brown Pelican: Northport Stacks SUFF 5 Jun (K. Cannon), early and unus loc; 2 HSP 8 Jun (JGI), CJC, and 2 Shirley Marina SUFF 8 Jun (J. Rodler, early); South St Seaport, NEWY 28 Jun (A. Barnes), unus loc.; many reps of small numbers from s shores of RICH, NASS, and SUFF late Jun-mid Aug; max 6 CCP 12 Jul. **American Bittern**: PBP 9 Jul (William M.); Bronx Ri Mouth 22 Jul.

Least Bittern: 3 River Rd, RICH 4 Jul (C. Barron); Oakwood Beach Marshes, RICH 19 Jun (ACi); 1-2 PBP 1 Jun-14 Jul (mob); Oakdale, SUFF 8 Jun (B. Bomkamp, MMcB, TS), CJC; Arshamouaque Pres, SUFF 7 Jun-4 Aug (JSep, mob); near Mtk, SUFF two dates in Jun (TS et al.).

Great Blue Heron: 6 CJC 8 Jun; max 14 Lemon Cr, RICH 31 Jul (ACi).

Great Egret: 92 CJC 8 Jun; max 122 Ketcham's Cr, SUFF (26 Aug (EMu).

Snowy Egret: 33 CJC 8 Jun; max 190 Willow Pd NASS 15 Aug (BF).

Little Blue Heron: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 8 Miller Field, RICH 30 Jul (ACi).

Tricolored Heron: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 3 Captree Marshes, SUFF 18 Jul (PDom, DF).

Cattle Egret: East Ri, Greenpoint, KING 24 Jun (J. Bryant); Marine P, KING 31 Aug (R. Payne).

Green Heron: 5 CJC 8 Jun; max 6 Shirley Marina CP (SUFF) 28 Jun (K. Kleinpeter).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 7 CJC 8 Jun; max 22 Avalon P and Pres SUFF 18 Aug (PDom et al.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 20 Plumb 1st St, near Marine P, KING 22 Jun (G. Kerl).

Glossy Ibis: 60 CJC 8 Jun; max 50 Captree Marshes SUFF 6 Jul (C. Darmstadt).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Captree Marshes 13-14 Jun (TWB, GB, et al.).

Black Vulture: many reps from RICH, NEWY, and BRON; max 5 IHP 10 Aug (L. LaBella); Uniondale, SUFF 12 Jun (MMcB) and Northville SUFF 2 Jul (MLL), only LI reps.

Turkey Vulture: widely rep all 5 NYC boroughs and parts of e SUFF; max at least 33 Northville roost Jul through (MLL); 8 Jam Bay 26 Aug (C. Gordon) & 8 Orient Pt, SUFF 24 Jun (E. Schumann); rep sparsely from n NASS and nw SUFF; largely absent from s NASS and sw SUFF, including barrier beaches; continues to increase.

Osprey: 172 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 61 Elizabeth A. Morton NWR, SUFF 16 Aug (C. Gangemi); still increasing!

MISSISSIPPI KITE: CR 8 Jul (ACi); Hallockville SP, SUFF 4 Aug (S. Biasetti).

Northern Harrier: 48 reports on eBird representing perhaps 25-30 different birds 4 Jun thru, majority from Aug, mostly of single inds, and from all counties except RICH and BRON. Highlights inc max 5 Louse Pt Beach SUFF 10 Jul (M. Doyle); GGI 5, 22, 24 Aug (JDC); Northport SUFF 23 Aug (N. Klein), only north shore LI report; IHP 26 Aug (J. Drucker), only NEWY report.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr PBP 25 Aug (J. Rothman) and Gilgo Beach SUFF 27 Aug (SSM).

Cooper's Hawk: 1 CJC; ubiquitous; reported from all counties and all geographical/geological sub-regions, including the barrier beaches.

Bald Eagle: 5 CJC 8 Jun, FL; ubiquitous; no longer unexpected anywhere in the Region at any date. Reported from all counties and all geographical/geological sub-regions, including the barrier beaches.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Sands Pt Pres, NASS 9 Jun (R. Young); 4 CRSP 8 Jun (K&SF), pair with young (NY) CJC, continuing from spring; last rep 13 Aug (V. Glasser).

Broad-winged Hawk: Noyac SUFF yard 1 Jul and earlier (B. Moore), calling; rare breeder in

Region; arr PBP 25 Aug (PHo); CLP 27 Aug (H. Fischer); Fort Tryon P, NEWY 29 Aug (D. Barrett); Gardiner CP SUFF 31 Aug (MSche).

Red-tailed Hawk: 13 CJC 8 Jun.

Barn Owl: Jam Bay (mob) and T Hempstead marshes NASS (J.Zarudsky); known breeding areas.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 8 CJC 8 Jun.

Great Horned Owl: missed on CJC.

Barred Owl: 2 Fishers I SUFF 7 Jun, one here 10 Jun (F. Marengi, J. Dwyer).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Fuchs Pd Pres SUFF 4 Jun (TS); LaSalle Military Academy, 8 Jun (BF, MMcB, TS), CJC; Brookside CP 8 Jun (MMcB, TS), CJC; Ludlow Cr, 8 Jun (BF, MMcB), CJC; Makamah Pres, SUFF 28 Jul (TS); *intro*.

Belted Kingfisher: 1 CJC 8 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Robert Cushman Murphy CP SUFF 1 Jun-29 Aug (mob), seen entering and leaving nest hole; 3 BNL 28 Jun (EL), where seen in last yr or two; 2 CRSP 14 Jun-11 Jul (Pat Martin, mob); 414 E. 52nd St NEWY 24 Aug (A Farnsworth, ph); Port Ryerson NEWY 29 Aug (M. Agüeros); Owls Head P KING 30 Aug (R. Manian, mob).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 71 CJC 8 Jun incl single site max 32 BLSP & vic. (R. Berlingeri).

Downy Woodpecker: 34 CJC 8 Jun incl single site max 9 BLSP & vic. 8 Jun (R. Berlingeri).

Hairy Woodpecker: 14 CJC 8 Jun; max 11 Manhasset NASS 9 Jun (SP).

Northern Flicker: 28 CJC 8 Jun; max 17 Manhasset NASS 31 Aug (SP).

Pileated Woodpecker: High Rock P, RICH 3 Jun (M. Shanley), only rep.

American Kestrel: reports in eBird too numerous to itemize here, spanning the entire season and concentrated heavily in NEWY and KING, very few elsewhere; max 9 52nd St. Manhattan 24 Aug during morning flight survey (A. Farnsworth); cluster of reports around the EPCAL area 2 Jun-6 Jul, known breeding site.

Merlin: JBSP 2 Jun (MMcB), unus date; several reps well before widespread arrival 24 Aug; GGI 4-5 Aug (JDC); Dune Rd 11 Aug (SSt, R. Valente); and CP 18 Aug (J. Wooten).

Peregrine Falcon: 3 CJC 8 Jun.; ubiquitous throughout NYC and widely rep NASS and SUFF.

Monk Parakeet: 7 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: 59 CJC 8 Jun, including single-site max 27 CRSP (K&SF).

Eastern Kingbird: 30 CJC 8 Jun; max 862 CICP 30 Aug (DGo); 307 RMSP 30 Aug (SSM et al.), heavy movement that day.

GRAY KINGBIRD: SPCP 21 Jul (C. Robertson, ph.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last northbound CP 1 Jun (mob) and CRSP 1 Jun (KF); numerous southbound reps w R10 20-31 Aug; three SUFF reps: RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo); Caumsett SP SUFF 25 Aug (K&SF); RMSP 30 Aug (K&SF).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 33 CJC 8 Jun, including single-site max 17 (CRSP (K&SF).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 CP 1 Jun; others thru 8 Jun; APEC 19 Jun (J. Wolf), late; arr FBF 16 Aug (M. Yuan).

Acadian Flycatcher: last northbound WPP 7 Jun (E&J Jacobsen); Manorville SUFF 9 Jun (PDom); West Hills CP SUFF 20 Jun (BF); 2 HG 27 Jun-2 Aug (S. Biasetti, T. Moran, mob).

Alder Flycatcher: 1 CJC 8 Jun; HSP 14 Jun (L. Nasta); Southold, SUFF 15 Jun (JSep), latest.

Willow Flycatcher: 48 CJC 8 Jun; max 9 RMSP 8 Jun (SMu).

Least Flycatcher: Manorville, SUFF 4 Jun (A. Collerton), last northbound; arr PBP 26 Jul (M. Ryan).

Eastern Phoebe: 3 CJC 8 Jun, FY.

White-eyed Vireo: 8 CJC 8 Jun; max 8 FBF 30 Aug (H. Lopes).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 Wolf Swamp Pres, SUFF 14 Jun (FD), scarce breeder in Region.

Warbling Vireo: 37 CJC 8 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: 97 CJC 8 Jun, including single-site max 31 CRSP (K&SF).

Blue Jay: 110 CJC 8 Jun, CF.

American Crow: 55 CJC 8 Jun; difficult to assess maxima due to lack of critical attention by observers, but very few convincing counts this season >10.

Fish Crow: 109 CJC 8 Jun; max 200 Miller Field, RICH 23 Aug (ACi).

Common Raven: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 7 BNL 28 Jun (EL); continues to increase; Reported from multiple sites in all counties, representing all major geographical/geological sub-regions, including many reps from barrier beaches.

Horned Lark: not recorded CJC; max 14 Cartwright Shoal, Gardiners I, SUFF 21 Jul (AnW); declining as breeder in Region.

Purple Martin: 62 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 212 RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo, TS).

Tree Swallow: 148 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 1402 Arshomomaque Pres, SUFF 19 Aug (JSep).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 11 CJC 8 Jun.

Bank Swallow: max 120 GKP 29 Jun (JRG).

Cliff Swallow: breeding activity PBP, APEC, and possibly other in BRON; southbound flight unusually heavy this season, but almost exclusively along outer shore, from CICP to Shinn; arr CCP 21 Jul (P JL, SSM, L. Nasta); high counts include: 21 RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo, TS), 59 RMSP 23 Aug (SSM); 122 RMSP 24 Aug (MMcB); 11 RMSP 30 Aug (SSM et al.).

Barn Swallow: 370 CJC 8 Jun, N; max 1200 RMSP 24 Aug (K&SF, B. Travis).

Black-capped Chickadee: 34 CJC 8 Jun, FL. **Tufted Titmouse:** 40 CJC 8 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: GGI 8-15 Jun (JDC); Barrett Beach, FINS 8 Jun (M. Adams et al.); West Village, NEWY 23 Jun (T. Olson); RMSP 22 Jul (SSM); Nap 5 Aug (FD); Rockland Ave, RICH 16 Aug.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 7 CJC 8 Jun.

Brown Creeper: HG 29 Jun (MSche et al.) & 7 Jul (JGI).

House Wren: 46 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

Marsh Wren: 25 CJC 8 Jun.

Carolina Wren: 130 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 28 HSP (TD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 58 CJC 8 Jun, FL, incl single-site max 24 CRSP (K&SF).

Eastern Bluebird: 4 CJC 8 Jun, FY.

Veery: 8 CJC 8 Jun, all CRSP (K&SF).

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: Calvert Vaux P, KING 1 Jun (AxW).

Hermit Thrush: 3 two sites ca. BNL 27-28 Jun (EL); max 10 HG 30 Jun (MMcB).

Wood Thrush: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 14 Manhasset NASS 30 Jun (SP), significant breeding pop for w LI.

American Robin: 468 CJC 8 Jun, CF.

Gray Catbird: 465 CJC 8 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: 5 CJC 8 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: 95 CJC 8 Jun.

European Starling: 441 CJC 8 Jun, FL; max 420 Swan Ri Pres, SUFF 1 Aug (MMcB).

Cedar Waxwing: 132 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 132 RMSP 30 Aug (K&SF).

House Sparrow: 170 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

House Finch: 32 CJC 8 Jun; max 40 CP 23 Aug (E. Gaillard).

Purple Finch: Setauket, SUFF 9-27 Jun (PDom), conjunctivitis; CCP 27 Jul BBo, MMcB, J. Ortiz, TS), unus date.

Red Crossbill: Robert Cushman Murphy P SUFF, cont from spring, last **10 Jun** (K. Klecan).

European Goldfinch: Jam Bay 8 Jun (PPau); 2 PP 5 Jun (R. Campos-Ramirez, R. Osickova); PP 15 Jun (T. Alleva).

American Goldfinch: 65 CJC 8 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 210 CJC 8 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: 96 CJC 8 Jun.

Field Sparrow: 2 CJC 8 Jun, S7; max 10 Pine Meadow CP, SUFF 12 Jun (K. Cashman).

Vesper Sparrow: Riverside Drive, Riverhead SUFF 6 Jul (J. Bohrer), only report.

Lark Sparrow: arr PBP 19 Aug (PHo); RMSP 24 Aug through (PMo, SSM, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: breeding strongholds: max 15 FKP 30 Aug (JRG, S. Curley), possibly inc southbound/post-dispersal inds, and 10 from nearby Brookfield P 24 Jun (D. Jordet); max 10 Shirley Chisholm SP KING and vicinity 5 Jul (JM), CF; max 6 EPCAL and vicinity 24 Jul (SST), add'l reports from here of 1-2 birds various dates 9 Jun and 29 Jun. Other reports indicating likely breeding: 1-3 FBF 13, 14, 17 Jul, singing (mob), and 4 here 27 Jul (T. Preston); 3 Saltmarsh Nature Center KING 6 Jul (T. Coughlan), one here 2 Aug (JM). Other interesting reports: 1-2 Plumb Beach KING various dates 3-20 Aug; 2 JamBay 18 Jul (G. Lam); CRSP 22 Jun (SF); 3 Southold farm SUFF 9 Jun (JSep). Southbound migrs/post dispersal inds widely reported in Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 breeding strongholds: max 20 FKP 30 Aug, 5 HY b (JRG, S. Curley); max 11 EPCAL 1 Jun (MMcB) and 11 on 9 Jun (JSep), many other reports from nearby in the Calverton area; other interesting reports: Gabreski Airport SUFF 27 Jun (SSi, PPau), where poss breeding; Hither Hills SP SUFF 5 Jun (JGi).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R10): FKP 30 Aug (JRG, S. Curley), very rare.

Seaside Sparrow: 62 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 39 West Sayville GC SUFF (BBo et al.).

Nelson's Sparrow: Captree Is SUFF 9 Jun (PJL), CJC; probably under-detected in northbound migr.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 88 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 63 West Sayville GC (BBo et al.).

Song Sparrow: 220 CJC 8 Jun, FY.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bryant P NEWY 1 & 17 Jun (N. Paulson); CP 4 Jun.

Swamp Sparrow: max 3 PBP 7 Jun (TWB, GB) & 24 Jul (R. Aracil).

White-throated Sparrow: PlumbB 8 Jun (T. Preston), very unus date away from urban traps; 1-4 inds thru early Jun from >12 parks in NEWY, plus another in similar context in KING and 3 Bronx Zoo 3 Jun (N. Paulson).

Dark-eyed Junco: Nissequogue Ri SP SUFF 2 Jun (J. Garzero), very late; identified as Slate-colored; Mashomack Pres, SUFF 28 Jul (B. Koblmiller); GGI 29 Jul (JDC); Jam Bay 4 Aug).

Yellow-breasted Chat: arr FBF 17 Aug (H. Lopes); CP 23 Aug; Lido Beach Passive Pres NASS 23 Aug (P. Ribolow).

Bobolink: max 180 CICIP 30 Aug (DGo).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 7 EPCAL 12 Jun (R. Haimes).

Orchard Oriole: 6 CJC 8 Jun; max 13 Manhasset NASS 9 Jun (SP).

Baltimore Oriole: 94 CJC 8 Jun; max 59 RMSP 30 Aug (SSM).

Red-winged Blackbird: 682 CJC 8 Jun; max 825 CICIP 11 Aug (DGo).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 75 CJC 8 Jun; max 500 Nassau County CC 29 Aug (BF).

Common Grackle: 433CJC 8 Jun, CF; max 4657 Stonebridge 31 Aug (PDom et al.).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 55 CJC 8 Jun.

Ovenbird: 19 CJC 8 Jun; max 19 HG 30 Jun (MMcB).

Worm-eating Warbler: max 3 CP 17 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 3 CLP 27 Jul (C. Barron); RMSP 10 Aug (PMo, SSM, TS, et al.), rarely detected barrier beach.

Northern Waterthrush: max 22 RMSP 11 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: Far Rockaway, QUEE 21 Aug (D. Lichter); CP 31 Aug (R. Lugo, ph), male showing some *cyanoptera* introgression.

Blue-winged Warbler: 6 CJC 8 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: 4 CJC 8 Jun; max 12 CICIP 30 Aug (DGo).

Prothonotary Warbler: Mashmomack Pres SUFF 6 Jun (P. Dandridge), plausible breeding site; CICIP 10 Jun (DGo, S. Blodgett); CP 16-18 Aug (J. Suzuki, mob); GGI 20 Aug (JDC).

Connecticut Warbler: Southards Pd P SUFF 1 Jun (C. Cammarota), audio; extremely rare in spring; *intro*.

Mourning Warbler: northbound migrants in NYC parks through mid Jun; Watch Hill, Fire I, SUFF 1 Jun (PMo, TS), only SUFF; southbound migr arr PBP 25 Aug (PHo).

Kentucky Warbler: FBF 2-20 Jun (H. Lopes et al.), audio; *intro*.

Common Yellowthroat: 184 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 47 HSP (TD).

Hooded Warbler: West Hills CP, SUFF 7 Jun (BF), plausible nesting site; only Jun rep; arr CP 9 Aug (T. Winston et al.).

American Redstart: 12 CJC 8 Jun; max 20 GwC 24 Aug.

Northern Parula: Grace Estate, SUFF 23 Jun (JGi), male singing; Amagansett 9 Jun (K. Rubinstein) and 23-24 Jun (JGi; JGi), males singing at sites ca. 1 km apart.

Magnolia Warbler: max 4 CP 31 Aug (R. Serio).

Bay-breasted Warbler: CP 1 Jun; CP 31 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 CVP 1 Jun (AxW); 2 CP 1 Jun; 2 APP 31 Aug (P. Reisfeld).

Yellow Warbler: 259 CJC 8 Jun, CF; max 143 RMSP 10 Aug TD, PMo, TS et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: no reps of birds on territory; max 6 CP 31 Aug (R. Serio).

Blackpoll Warbler: 5 CP 1 Jun (J. Spindel); 5 PP 2 Jun (J. Dean).

Pine Warbler: 30 CJC 8 Jun; max 14 Nap 4 Jul (JGi).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Bensonhurst P, KING 2 Jun (L. DeMarco, aud.), unus date/loc; Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 2 Jun (SF) through 26 Jul (L. Nasta), including CJC 8 Jun (PDom, DF, K. Kleinpeter), S7; Manorsville, SUFF 9 Jun (SSM, aud.) through 23 Jun, singing male from spring.

Prairie Warbler: 15 CJC 8 Jun; max 16 West Meadows Wetlands Pres SUFF 10 Jul (PDom et al.).

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 3 Old Filed, SUFF 30 Aug (M. Schrimpf).

Canada Warbler: max 6 CP 23 Aug (J. Wooten).

Wilson's Warbler: arr widely in NYC parks 24 Aug.

Summer Tanager: imm m Jam Bay 2 Jun (mob); imm m CP 2 Jun (D. Barrett, C.

Albanese, mob); Hidden Ponds Preserves & Trails EH SUFF 21 Jul (A. Collerton).

Scarlet Tanager: 3 CJC 8 Jun; max 6 BNL 27 Jun (EL).

Northern Cardinal: 130 CJC 8 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Hallockville SP, SUFF 8 Jun (S. Biasetti); not recorded CJC.

Blue Grosbeak: scarce but increasing breeder on LI; max 3 Calverton area 5 Jul (JSep), other reports of 1-2 inds (m & f) 1 Jun-12 Aug in this area, a breeding stronghold; max 3 FKP 10 Aug (mob); 1-2 Veterans Rd W RICH 19 dates 1 Jun-28 Aug (ACi); ad m Arthur Kill Rd RICH 7 Jun (A. Burke), breeding code S7 noted; singing m CRSP 8 Jun (K&SF), CJC; m Babylon 8 Jun (R. Berlinger), CJC; 1-2 Mt. Loretto RICH 16 Jun-30 Aug (mob); WPP 19 Jul and 2 here 26 Jul (ACi); 2 (ad m, f type) Manhasset NASS 31 Jul (S. Perreault), noted as prob post-breeding dispersal; f type RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo, TS).

Indigo Bunting: 18 CJC 8 Jun.

Dickcissel: CICIP 30 Aug (DGo); at least 4 RMSP: 1 Aug (SSM); 10 Aug (SSM et al.), possibly more than one; 11 Aug (K&SF); and 29-30 Aug (SSM et al.), possibly more than one.



REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

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; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; 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; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

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

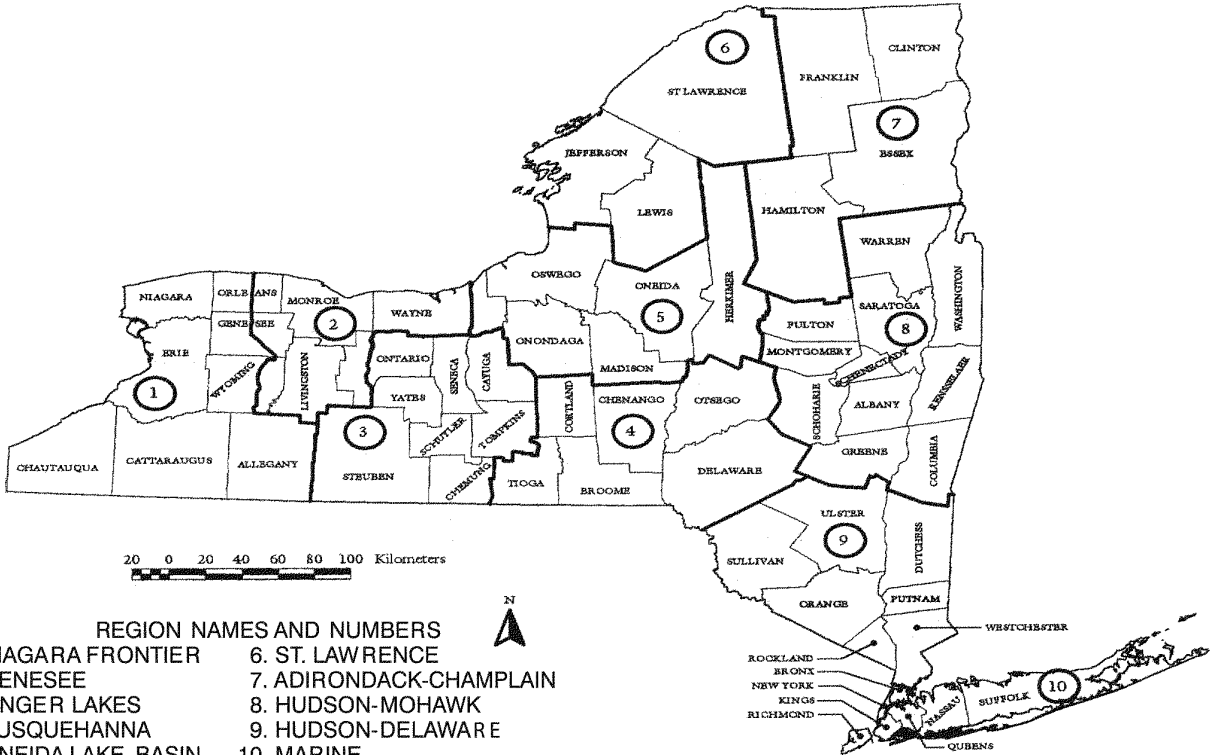
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

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.



- REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS**
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. NIAGARA FRONTIER | 6. ST. LAWRENCE |
| 2. GENESEE | 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN |
| 3. FINGER LAKES | 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK |
| 4. SUSQUEHANNA | 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE |
| 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN | 10. MARINE |

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PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING