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# The KINGBIRD

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Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Elma, *Erie*, 6 Jul 2020, © Gerald Thurn.

# COURTSHIP, BREEDING, AND NESTING BEHAVIOR OF YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS IN MIDDLETOWN, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Joyce M. Depew  
jayed47@yahoo.com

In March 2020, with migration of various waterfowl and waders approaching my Orange County, New York haunts, I began to focus on the possibility that the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) discovered here by my grandson Ben and me on 15 April, 2019 (Depew 2019) might return in 2020. Being uncertain of how early the bird actually arrived last year, I began my search in late March 2020 by searching the ponds, streams, and swamps by car in the area near Vanburenville Rd. There appear to be populations of various species of crayfish in this area, a preferred food for Yellow-crowned Night-Herons that breed inland, along with amphibians, flying insects, and other small aquatic prey.

On 19 April, 2020 I was rewarded during the late afternoon with seeing one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron standing near the pond where we discovered it last year, near a residence on Vanburenville Rd. Assuming this was the same individual, which seems very likely, its arrival was only four days later than the date it was discovered in 2019! I immediately reported it on the Mearns Bird Club “WhatsApp” so my fellow club members would be aware. This bird is the fourth recorded occurrence of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Orange County, NY by Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club members. I also informed my grandson Ben and the property owner Eleanor Hajas, who were both delighted. Eleanor granted me permission to study the bird again on her property for 2020. During this time of year, the visibility of the pond and swamp is adequate from the public road along the property. It becomes more difficult as the tree leaves develop, making it necessary to study the birds within the property boundaries.

Sex identification of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons can be difficult for the casual observer because the male and female look similar. My observations, while studying a single pair, indicated that courtship displays and bold behavior are male traits. I noticed this year, at the close of breeding season, that the longer, yellow, crown-plume helped me identify the male. The female had a tendency to be more wary and if I wasn’t careful in my movements, she would be the first to flee. Her yellow crown-plume at the end of breeding season was noted to be shorter than the male’s, ending at the nape of her neck.

From the day the first Yellow-crowned Night-Heron appeared, there were many observations made of courtship displays by me and other Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club members during a 13 day period. This led many of us to speculate that the female might be around somewhere. With that in mind, I personally searched the pond and swamp area for the female on five random days during this period but could not locate her. On one occasion I witnessed the male displaying from the old nest that was built by the pair last year in an oak tree leaning over the water

in the swamp. His display included stretching his neck upward, then bowing and spreading his plumage while emitting a short, high-pitched “coo” sound. I speculated that this behavior was to signal that his territory for nesting was claimed. On 2 May, 2020, during a spell of 68° weather, I discovered the female Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. The documented sighting was 13 days after the male’s. Assuming this was the same female, she arrived five days later than she did in 2019.

After the female’s arrival, I observed that the male made many attempts to attract her in hopes of mating with her (see photo A, p. 364). These rituals went on for several weeks from various perches including the old nest in the oak tree. As time went on the ritual would include some added elements. The male would sometimes look at the female and pick up a twig from the nest to show her during courtship display. Perhaps this was to get her interested in nest building or repairing it together.

The Yellow-crowned Night-Herons would sometimes disappear from the property, perhaps to explore foraging opportunities in other areas nearby. I became concerned, however, when on 23 and 24 May both male and female did not appear. I checked the location again and on 30 May the male appeared, but the female was still not visible. Strangely, there were no signs of displays or vocalizations observed. I began to wonder if they had chosen another nesting spot across the swamp on the neighbor’s property, had mated, and started to incubate eggs. The male would sometimes finish foraging in the swamp pool and walk out of the water to that side.

On 3 June, the female and the male were both present again and courtship rituals resumed. This time I noticed that the vocalizations became lower in pitch, sounding as if they were “croaking” to each other. The male flew to where the female was on the bank and the two raised wings up to greet one another! The female then flew to perch on a tree and the male went to the old nest site to display from it with a low-pitched “coo” sound. Scott Baldinger came by and we both witnessed the male flying across the swamp from the nest tree to gather twigs from other trees and carry them back to the old nest. Meanwhile, during all this, the female watched the male and preened. The courtship ritual went on for a little over an hour before it ended. We watched the pair leave the area on foot to go to the opposite side of the swamp again and disappear in the grasses.

On 9 June I witnessed another attempt by the male to mate with the female. The male was perched in a tree and the female was perched below about 20 feet away on a downed tree on the water. They were in full view of each other with the male watching the female. The female preened but then stopped and bent forward, raising her rump in an upward pose for several minutes with her plumage fluffed out. The male took this as a signal to leave his perch and join her. He was fully aware and attentive, with plumage in display mode, but she rejected him by trotting up to the higher side of her tree to escape! See photo B on page 364. She then flew to place herself on a limb of a different tree.

Ten days later, on 19 June, the pair was sitting together on the same limb of the nesting tree. The male was adjusting the twigs in the nest and the two were communicating with “croaking” vocalizations. The male displayed for the female two times and then they walked around the nest on the limb. At 10:55 a.m. copulation took place in the nest (see photo C, page. 364). It took about two minutes for this to be completed.

On the morning of 22 June, with the temperature reaching 90°, I revisited the swamp and the pair was foraging on crayfish and flying insects. At one point, the female flew to the nesting tree first and began to preen on the limb near the nest. The male noticed but continued to forage for fifteen minutes longer, then he joined her in the tree and they greeted each other with “croaking” vocalizations. They tweaked the nest together, then the male moved about four feet away from the nest. The female got on the nest facing the higher side of the limb where the male was and began to pant with her bill wide open for several minutes (see photo D, p. 364). I do not know if her panting was due to the very warm temperature that day or to her high breeding condition. After this, the female rose up, turned in the opposite direction, and allowed the male to mate with her again. This was the first year that I witnessed the mating of the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Since I am not at the swamp location every day, there could have been other times when mating took place during the span of four days from 19 June to 22 June.

To my great disappointment, my last view of the pair was on 27 June. I never saw either of the birds on the nest where they should have shared incubation of the eggs—if there were any produced at all. I wondered if the nest had been invaded by a predator, but due to the height of the nest it could not be confirmed that any eggs had been produced. The female was not seen again and I hope she is still alive and just decided to move on. The male did stay a while longer, and by 11 July, he chose to forage in the pond near Eleanor’s house. Renee Davis, a fellow birder, stopped by to get a look at him with her friend Marge as I was leaving. 13 July was the last time I saw the male at the pond, and at dusk he roosted in a tree in the yard. I visited the site at different times of day until 21 July and determined the male had left. I wish to note here that in 2019 the pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were gone sometime after 8 July. So this behavior was repeated again this year.

It is important to note that Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are monogamous in that they form a pair at least for the breeding season, and sometimes for life. The website Animalia (2020) states: “This species is monogamous and nests either on its own or in a colony with four to five nests nearby. Pairs form either during migration or on the breeding range early on in the breeding season.” National Audubon Society’s (2020) online article on Yellow-crowned Night-Herons states: “Breeding behavior not well known. Often nests in isolated pairs or in very small groups, especially in northern part of range.”

My observations of these birds in 2019 and 2020 have continued to provide information about their breeding behaviors; however, I can only use my information to speculate as to why they were not successful in producing young.

The pre-breeding ritual of these Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was fascinating to me since they are obviously a pair, decided to migrate from their wintering area, and return to this same location for likely the second consecutive year. At this time, they would be at least two years old, which is generally the age of sexual maturity. More importantly, there was no competition for mates in this region. Each ritual performed by the male was as though he was trying to win over his mate for the very first time! It caused me to believe that this is an inherited, biological behavior since Yellow-crowned Night-Herons have more of a tendency to live in closer proximity to others of the same species in coastal regions where their numbers are greater. For instance, a greater population of this species exists on Sanibel Island in the state of Florida, U.S. and colonies of dozens of birds are known in New York State on Long Island (Bull 1974).

Taking in the information that I've gathered, there are some points to ponder:

- 1) Will these birds mate for life? It seems that there is some type of bonding that had to occur between the male and female prior to this type of migration for them to arrive at the same location for two consecutive breeding seasons. It's worth considering that both birds were reared in an inland location so that the climate, food, etc. is imprinted already and familiar to them.
- 2) Does courtship last for approximately six weeks in all pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons? There is certainly a lot of energy expense on behalf of the male.
- 3) How does geographic location and climate affect the success of producing viable offspring? When the male arrived each year there were spells of cold temperatures which can affect available food sources. April temperatures can be freezing to just above freezing in Orange County, NY. Is mating taking place too late in the breeding season for this pair?

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks to Eleanor Hajas for allowing me to study the herons on her property again this year. Her support has been critical! Contributors: S. Baldinger, M. Buskey, J. Haas, K. Miller, B. Nott.

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## NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC., 73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 3, 2020

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held by videoconference on October 3, 2020. President Shirley Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. Electronic roll call of member clubs revealed that 31 delegates from 24 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Greg Lawrence made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2019 annual meeting, which had been circulated previously. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

### **President's Report – Shirley Shaw**

Albeit different from anything we could have imagined when we assembled in Kingston last year for our Annual Birders' Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting, it is good to be getting together again with our members and organization delegates, even if not in person. Thank you for registering for our meeting and for being a part of NYSOA.

NYSOA has had a busy year. Because of the pandemic, the NYSOA Board of Directors and committee chairs have met via teleconference in February, April, and July—last having assembled in person on November 2, 2019. We continue all our projects: Breeding Bird Atlas III, NYSARC, *The Kingbird*, *New York Birders*, conservation, the County Listing Project, Young Birders Club, etc., and long for the time we can again gather for field trips and our annual conference. I look forward to resuming in-person activities when it is prudent to do so.

Carena Pooth has put many, many hours this year in our endeavor to upgrade NYSOA's membership records with software that will allow our members to manage and update their own personal information, so that we don't have to have someone laboriously enter all that data into a spreadsheet, generate mailing lists, etc. We are so fortunate that we have a member as hardworking, dedicated, and knowledgeable as she is to do this major project.

I am enormously grateful to John Kent, for his years of service to NYSOA as our Recording Secretary. John writes clear, readable minutes that are accurate and thorough. I appreciate the time John has spent in this job over the years, and I wish him the best as he retires from the position.

Perhaps you remember that Onondaga Audubon was to host our traditional three-day NY Birders' Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting this weekend. With the shut down in March, it became clear that the organizers would be unable to make the necessary arrangements as venues were closed, and it was impossible to know when the state would re-open and under what conditions. The Board decided to hold only the Annual Meeting (Delegates' Meeting) this year, via videoconference. Onondaga Audubon graciously agreed to host the traditional meeting in 2022. In July, Saw Mill River Audubon let the Board know that the continuing uncertainty made hosting in 2021 impossible for them, but they stepped up to host in 2023. The Board will make decisions about the 2021 meeting



soon and resume in-person functions when we can. I have already had some preliminary discussions with people, and I am hopeful that we can arrange more than just the Delegates' Meeting, whether an in-person meeting is possible or not.

Once our usual conference resumes, I look forward to seeing so many of you, and especially the young people in the New York State Young Birders Club. Many of these kids could not attend our conference if not for various sources of financial support, including our Lillian Stoner Award. Replenishing this fund to assist young birders' participation is important, and I encourage all NYSOA members to consider a donation to the fund.

Mentoring future birding leaders and ornithologists requires the involvement of many adults. The Board voted this year to establish the Herbert Thompson Award in memory of this wonderful role model whom we lost too soon. The goal is to recognize adults who give of their knowledge and time to educate and encourage our young birders. A selection process is being developed.

NYSOA is one of seven organizations partnering to produce New York Breeding Bird Atlas III, a five-year project led by a steering committee of representatives from the partners. Kathy Schneider serves as a NYSOA representative as well as co-chairing the steering committee, and Greg Lawrence and Joan Collins also serve as our representatives. Bob Spahn devoted his time and expertise to this project until he left the steering committee last fall. Bob has extensive experience in atlasing due to his work on past atlas projects in New York and elsewhere. I thank him for his service.

One of NYSOA's roles in NY BBIII is to receive funds from donations and handle disbursements to cover expenses. This year NYSOA and the Atlas Steering Committee established a set of guidelines for dealing with the donations fund. We are pleased that Andy Mason will undertake accounting responsibilities.

The Atlas affords NYSOA an opportunity to introduce ourselves to the birders submitting breeding bird data into the Atlas portal who are not currently NYSOA members and who may be unaware of the benefits of membership. COVID stopped Atlas kick-off activities in which NYSOA hoped to play a large part, and we are exploring other ways to connect with potential new members through Atlas-related contests and events, including field trips directly related to BBA III data gathering, as soon as it is safe to do so.

One of the truly enjoyable tasks that the president has is responding to people who reach out to us through our website with questions about birds. A nonagenarian wrote because she wanted advice about a book to help her identify the birds at her feeder. Another person sent a photo of a Peregrine with prey. Kathy Schneider recognized the victim as a chicken by identifying its feet. Another writer was walking along the Mohawk and observed lots of Great Egrets. She didn't know what the beautiful white birds were, and I was able to provide her a link that confirmed their identity. The lack of traffic noise during the pandemic led a reporter from *Newsday* to wonder how the situation was impacting birds. I answered some of his questions and referred him to Shai Mitra for more insights.

Committee chairs are reporting on most of the activities and work NYSOA does. A round of applause is due all our chairs for their work on NYSOA's behalf. A special welcome to Matt Palumbo from the DEC, who has provided NYSOA with reports from his agency since April. At a time when revenue losses due to the pandemic will affect virtually every area of New York.

State government, it is important that necessary funding cuts impact New York's efforts at conservation as little as possible. We appreciate Matt's dedication to keeping us abreast of DEC activities and developments.

A big shout of thanks to Pat Aitken, Mike DeSha, Greg Lawrence, Carena Pooth, Kathy Schneider, and Anne Swaim for assisting me in the planning of this meeting. What would we do in this time of necessary isolation and social distancing without all the benefits of our technology?

It is an honor to serve NYSOA as its president. I wish all NYSOA members good health and good birding.

### **Treasurer's Report, Finance Committee Report, Audit Report – Mary Jane Dugan, Andy Mason**

Andy Mason presented written financial reports covering 2019, when he was treasurer. The reports include activity and balance summaries for each fund, and a detailed statement of activity in the general operating fund. There was nothing unusual to report.

Mary Jane Dugan presented a report on how the rapid increase in printing and mailing costs led the board to decide to institute a fee for hard copies of *The Kingbird*. She pointed out that in order to know the net effect of this decision, we would need to know not only the additional revenues from the new fee, but also whether any memberships were dropped due to the change.

A written statement from the audit committee was presented. An audit was completed of the financial statements as of December 31, 2019, and found that the statements present fairly the financial condition of the Association.

### **Approval of Membership of Orange County Audubon Society – Joan Collins**

Joan announced that Orange County Audubon Society has applied to become a NYSOA member organization. Greg Lawrence moved to approve the application, and Kathy Schneider seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **DEC Report – Matt Palumbo**

Matt submitted a written report on bird-related activities of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation over the past year. He summarized the report during the meeting. The state's list of threatened and endangered species is being updated, and there will be opportunities for public input. Matt's section has been busy reviewing proposed renewable energy projects for their potential impacts on threatened and endangered species, especially the impact of large-scale solar developments on grassland birds. Matt provided a link to proposed regulatory changes from the Office of Renewable Energy which are

meant to streamline the approval of renewable energy projects. His written report provided details on specific aspects of his section's work. Their field work this year has been heavily restricted by the pandemic.

### **Breeding Bird Atlas (NY BBA III) – Kathy Schneider**

Kathy Schneider, co-chair of the NY BBA III Steering Committee, presented a written report on the first year of atlas activities, including summaries of the work being done by the various subcommittees. Her report also included links to NY BBA III outreach and fundraising resources. The Steering Committee is still looking for a regional coordinator for the Syracuse area. Julie Hart, the atlas project coordinator, has used social media and email to engage birders across the state and encourage atlas participation. Kathy stated that the pandemic also seemed to contribute to high levels of participation in the atlas, though travel restrictions meant that most activity took place close to major population centers. There were over 100,000 checklists submitted through the atlas portal, and 80% of the priority blocks were visited at least once. The committee is discussing ways to draw more birders to cover priority blocks in the lightly populated regions of New York. Kathy stated that there is currently no funding available for a component of the atlas to estimate abundance. Given the state's fiscal outlook, it seems unlikely that funding will be available. There is concern that asking volunteers to do point counts would draw them away from basic atlas work. The Design and Analysis Subcommittee is reviewing alternatives. The Sponsor-a-Species program is being developed by Dan Miller. It is hoped that this program will raise approximately \$250,000 over the five year atlas period. The Development Subcommittee is increasingly concerned about government funding for the atlas beyond March 2022, when the memorandum of understanding with the state DEC expires. A chair is needed for the Development Subcommittee.

### **Waterfowl Count – Bill Ostrander**

Bill reported on the 2020 waterfowl count, which was held in January. Detailed results will appear in *The Kingbird*. The 2021 count will run January 16-24, with a target date of January 17.

### **Emanuel Levine Memorial Award – Shai Mitra**

Shai presented the Levine award for the best article in *The Kingbird* for 2019 to Deborah Dohne. Deborah's article, entitled "Breeding between Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows in a Syracuse, New York Cemetery", appeared in *The Kingbird*, Volume 69, Number 4.

### ***The Kingbird* – Shai Mitra**

Shai reported that the transition to digital publication of *The Kingbird* has gone smoothly. The backlog in publication dates has largely been eliminated thanks to Shai's and Pat Lindsay's efforts to speed up publication over the past couple of years. It was pointed out that if the number of members opting to receive a hard

copy of *The Kingbird* falls below 200, we will no longer qualify for the bulk mail rate and mailing costs will increase substantially.

### ***New York Birders* – Joan Collins**

Joan submitted a written report summarizing the columns and articles published over the past year. Julie Hart has provided articles about NY BBA III for each issue, and these will continue throughout the duration of the atlas project. Joan recommended that members opt for electronic delivery of *New York Birders* so that they can see the color photographs.

### **Field Trips – Joan Collins**

A weekend field trip was held last winter in the Adirondacks, with a presentation by Julie Hart about species that breed early in the year. The 25 participants enjoyed the weekend and saw most of the Adirondack specialty birds. Unfortunately, the pandemic has made it impossible to plan the same type of weekend field trips for the time being, but the committee is discussing alternatives.

### ***Checklist of the Birds of New York State* – Carena Pooth**

Carena reported that there were only minor changes to the checklist resulting from the updates in the AOS 61<sup>st</sup> supplement. The online checklist and printable field checklist were updated in July 2020, and the 2021 booklet will be published in time for the 2021 NYSOA membership renewal cycle.

### **County and State Listing – Carena Pooth**

There were 135 participants for 2019, a new record. Carena's written report summarizes the statistics. Participants may submit their 2020 data anytime between now and March 1, 2021.

### **Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth**

Carena submitted a written report on changes to the website and the most-visited pages on the site. The report includes a summary of the work in progress to effect a transition to an online membership management system (Wild Apricot). Carena has spent many hours working to convert our membership database to the format needed for the new system. Once the transition is complete, it is expected to substantially reduce the workload on the Membership and Circulation Committee.

### **Conservation Committee – Andy Mason**

Andy submitted a written report and summarized it during the meeting. The committee worked on the endangered and threatened species list, Lake Ontario wind power issues, and potential development projects in Suffolk County. The committee is concerned about the state's proposed revision of its environmental review process for alternative energy projects, and will be submitting comments. Andy encouraged member clubs to review and comment on the proposal as well.

The committee's documents can be found on the conservation page of the NYSOA website.

### **Marketing and Publicity – Brian Dugan**

Brian reported that he continues to work on creating the NYSOA Zazzle site, making NYSOA-branded items available for sale via the NYSOA website. The committee plans to supply articles for publication in *The Conservationist*, and a review panel consisting of Andy Mason, Rich Guthrie, and Brian Dugan will vet these articles.

### **Membership and Circulation – Pat Aitken, Joan Collins**

A written report was submitted showing trends in membership over the past ten years. Pat summarized the report during the meeting. It shows a decrease of 101 individual members in the past year, but that is largely due to the delayed deletion of memberships that had not been renewed over the past few years. Two member organizations did not renew, but one new one was added. Pat reported that the NYSOA member survey is in progress and reminded all members to respond to it.

### **New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) – Rosanne Vinson**

Rosanne summarized her written report. Although field trips have been suspended since March, the club has held monthly online meetings featuring presentations by club alumni. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual kickoff event in January featured presentations by several members, and Anne Swaim spoke about NY BBA III. Rosanne reported that NYSYBC normally grants scholarships to fund members' attendance at birding camps and other ornithology programs, but that those were not held this year due to the pandemic. However, members were able to participate in online instruction with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at a cost of only \$420 to the NYSYBC scholarship fund.

### **Election of Officers**

On behalf of the nominating committee, Bob Adamo presented the following slate of nominees for officers and directors:

**Officers:** (one year terms) President: Shirley Shaw, Vice President: Greg Lawrence, Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan, Recording Secretary: Anne Swaim

**Directors:** (terms ending in 2022) Corey Finger, Gerry Thurn, Joe Brin, Patricia Riexinger, Shane Blodgett

Bob Adamo moved to elect this slate. Shai Mitra seconded, and the slate was elected unanimously.

The following will be continuing as directors (terms ending in 2021): Pat Aitken, Brian Dugan, Brendan Fogarty, Lucretia Grosshans

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Shirley Shaw presented the following committee nominees:

**Nominating Committee:** (one year term) Bob Adamo (Chair), Mike DeSha, Tim Baird

Greg Lawrence made a motion to have the secretary cast a ballot for these three individuals for the Nominating Committee. Diane Morton seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

**Auditing Committee:** (one year term) Stephen Chang (Chair), Tom Burke, Peter Capainolo

Thomas O'Donnell made a motion to have the secretary cast a ballot for these three individuals for the Auditing Committee. Barbara Butler seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Shirley Shaw thanked Doug Futuyama, Rich Guthrie, and Bob Spahn for their service on the board for the past few years.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

Diane Morton made a motion to adjourn. Thomas O'Donnell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted, John Kent  
Recording Secretary



## IN MEMORIAM: VALERIE M. FREER

Valerie M. Freer of Ellenville passed away on September 10, 2020. Valerie had a long career in education that began at Ellenville Central School where she taught 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades and Biology. She went on to earn a PhD from Harpur College of Binghamton University and was a Professor of Biology at Sullivan County Community College (SCCC). She was awarded the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and completed her career at SCCC as Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics. Valerie was an active member of Ellenville Reformed Church.

A superb birder, Valerie was extremely active and influential in New York State ornithology. As a licensed bird bander with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for over 50 years and member of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, Valerie banded over 14,000 birds including over 850 Saw-whet Owls on her property. A member of Sullivan County Audubon Society, she served as president, newsletter editor, and field trip leader for decades. She established the database of county bird records and co-authored "Birds of Sullivan County, NY, A Checklist and Summary of Records" with Phyllis Jones, and later with John Haas. On the state level, Valerie wrote seven species accounts for *Bull's Birds of New York State* (1998, edited by Emanuel Levine): Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, and Gray Catbird. She was a major figure in the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State, conducted from 2000-2005, serving as Chair of the statewide Steering Committee, as co-Coordinator for Region 9 (Hudson-Delaware Region), and authoring the account for Bank Swallow. Valerie was a pillar of our organization, the New York State Ornithological Association, serving as President from 1997-1999 and being honored twice with the Gordon M. Meade Award, the highest recognition of service to NYSOA, in 2002 and 2008. She was also a strong supporter of the New York State Young Birders Club.

We at NYSOA extend our deepest sympathies to Valerie's family, friends, and the innumerable students and birders whose lives she touched and enriched. We have lost a towering figure in our lives.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

Ellenville Reformed Church, 188 Canal St., Ellenville, NY 12428.

Or give to the church online at:

[givebutter.com/GBRuH7](https://givebutter.com/GBRuH7)<https://givebutter.com/GBRuH7>

Or give to the Sullivan County Audubon Society c/o Charles Hyden, Treasurer, 187 DeBruce Road, Livingston Manor, NY 12758.

*Editor's Note:* Parts of this memorial were adapted from an obituary written by Mary Collier, published in the Sullivan County Audubon Society's newsletter *Warblings*. A collection of moving tributes to Valerie appears in the Winter 2020 issue of *Warblings*, with excerpts reproduced in the January 2021 issue of *New York Birders*.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

### Swallow-tailed Kites in Western New York

This story begins on 30 July, 2020 when Vaughn Bates, while working on a private farm, noticed a pair of unusual raptors on the west side of Hamlin, Monroe County, NY. He identified them from a field guide and called another local birder who confirmed the identification of the two Swallow-tailed Kites on 2 August. This birder notified Willie D'Anna and mentioned the birds were seen on private property. Willie notified Andy Guthrie, who lives in the area; Andy searched parts of Hamlin but was unable to find the birds. We learned later that they were also photographed at the private farm by Kathy Habgood on 1 August (see photo on p. 364 and the Region 2 report, in this issue).

Exactly one week later, someone living on Roosevelt Highway (State Route. 18) in Hamlin also noticed the two kites near his home and obtained a photo of one of them on Thursday, 6 August. On Sunday morning, 9 August, he brought his sighting and photo to the attention of Dan Niven, one of the principal banders at Braddock Bay Raptor Research (BBRR). Dan immediately informed Mike Tetlow who then alerted several local birders about the hawks and revealed the first public information on where the birds were seen.

Now armed with the information on location, between Redman Rd. and County Line Rd. in Hamlin, birders started searching. By the late morning of 9 August, two Swallow-tailed Kites were being seen near Roosevelt Highway and Redman Rd. Since parking along Roosevelt Highway was difficult and birding along the road somewhat dangerous, a safer location to view from was a church parking lot near County Line Road. This location, the Mount Olive Baptist Church, was recognized as providing the best viewing opportunities. The birds were seen in all directions from there. On that Sunday, many people were able to see the two kites, often from a great distance, but occasionally one or both of the birds would fly directly over the church parking lot, providing magnificent views. Many birders came as the news spread on eBird, text alerts, and birding listservs. The kites were seen sporadically throughout the remainder of that day.

There were many observers every day and eBird reports daily until Sunday, 16 August. Many people were again searching for them on 17 August but they were not found. From the eBird reports, one could see that these birds ranged over an area of 1.5 miles from north to south and 1 mile east to west, approximately 1.5 square miles (4 sq. km.). However, there is little doubt that they ranged over a greater area than this. The area where the kites were seen was mostly agricultural with about 25 percent forest. Sandy Creek runs through the area and is forested along its path. The birds were often seen above this woodland.

The habitat seemed to be attractive to the kites because they remained there for over two weeks. They would catch insects in flight and were recorded eating dragonflies in flight. Andy Guthrie was also able to find them roosting at least once.



Many birders were able to get photographs. Analysis of the photos revealed they were likely juveniles based on the brown streaks on the breast. The ratio of the length of the outer tail feather to the distance from the rear edge of the wing to the end of the undertail coverts was measured from photographs and compared to photographs of adults. This ratio ranges from 1.0 to 1.2 for adults, whereas the two birds in Hamlin ranged from 0.8 to 0.9. The shorter tail would imply juveniles. (Dunn, J and J. Alderfer. 2017: *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. National Geographic Partners Washington, DC. p. 272.) Also, one of the birds showed buffy feathers around the neck and upper breast, also suggesting a juvenile.

It is possible that these birds dispersed northward with immature southern Bald Eagles. In mid-summer, there is an influx of these eagles in western New York, as recorded at BBRR. On 30 July Hurricane *Isaias* was near Haiti in the Caribbean. It reached the southern tip of Florida in the early morning of 2 August and South Carolina by late afternoon on 3 August. The kites could not have been swept north by that storm because of their earlier arrival in Hamlin.

There have been a number of eBird reports of Swallow-tailed Kites in the eastern US in August of this year. One was near Rushland, PA on 1-8 August. The northern-most report was a single at Luther Marsh, Ontario 3-8 August. The furthest west sighting was near Adrian, MI on 14-16 August. Another bird was near Newton Township, PA 14-17 August. There were eight records from northern Virginia to the Delmarva Peninsula this summer. Among these were reports of two birds at Woodsville, VA on 7 August and Cape May, NJ on 13 August. And finally, there were two reports from New Hampshire, from Lebanon on 9 August and Webster on 9-16 August.

The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) lists 21 accepted records of Swallow-tailed Kite in their online database and 18 of these are from spring. There is one late June record and one each from August and September. We are also aware that there have been some summer sightings that were never submitted to NYSARC.

There are a number of unusual aspects about the kites in Hamlin. First, this was a summer sighting, unlike most of the more eastern occurrences, which have been in spring. Second, there were two birds. The vast majority of sightings north of their known range are of single birds. Finally, they stayed in the area for at least 18 days, an unusually long stay for any sighting outside of their range.

We would like to thank those who provided help to many birders looking for this unusual species. We would also like to thank Andy Guthrie for providing sighting information and for background information for this summary, and Willie D'Anna for his comments on this note.

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## **PATCH BIRDING**

### **WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT PATCH BIRDING?**

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I had never taken up patch birding until I started work on the New York Breeding Bird Atlas 2000. In that year, I asked Waste Management for access to property they owned in Perinton, NY for atlas work. This property had never been opened for public access. It was a former gravel quarry and before that farmland since the early twentieth century. Over the years this property had been significantly altered. It consisted of an unnamed creek, several large ponds, and a large deep quarry that filled in with water, apparently from underground springs. Several years after I did atlas surveys there, it was opened to the public in 2003. Waste Management contracted to have five miles of trails with necessary bridges installed in an area of about 300 acres. It has a variety of habitats including the deep gravel quarry pond, a series of shallower ponds, several marshes, scrub areas, a small area of open grass, a lowland forest, and an upland forest.

The site was named High Acres Nature Area (HANA). Visitors enjoy dog walking, fishing, geocaching, nature photography, butterflies, cross-country skiing, hiking, and, of course, birding. It has also served students from Rochester Institute of Technology Environmental Sciences Department who work on their master's theses or teams of seniors who work on their capstone projects.

After the atlas was completed, I began to visit throughout the year; it became my go-to place when I wanted to bird for just an hour or two since it was close to my home. My interests have been to see how many different species occur annually and gain some understanding of how they use the different habitats.

Lake Ontario provides a barrier to migration in spring. As a result, local birders visit lakeshore migrant traps. HANA, on the other hand, is located about 15 miles south of Lake Ontario and further from the best know migrant traps. Because of that spatial separation, the site provides some understanding of how the migration is different inland as compared to the lakeshore. From several years of data, we can see trends in the differences of these locations.

When there are high counts of passerine migrants on the lakeshore hotspots, there are extremely few migrants at HANA. But on certain days following severe weather such as north winds, stationary cold fronts, rain, or mist, many of these migrants could appear at this inland location. In years when the water level at HANA is low, there are shorebirds and we average about nine shorebird species per year. Ducks are common migrants in spring and fall but diving ducks, except Ring-necked Duck, are rare. Ring-necked Duck is an annual spring migrant. Blackbirds and sparrows are also common migrants but thrushes, hawks, and the less common gulls are rare.

A patch location provides an opportunity to look further into migrant species. Over the years, I have come to the conclusion that there are two kinds of migrants.

The transient migrants are those that are stopping to feed but are on their way to breeding territories further north. Annually, we see many of these migrants, such as Rusty Blackbird, Cape May Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet just to name a few. Over the years, a total of 35 migrant species are annual and another 49 species are uncommon but nearly annual. These species are considered migrants based on their known geographical range.

The second type of migrants are the resident migrants. These are species that could breed at HANA based on range, or might have bred there, but the interesting facet about them is that they show up in spring, spend a few days, possibly up to a week, and then depart. They might be seeking a better breeding site, or leave because they fail to find a mate. I am surprised how often this happens. These species are non-breeders at HANA in a specific year but cannot be dismissed on the basis of range, date, or habitat. I have seen many examples of this involving species like Cerulean Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Wilson's Snipe, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Yellow-billed Cuckoo has done this in two different years but Black-billed Cuckoo has remained all summer, indicating breeding. This year a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was found singing and interacting on 21 May, but subsequent extensive effort to re-find them failed. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has been a very rare breeding species at HANA. It is only through repeated visits that you can be reasonably certain that a species is breeding.

Perhaps one of the greatest joys of patch birding is to find unusual species. Rare species can show up any time of the year. Some of the most noteworthy records are Black Tern, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope, Common Redpoll, Northern Shrike, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary and Golden-winged Warblers. A White-faced Ibis was found and remained for some time to the delight of local listers. Snowy Egret has occurred once and Fish Crow several times. Common Loons and Horned Grebes are occasionally found in spring on the quarry pond, but Red-breasted and Common Mergansers are very unusual.

About 215 species have been recorded at HANA and 59 of these are found annually as breeding birds. There are an additional 15 species that have bred sporadically or rarely. Because of the diversity of species found at HANA and the easy access, it has become a popular birding site, and for me, an enjoyable and informative "patch".



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2020

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The Kingbird Regions shared remarkably consistent weather through the Summer of 2020, with June bringing slightly above average temperatures and below average rainfall, while July and August were hotter and wetter than usual. July, in particular, produced widespread record heat and two tropical storms touched parts of the state in late summer.

Snow Geese and Brant lingered into June in several upstate Regions; a Brant in July in Region 5 was decidedly rare. Even more surprising was a Barnacle Goose photographed at Three Rivers WMA, also in Region 5. Not surprisingly this provided a first summer record for the Region. Trumpeter Swans were reported from four Regions as they continue to colonize the state. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were recorded from three Regions—anyone want to take bets on this bird's breeding status for the 2040 Atlas project?

Most of the expected puddle ducks were represented by widespread reports, with good numbers of Wood Duck in many areas. 600 Green-winged Teal was a noteworthy tally in Region 3. Ring-necked Ducks, found in eight Regions, were confirmed nesting in Regions 6 and 7. Common Goldeneye was confirmed in Region 6 on the St. Lawrence River, and was suspected to have bred in Region 5.

Pied-billed Grebes seemed to be well represented, with reports coming from eight Regions, although high counts in the 50s at Northern Montezuma WMA in Region 2 were considered to be low. A Eurasian Collared-Dove in Rome in Region 5 was well photographed and had been present for some time. Another, reported from Kings County, was considered plausible but without photos could not be accepted as a first county record. This bird is extremely rare on Long Island with only one other record in eBird. Both species of cuckoos seemed to be present in good numbers and nicely spread around. 235 reports of Yellow-billed in Region 4, and 80 reports of Black-billed in Region 6 seem to point towards healthy populations. Northbound Common Nighthawks were widely reported into June, with apparent early returnees by mid to late July. Only Region 6 reported breeding populations, with up to a dozen birds on territory at Fort Drum. Whip-poor-wills were reported from seven Regions, generally in very low numbers. A Chuck-will's Widow found in Greene County in Region 8 is a great find away from Long Island—even there it is uncommon and very local. Bobwhite reports continue to pop up from a few sites on Long Island, but it's hard to say whether any of these represent established populations or just temporary releases of fox food.

Black Rail is a huge rarity anywhere in the state these days, and to have one on location for an extended period in Region 9 away from tide water locations is just phenomenal. Sora and Virginia Rail reports came from eight Regions—a good showing probably resulting from dedicated Atlas birding. Common Gallinules were reported from nine Regions—again a good, widespread showing.

Two Purple Gallinules put in appearances in Region 10. Sandhill Cranes were widely spread around the state, albeit not in great numbers, and there were only a couple of breeding confirmations.

Midsummer records of American Avocet appear to be on the rise, and a max of 18 in Ripley in Region 1 is a great count. Otherwise, shorebird numbers seemed to be a mixed bag, with a decent variety reported from Regions 2 and 6, but few rarities. Whimbrels were reported from seven Regions, with a flock of 11 on the Cohoes Flats representing the fourth record for Region 8. Regions 1 and 2 reported numbers in the 20s, also some impressive counts. Piping Plovers nested again at Sandy Pond in Region 5, apparently the only breeding location in the state away from Region 10. Nine Regions reported Upland Sandpiper. This would seem to be a decent showing for a bird that is really just hanging on in most of its former range, although most comments did refer to its overall scarcity.

A scattering of both godwits spiced things up in several Regions. One along the St. Lawrence River in Region 6 was a treat for local birders, and that Region also turned up multiple Baird's Sandpipers and *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitchers. A Western Sandpiper at Marshlands Conservancy in Region 9 provided the only record away from Region 10, where a total of eight found at Moriches Inlet was a large number and unusual in that they were all adults. Generally speaking, though, shorebird numbers in Region 10 continue to drop off precipitously.

A Long-tailed Jaeger at Derby Hill (Region 5) was a great find. There were some pretty high-quality gull and tern reports this summer, including an early juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake and a Little Gull at Buffalo on 27 August, a day of storms and high wind. A few days later, a juvenile Sabine's was found off Hamlin Beach in Region 2. A Glaucous Gull summered on Lake Ontario, and Franklin's and Laughing Gulls were scattered across several Regions. Tropical Storm *Isaias* carried Least, Black and Sooty Terns up the Hudson River, and at least eight of the latter were reported from the River in Region 10. Individual Sooties made it all the way up to Regions 8 and 9. Their widespread fallout along the ocean beaches was more expected after storms of this nature. A Royal Tern at Piermont Pier in Region 9 was a nice rarity and lingered for several days. An immature Arctic Tern photographed at Onondaga Lake in Region 5 provided only the second Regional record for this difficult rarity.

Some may say that New York State is becoming a hotbed of booby activity—after several records in recent years, this summer several Brown Boobies were found, one in Region 7 and another in Region 9 and three separate reports from different locations in Region 10. The Region 7 bird was the second there in two years. Six Regions reported American White Pelican, while Brown Pelicans in Regions 1 and 6 are even more surprising. Both of those late August records were probably the result of stormy weather around the end of the month.

It's not surprising that storm birding was very productive in Region 10. Good birds along the beaches of Long Island included a South Polar Skua on 10 July at Robert Moses SP, a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in Fire Island Inlet 4 August, and

a high count of Great Shearwaters from Riis Park 10 July, near the extreme west end of Long Island. More surprising, though, was that some of these same species were found along the Hudson River, away from the immediate coastline. South Polar Skua on 4 August and Great Shearwater on 11 July seen from Riverside Park in Manhattan are exceptional records. See the Region 10 report for a more complete account of the effects of both tropical storms.

Both bitterns seemed to be well represented, with eight Regions reporting each of them, and breeding confirmed for both in Region 6. Glossy Ibis was reported from Regions 8 and 9, where scarce, while to the west, Regions 1 and 2 left their *Plegadis* ibises as unidentified to species. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were unsuccessful breeders in Region 9 for the second year in a row. See the article in this issue for an inside look at their interesting behaviors.

Continuing the recent trend, Black Vultures were widely reported. Mississippi Kites were reported from Regions 1, 9, and 10, while in Region 2, two cooperative Swallow-tailed Kites were even more surprising. A volunteer mid-summer hawk watch at Braddock Bay in Region 2 produced some really nice counts, including a one-day count of 613 Red-tailed Hawks on 11 August! Does fall migration start earlier than a lot of us thought, or are there other explanations for such significant movements in July and August? At Braddock Bay and elsewhere throughout the state, Bald Eagles numbers seem to be soaring. Breeding was confirmed in 10 Atlas books in Region 6 alone. A Golden Eagle in Clinton County, Region 7 was the only report for the state, and highly unusual for summer. David Wheeler in Region 5 describes an interesting and unexpected hazard for city-dwelling Peregrine Falcons. Fortunately, this story seems to have a happy resolution.

Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from all three Regions where they might reasonably be expected, a great result probably reflective of enthusiastic atlasing as opposed to any real improvement in their status. While we're in the boreal forests, it should be mentioned that Spruce Grouse was represented from Region 7 only, with reports including a female with two young. Elsewhere in the Adirondack section of our birding baedeker, Canada Jays were found in Regions 6 and 7, but seem to be extremely limited in distribution, while Boreal Chickadees were not found at all in Region 6, even in areas where they were known recently to breed.

Sedge Wrens were detected in seven Regions, with at least three singing males at Great Kills in Region 10, where they would be especially unexpected as breeders. Although generally considered to be declining, that seems to be a decent showing. Several Regions mentioned good numbers of the expected passerines—maybe an artifact of increased scrutiny while atlasing? Observers in Region 6 felt that passerines were nesting later than they normally do. “Winter” finches were generally found in low numbers, except for scattered good counts of Purple Finch. Some passerine highlights included Yellow-throated Warbler and Dickcissel in Region 2, Nelson’s Sparrow and “Lawrence’s” Warbler in Region 3 and an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 5. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds in

Region 10 during June seemed out of season, but there are a number of prior records during June and July, a known vagrant window. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Region 5 was the first summer record for that species. An unidentified “yellow-bellied” kingbird in Region 1 sounds intriguing. On the negative side, no Golden-winged Warblers were recorded from Region 1, and only two Regions recorded more than single birds. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Region 10 is a stand-out rarity, but, typically, did not linger. In any other year, the Western Tanager visiting a feeder in Region 6 might have been a popular stakeout bird, but in these days of Covid, county listers had to settle for a photo.

At a time when grassland species are disappearing at an alarming rate, Clay-colored Sparrows seem to be fighting the trend. They were recorded from nine Regions this summer, even in areas where Grasshopper Sparrows continue to dwindle. Henslow’s Sparrow is already gone from most of its former range, with birds found at two sites in Region 6 being the sole representatives statewide.

With a nice variety of rarities scattered across the state, selecting a Bird of the Season can be challenging. But this being the breeding season, I’m inclined to go with one that I really hope is still nesting within the confines of New York. A lot of us can only dream of coming across a state Black Rail, and for that reason I’m going with the bird that spent at least a week or two advertising its presence at the Wallkill River NWR in Region 9.

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## **REGIONAL REPORTS—SUMMER 2020**

Much of the data in these Regional reports was sourced from eBird: eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD\_re1Aug-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Aug 2020.

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### **REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER**

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June 2020 averaged out nearly normal with a hot finish. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 67.1° F, 0.8° above normal, with 3.55" of precipitation, 0.11" below average. The heat continued throughout July. The mean temperature was 77.6°, 6.5° above average, and the warmest all-time monthly temperature on record. Precipitation was 3.42", 0.19" above average. Summer heat remained in August. The average temperature was 73.5°, 3.9° above normal. Rainfall was 2.10", 1.16" below normal.

We birders were fortunate to have the first year of the New York Breeding Bird Atlas III project to focus on during this strange year. Some birders put in exceptional efforts for block assignments while others were good about adding breeding codes in their regular birding activity. My initial opinion held through the first atlas summer in Region 1, though—not enough birders were going “all out” and too many were sticking to eBird hotspots. It is hard to make sense of how the pandemic affected atlas work, but, using myself as an example, I had much more time available for birding this year than I would have otherwise. I suspect that applied to many others. I think it is going to take a greater collective effort to go farther afield in the next few years to get the priority blocks well covered let alone do justice for most of the blocks.

There were some interesting atlas finds and a few species with more reports than usual most likely due to atlas effort. In this latter category, I found it interesting that Swainson’s Thrush and Northern Parula were found beyond Allegany SP, the only known regular breeding location in recent years. Several more regular species that were noted with increased frequency this summer, mostly influenced by atlas effort, included Grasshopper Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was downright common in many areas in June this year. A singing Ruby-crowned Kinglet in some higher elevation (for Region 1) state forest land in Chautauqua County was intriguing, although the 1 August date raises questions as to whether it was there earlier in the summer. A singing Dickcissel in Villenova was a good atlas find by Gale VerHague, especially in a year when they were not plentiful in the northeast.

As the two most recent additions as Region 1 breeders, Trumpeter Swans and Caspian Terns are making it an annual occurrence. Trumpeter Swans were documented breeding in the Tonawanda WMA / Iroquois NWR for the third consecutive year, with four cygnets reported. Caspian Terns bred in Buffalo Harbor for the fourth consecutive year and with expanding habitat for them being created in the Niagara River, it is likely they will breed here for years to come.

Black Vulture and Fish Crow top my short list of the most likely next new Region 1 breeders. To my knowledge, no confirmations were received for either species this summer. Fish Crow went unreported, although there have been few summer reports despite increases in the other seasons; this species breeds nearby in the Niagara region of Ontario, as well as the Rochester area of Region 2. There were a few summer Black Vulture sightings in Lewiston again but gaining hard evidence of breeding for this species will be a challenge. For that matter, Turkey Vultures are a common presence throughout the Region, and it is difficult to confirm them as breeders. Celeste Morien was thrilled to find an active Turkey Vulture nest in an abandoned barn. Also, on my list of possible next new breeders is American White Pelican. For the second straight year there was a long-staying bird in summer; this time at Oak Orchard WMA where presumably the same bird was present through most of May and then returned in late July to remain into the fall season.



A roundup of the less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report reads like recent years. There was only one Upland Sandpiper location reported where spring and summer sightings are regular at a covered landfill adjacent to Tillman Road WMA. There were a few summer reports of Common Nighthawk in Buffalo beyond when late spring migrants or early fall migrants would be expected. Sandhill Cranes were present at Tonawanda WMA / Iroquois NWR although I am not aware of confirmed breeding, and an early June report of two in Dayton is intriguing. Merlins were documented at several regular and new locations. Sedge Wren was documented in two Southern Tier locations. Clay-colored Sparrows bred at Krull County Park again, where they have become a regular occurrence, but sightings at only one other location was a bit of a surprise for this species on the increase. Yet again there were no Golden-winged Warbler reports in the breeding season, but I think that targeted searches in suitable habitat and more overall looking might still find some remaining for this third atlas project. Prothonotary Warbler was documented at Tonawanda WMA and Iroquois NWR, as usual.

Notable shorebird sightings at the end of spring migration included a flock of 22 Whimbrel at Beaver Island SP and a late Solitary Sandpiper in New Albion on 11 June. It was a decent summer for records of shorebirds on the return flight even though there were no outstanding concentration areas. American Avocet continues to become a more frequent summer occurrence as there were four reports this year, including a group of 18 in Ripley on 10 August by Domenic Rocco. Other “fall” migrant shorebird reports included up to three Whimbrel on a lawn at Fort Niagara SP that were observed by many over the first week of August, a Baird’s Sandpiper at Barcelona Harbor, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper found by Joe Mitchell in Newstead, two Willets at Point Breeze, and a Red-necked Phalarope at Batavia WWTP. Two distant phalaropes on the Niagara River in Buffalo following strong wind and storms on 27 August were considered Red-necked or Red.

That same storm event brought Laughing Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Little Gull, all juveniles, to the Buffalo waterfront. There were five Lesser Black-backed Gull reports with one in early June and then four scattered reports in August. Three Forster’s Tern reports were unusual for all being in Cattaraugus County with reports of one and three at the sand and gravel ponds in South Dayton and then another at Allegheny Reservoir in late August. A Common Tern at Allegheny Reservoir in late August was a good sighting for the location.

Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and Ring-necked Duck were reported from four, three, and three locations, respectively. Single reports were received for White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser. A Horned Grebe found by Kenneth Kemphues at Wellsville on 7 June was unusual for the date and location.

A **Mississippi Kite** observed by Alejandra Lewandowski flying north in Clymer on 22 June was only the fourth Regional record; while this was more likely a late migrant or wandering bird, the date leaves some wonder if breeding

may have been a possibility. Jarod Ruffle photographed the Region's sixth **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at Iroquois NWR on 16 July. Andrea Vallancourt found the Region's seventh **Brown Pelican** at Dunkirk Harbor on 27 August, perhaps also brought in by those strong winds; it was also seen there on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Willie D'Anna saw two distant ibis at the back of Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR on 1 June that he suspected were the same Glossys seen there a few days earlier, but with the distance he cautiously reported at **Glossy/White-faced Ibis**. Katelyn Davis reported a **yellow-bellied kingbird species** from Joseph Davis SP on 21 June; the photo included in the eBird report could not be conclusive to ID.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Barth, Don Bemont, Jim Berry, Chris Bertola, Kyle Brock, Robert Buckert, Brad Carlson, Dennis Crouse Jr., Willie D'Anna, Katelyn Davis, Jessica Detoy, Tony Dvorak, John Fedak (JFed), Joe Fell (JFel), Geoffrey Garver, Joanne Goetz, David Gordon, Michael Gullo, David Hayduk, Paul Hess, Alec Humann, Ken Kempfues, Josh Ketry, Alejandra Lewandowski, Tim Lenz, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, TJ Mudd, Matt Nusstein, Betsy Potter, Jay & Ann Powell, Jeffrey Reed (JRe), Bruce Robinson, Domenic Rocco, Fred Rosing, Marcus Rosten, Jajeane Rose-Burney, Vicki Rothman, Jared Ruffle (JRu), Karl Schmidt, Shelley Seidman, Beverly Seyler, Tom Simmons, Rick Stevens, Joel Strong, Rick Thomas, Kirk Vanstrom, Brian Webb, Chris Wood, Andrea Vallancourt, Gale VerHague, Peter Yoerg.

## 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; **CHMUA** – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area, GENE/WYOM; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JDSP** – Joseph Davis SP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tiff NP** – Tiff Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

### WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:**  
INWR 16 Jul (JRu), 6<sup>th</sup> Reg rec, all since 2010.  
**Mute Swan:** max 18 Carlton ORLE 14 Jun; 7  
Wilson NIAG 16 Jun; BeSP 1 Jul, 28 Aug; DH

8 Jul, 11-29 Aug; 8 Olcott NIAG 15 Aug; max  
22 PB 15 Aug.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2, 4, 2 TWMA 1 Jun, 22  
Jul, 26 Aug; 2 ad + 4 yg INWR 2 Jun (GG),  
third straight year breeding here.

**Wood Duck:** 99 TWMA 6 Jun; max 118 Tift NP 15 Aug.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 6 INWR 21 Jun; arr 2 Tift NP 13 Jul; 19 TRWMA 30 Jul; max 50 TWMA 29 Aug.

**Northern Shoveler:** max 30 BWWTP 29 Aug.  
**Gadwall:** 2 TWMA 3, 7 Jun; max 5 Tift NP 28 Aug.

**American Wigeon:** max 6 BWWTP 29 Aug.  
**American Black Duck:** INWR 2 Jun; N Harmony CHAU 5 Jun; arr Olcott NIAG 8 Aug; few reports.

**Northern Pintail:** arr 1, 1 TWMA 1, 29 Aug; INWR 28 Aug; max 3 BWWTP 30 Aug; only reports.

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 INWR 13 Jun; arr 2 Tift NP 18 Aug; max 17 BWWTP 29 Aug.

**Redhead:** Porter NIAG 1 Jun (JD); max 4, 1 TWMA 5 Jun, 4 Jul.

**Ring-necked Duck:** TWMA 1 Jun (WD); BWWTP 12 Jun (JM); Tift NP 13 Jul, 6-23 Aug (JRB, mob); only reports.

**Greater Scaup:** BufH 2 Jun (RT); DH 3 Jun, 5, 14 Jul (GV); Tift NP 21, 28 Jul; TBNP 6-28 Aug; more reports than usual.

**Lesser Scaup:** AISP 7, 24 Jun (MM, KB), unusual location for date; 3, 1 BWWTP 12 Jun, 29 Aug (JM, CM); Tift NP 19 Jun (DG).

**White-winged Scoter:** Barcelona CHAU 25-30 Aug (GV), only report.

**Long-tailed Duck:** PB 10 Aug (RB), only report.

**Common Goldeneye:** DH 14 Jul (GV), only report.

**Common Merganser:** max 35 Buffalo NR 27 Aug.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Barcelona CHAU 20 Aug, only report.

**Ruddy Duck:** 10, 2, 7 BWWTP 12 Jun, 1, 26 Jul, 23 Aug; lowest summer numbers for this location.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 14 INWR 16 Jun (CM); Wilson NIAG 4 Aug.

**Horned Grebe:** Wellsville ALLE 7 Jun (KK), unusual location for date.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** max 6 TWMA 20 Jun; more reports than usual throughout Reg in Jun, Jul.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** about half as many reports as yellow-billed this summer.

**Common Nighthawk:** 2 Orangeville WYOM, TRWMA 4 Jun; last TWMA 8 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 30 Jun, 10, 30 Jul, 10, 14 Aug (PY, JFel), possible breeder(s); Silver Creek CHAU 26 Jul; Tonawanda ERIE 17, 30 Aug; WoBSP,

Tift NP, BeSP 24 Aug; 2 S Dayton CATT 27 Aug; Shelby ORLE 31 Aug.

## RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** max 4 TRWMA 4 Jun; max 4 BMAC 2 Jul; max 4 Tift NP 22 Aug; atlas work turned up a few more locs than usual.

**Sora:** max 4 Kiantone CHAU 22 Jun; 3 Tift NP 28 Aug.

**Common Gallinule:** max 26 TWMA 1 Jun, 22 Jul.

**American Coot:** max 5 TWMA 6 Jun; 2 TWMA 4 Aug; OOWMA 16 Aug.

**Sandhill Crane:** 3 TWMA 6 Jun (CB); 2 Dayton CATT 6 Jun (JM); max 4, 7, 12 INWR 13 Jun, 17 Jul, 3 Aug (RS, MG, PH); 10 Middleport NIAG 16 Aug (JK).

**American Avocet:** arr Barcelona CHAU 20 Jul (BW, KB); DH 29 Jul; max 18 Ripley CHAU 10 Aug (DR); 2 WoBSP 11 Aug (SB); BufH 17 Aug (JK), good showing.

**Black-bellied Plover:** Tonawanda NR ERIE 2 Jun; last INWR 13 Jun (RS); arr BufH 3 Aug; PB 10 Aug; Somerset NIAG 25 Aug; Allegheny Reservoir CATT 31 Aug.

**American Golden-Plover:** arr Newstead ERIE, Newfane NIAG 30 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** 7 CSWMA 1 Jun; last 2 TWMA 3 Jun; arr Amherst ERIE 19 Jul; max Allegheny Reservoir CATT 19 Aug.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 2 TRWMA 3 Jun, regular breeding location.

**Whimbrel:** last 22 BeSP 2 Jun (TD), impressive number; arr 3-1 FNPS 2-8 Aug (J&AP, mob); Barcelona CHAU 28 Aug (TJM).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 6 INWR 1 Jun; Tonawanda ERIE, Olcott NIAG 2 Jun; last PB 4 Jun; arr 1, 4, 3 BufH 24, 31 Jul, 8 Aug; 2 Barcelona CHAU 3 Aug; 2 Wilson NIAG 14 Aug.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** no reports.

**Sanderling:** last 2 BufH 2 Jun; arr BufH 24 Jul; 2 PB 4 Aug; Amherst ERIE 15 Aug; 8 BufH 24 Aug; max 11, 13 Barcelona CHAU 27, 30 Aug.

**Dunlin:** last CSWMA 1 Jun.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr Barcelona CHAU 27, 28 Aug (GV).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 3 Amherst ERIE 5 Jul; max 20 INWR 30 Aug.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** last TWMA 4 Jun (JS).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr Newstead ERIE 25 Aug (JM).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr INWR 22 Jul; max 9 INWR 23 Aug.

**Sempalmated Sandpiper:** last 79, 5 TWMA 2, 4 Jun; arr BufH 16 Jul.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 2 Hamburg ERIE 11 Jul; INWR 4 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** New Albion CATT 11 Jun (DC), late; arr Buffalo ERIE 8 Jul; 7 Amherst ERIE 28 Jul; max 23, 15 Chautauqua CHAU 2, 13 Aug (KV), impressive numbers; 11 Allegheny Reservoir CATT 28 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last INWR 13 Jun (RS); arr West Seneca ERIE 12 Jul; max 38 INWR 25 Aug.

**Willet:** arr 2 PB 10 Aug (JS, CM).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Niagara NIAG 14 Jul; max 5 INWR 25 Aug.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr BWWT 23 Aug (JK, SS).

**Red/Red-necked Phalarope:** 2 Buffalo NR 27 Aug (SB, CB), not seen well enough to ID to species.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** juv Buffalo NR 27 Aug (JM), early.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** BufH 2 Jun; Barcelona CHAU 11 Jun; max 300 Buffalo NR 27 Aug.

**Little Gull:** Buffalo NR 27 Aug (JM), only report.

**Laughing Gull:** juv BufH 27-31 Aug (JK, mob), rare.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** PB 2 Jun (CW); arr PB 10 Aug; Lewiston Reservoir NIAG 15 Aug; WoBSP 18 Aug; BufH 19 Aug.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 4 WoBSP 2 Jun.

**Caspian Tern:** max 219 Buf H 17 Jul.

**Black Tern:** max 20 TWMA 1 Jun.

**Common Tern:** max 400 BufH 31 Jul; 55 FNPS 8 Aug; Allegheny Reservoir CATT 28 Aug (TL).

**Forster's Tern:** 1, 3 S Dayton CATT 15 Jul, 9 Aug (JK); Allegheny Reservoir CATT 16 Aug (JK); good showing, especially for CATT.

## LOONS – PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** last PB 2 Jun (CW).

**Common Loon:** PB 2 Jun; Wilson NIAG 12 Jun; Whirlpool SP NIAG 26 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 27 Jun; no reports beyond June.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 500, 900 Buffalo NR 18 Jun, 28 Aug; 850 DH 14 Aug.

**American White Pelican:** OOWMA 26 Jul thru (VR, mob), probably same bird here in May.

**BROWN PELICAN (R1):** DH 27, 29 Aug (FR, JG), 7<sup>th</sup> Reg record.

**American Bittern:** max 4 TWMA 1, 7 Jun; CSWMA 4 Jun (BR).

**Least Bittern:** Wilson NIAG 3 Jun (BP, WD), unexpected late migrant; 3, 3 TWMA 6 Jun, 4 Jul; BuSP 7, 14 Jun, 2 Aug (MR); Pomfret CHAU 17 Jun (GV); INWR 22 Jun; BWWT 1 Jul; West Seneca ERIE 21 Jul, 16 Aug; TBNP 15 Aug; Tift NP 22 Aug.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 127 INWR 14 Jun; 80 Motor I NR 23 Jun.

**Great Egret:** 45 INWR 6 Jun; 54 Motor I NR 23 Jun; max 125 TWMA 11 Aug.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 32 NFSP 6 Jul.

**Glossy/White-faced Ibis:** 2 INWR 1 Jun (WD), thought to be Glossy which were seen there a few days earlier.

**Black Vulture:** Artpark SP NIAG 4 Jun (MM), date suggestive of local breeding; FNPS 2 Aug; Lewiston NIAG 16 Aug.

**Northern Harrier:** TRWMA 6 Jun; Hinsdale CATT 8 Jun; Alexander GENE 11 Jun; BuSP 14 Jun; dates indicative of possible breeding.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Clymer CHAU 22 Jun (AL), seen in flight to north, late migrant?, 4<sup>th</sup> Reg record.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 3 LBSP 4 Jun (BC), late migrants.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Knox Farm SP ERIE 3 Jun; Busti CHAU 11 Jun; 2 INWR 22 Jun; 2 Mayville CHAU 28 Jun; 3, 5 Buffalo ERIE 2 Jul, 1 Aug; 2 West Valley CATT 6 Jul; 4 Wendt Beach CP ERIE 12 Jul; max 6 Olcott NIAG 20 Aug.

**Merlin:** 2 Sunnyside Marsh Preserve CHAU 24 Jun (JB); 2 ad + 2 yg Buffalo ERIE (AH); 2 ad + 3 yg Lakewood CHAU 1-31 Jul (TS); 2 N Tonawanda NIAG 16 Jul; more reports in Aug of likely arrivals.

## FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**yellow-bellied kingbird sp. (R1):** JDSP 21 Jun (KD), cannot assign species ID from photo of undersides.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 4 Jun (GV); arr Franklinville CATT 22, 30 Aug (JRe).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Carlton ORLE 2 Jun; last Attica WYOM 6 Jun (CW); arr Hamburg ERIE 18 Aug; Wilson NIAG 22 Aug; LESP 28 Aug.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** max 7 Panama CHAU 16 Jun (TL); 6 Ripley CHAU 9 Jul.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 49 AISP 7 Jun (MM), tallied during 6-mile hike.  
**Common Raven:** continued expansion should be documented in BBA.  
**Horned Lark:** max 111 Shelby ORLE 27 Aug (CM).  
**Purple Martin:** 84 ad + 138 yg OOWMA, 40 ad + 55 yg BWWTP 27 Jun (CM); 200 Bethany GENE 12 Jul; 200 BuSP 26 Aug, evening roost at Grass I.  
**Bank Swallow:** 55 PB 2 Jun; 50 Barre ORLE 18 Jun; 70 Olcott NIAG 8 Aug.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** increase in last third of August indicative of irruptive movements.  
**Sedge Wren:** CSWMA 1, 19 Jun (GV, BR), continued from spring; max 2, 6, 3, 2 Villenova CHAU 30, 31 Jul, 11, 12 Aug (GV).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Cherry Creek CHAU 1 Aug (GV), heard singing and seen; very few historical breeding season records for Reg.  
**Veery:** max 17 INWR 30 Jun (CM).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last 2 Buffalo ERIE 4 Jun; CSWMA 4 Jun (BR); CHMUA 6 Jun (CW); HBWMA 20 Jun (KS); 2 Carrollton CATT 18 Jul (JFed), last four locations possibly breeding?; arr WoBSP 22 Aug.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 270 LBSP 5 Jun (DB), still migrating into June.  
**Purple Finch:** max 11 Forestville CHAU 15 Aug; max 11 Orchard Park ERIE 24 Aug.  
**Pine Siskin:** Orchard Park ERIE 20 Jun (SB); max 4 N Collins ERIE 9 Jul (JK).

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2, 4, 2, 1 Krull CP NIAG 1, 28 Jun, 11 Jul, 20 Aug (JS), regular breeding location; Artpark SP NIAG 4-15 Jun (MM, BS).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Bethany GENE 7 Jun; max 7 Barre ORLE 7-28 Jun (CM); Sheridan CHAU 15 Jun; Yates ORLE 21 Jun; Shelby ORLE 25 Jul.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 2 Artpark SP NIAG 4, 21 Jun; 3 TRWMA 5 Jun; John White WMA GENE 7 Jun; 2 Rushford ALLE 14 Jun; 2, 4 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 16 Jun, 6 Jul; 3 BufH 22 Jun; 2 Newfane NIAG 22 Jun, 25 Jul; 3 Lockport NIAG 10 Jul; 2 Lancaster ERIE 14 Jul; 2 Charlotte CHAU 18 Jul; good showing.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** Canaseraga ALLE 13 Jun; max 3 Alfred ALLE 21 Jun; 2 Allenberg Bog CATT 12 Jul.  
**Bobolink:** 200 Caneadea ALLE 20 Jun; max 250 S Dayton CATT 19 Aug; 80 Alexander GENE 20 Aug.

**Orchard Oriole:** CSWMA 4 Jun; LBSP 8 Jun; Panama CHAU 10 Jun; Clymer CHAU 17 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 18 Jun; 2 Yates ORLE 3 Jul; 2 Clarence ERIE 7 Jul; 4 Newstead ERIE 11 Jul; GHSP 17 Jul; Cherry Creek CHAU 2 Aug; LBSP 6 Aug; TWMA 11 Aug; last Ellery CHAU 19 Aug.  
**Ovenbird:** arr LESP 28 Aug.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 3 CHMUA 6 Jun; 4, 2 Hunters Creek CP ERIE 14 Jun, 23 Jul; 4 Zoar Valley MUA CATT 14 Jun; 3 Aurora ERIE 21 Jun; 4 Ripley CHAU 24 Jun; 2 Cherry Creek CHAU 26 Jul.  
**Northern Waterthrush:** arr TBNP, WoBSP 16 Aug.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** no reports.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** last LBSP 5 Jun; CHMUA 6 Jun (CW); West Almond ALLE 9 Jun (DH); arr BeSP 19 Aug.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** TWMA 1 Jun (JS); 2, 2 INWR 4, 22 Jun; regular locations.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 22 Aug.  
**Nashville Warbler:** last Sturgeon Pt CHAU 4 Jun; Westfield CHAU 9 Jun; Bethany GENE 12 Jun; 2 ad + 2 yg Charlotte CHAU 18 Jul (GV); Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 23 Jul; arr WoBSP 22 Aug.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr WoBSP 22 Aug.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Tiff NP 28 Aug.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr BeSP 19 Aug.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** AISP 7, 9 Jun, 3 Jul; Allegheny Res CATT 8 Jun; max 6 Newstead ERIE 13 Jun (WD, BP); 4 INWR 16 Jun; 2 Barre ORLE 16 Jun (CM); 4 OOWMA 14 Jul.  
**Northern Parula:** 2, 2 AISP 6 Jun, 1 Jul (MN, PH); Clymer CHAU 1 Jul (AL), rare breeder beyond AISP.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Tiff NP 19 Aug.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Knox Farm SP ERIE 22 Aug.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr BeSP 19 Aug.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr WoBSP 20 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last PB 2 Jun; arr Buffalo ERIE 30 Aug.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun; max 7, 6 AISP 7 Jun, 23 Jul; Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 14 Jun; arr Buffalo ERIE 20 Aug.  
**Pine Warbler:** max 4 Olcott NIAG 11 Jul; max 4 Ripley CHAU 14 Jul.  
**Prairie Warbler:** max 11 Yorkshire CATT 7 Jun (JK).  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Tiff NP 26 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** reported from 7 locations  
Jun & Jul; 2 Clymer CHAU 12 Jun; 2 Almond  
ALLE 14 Jun; 2, 1 WFWMA 17 Jun, 18 Jul;  
arr WoBSP 22 Aug.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr WFWMA 15 Aug.  
**Dickcissel:** Villenova CHAU 27, 28 Jul (GV),  
singing.



## REGION 2—GENESEE

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Summer 2020 was an interesting season to summarize, from the standpoint of the weather, from the tangled mix of effects from that and the NY Breeding Bird Atlas III (BBA) fieldwork with eBird data entry, and from COVID restrictions, potentially keeping some home and pushing others to spend more time outdoors doing things like birding alone or in small groups.

This summer ended the 13<sup>th</sup> warmest on record in the Rochester area. June started us off as a pleasant summer month, the first half at normal temperatures, then warming to a second half at 4° F above normal. Temperatures overall averaged 67.9°, 1.2° above normal. Interestingly, there were two records set, a tie high of 94° on the 6<sup>th</sup> followed by a low of 41° on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation totaled 1.48", 1.86" below normal. Thunderstorms were a bit above average, with severe ratings on 10, 22, 23, and 27 June, but all missing the immediate Rochester area. Lake Ontario levels remained high but dropping. July rated HOT, but with some drenching rains breaking a possible drought and reviving vegetation. Temperatures overall averaged 75.6°, 4.8° above normal, the third warmest on record. Eight days exceeded 90°, with six days in a row 5-10 July. 97° on the 9<sup>th</sup> was the highest since 98° on 21 July 2011. No records were set other than 59° as a low for the month, tying the highest low for a month, previously seen in 1887 and 1897. A dry start was followed by consistent rain, with 3.18" on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 1.70" on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation totaled 5.5", 2.21" above normal for the 12<sup>th</sup> wettest July. Half a dozen days with thunderstorms included a weak tornado in southern Monroe County on 29 July. Lake Ontario was down to only about half a foot above average. August saw 17 days reach above 80°, but no 90-degree days. A low of 52° on 6 August was the lowest since 17 June. Temperatures overall averaged 70.7°, 1.4° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.70", 0.77" below normal, with 1/3 of that on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was only one severe weather event, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, with large hail and some wind damage south of Lake Ontario between Buffalo and Rochester.

Generally, it was a good summer for birding and should have been good for most of our breeding birds. The NY BBA III was off to a good start, but details will not be known until much work is done to separate breeding from non-breeding data due to both being submitted through the same eBird BBA data-entry

portal. The Regional eBird data downloads for the three months were: June – 47,462, July – 36,357, and August – 38,584, up about 50%, 40%, and 50% over the respective months in 2019. Clearly, a good deal of the jump in data is due to the BBA data being entered as eBird lists. The effects of COVID are unknown between some people staying home and others spending more time outdoors birding alone or in small groups. To add confusion to attempts at analysis, we also have the number of new bands at BBBO up about 50% over last year in spite of fewer helpers and Jim Adams, in his regular study of Oatka Creek Park, finding the numbers of species in each half month from late May through July at record highs and both halves of August still well above the medians.

Moving along to the waterfowl, we find a common thread of scarcity, low species diversity and counts for each month. In June, only Wood Duck and Mallard were tallied in good numbers, Mallard again in August. Most of the entries in the monthly Noteworthy Records tables were for departure dates, for species lingering, or for summer visitants. Common Goldeneye was added as a rare summer visitor in both June and July along with Long-tailed Duck and Bufflehead at Lake Ontario sites in July. Blue-winged Teal, a former breeder in the lakeshore marshes, was found in June and July in three near-lakeshore locations. The usual Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) breeding species were not well reported, mainly due to changes in habitat in those usually good areas, such as the Sandhill Crane Unit. Lingering and early arriving diving ducks were few, though both scaup and Red-breasted Merganser were reported as a few individuals. Extending the grouping a bit, we have the typical arrival of Horned Grebe at the end of August, and Red-necked Grebe reports from 7 August off and on for the rest of the month passing Hamlin Beach SP. Common Nighthawk was first noted on 19 August, with only a few more after that. With numbers of records up generally, perhaps it is not surprising that we find 639 lines of records in eBird for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but about half of those are from just 15 locations. There was an interesting hummingbird photographed by Marie Costanza at a feeder in Webster on 28-29 July, with species identification ultimately undetermined. Originally thought to be a Rufous Hummingbird, the two photos posted to eBird showed traits of a young, brightly-colored Ruby-throated. Unfortunately there were no spread tail or perched wing photos to analyze, and queries to several hummingbird experts went unanswered. Rails to Sandhill Crane continued the low-count picture. No Sandhill Crane colts were reported.

The shorebird picture was interesting, with 19, 20, and 27 species reported, respectively, in the three months. Habitat was limited first by the high levels of Lake Ontario and then by little rainfall after 3 August, leading to few field puddles and drying marshes. Key locations were the barrier beach island at the mouth of Braddock Bay and some wet areas in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit). Late spring species variety was good into June, but there were few really good counts, the best being 43 Ruddy Turnstones, 12 Red Knots, and 580 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 1-2 June. There was a more than typical number of species in the

mid-June to early July period where late spring departure, early fall arrival, and summer visitant are hard to separate. Rare reports were only **American Avocet** at Braddock Bay on 28 July and **Marbled Godwit** in the NMWMA area on 17-22 August. Interesting, less rare but scarce species included: an Upland Sandpiper in August, Whimbrel in each month, Red Knot and Willet in June and August, White-rumped Sandpiper on 4 July, Buff-breasted Sandpiper in August, and Red-necked Phalarope, including four at Braddock Bay on 4 June.

The gulls and terns were spiced up a bit by a **Sabine's Gull** off Hamlin Beach SP on 30 August; **Laughing Gull** reported on 4 June, 29 July, and 3 August; and a first summer Glaucous Gull seen at various sites along the Lake Ontario shore from Braddock Bay to Sodus Point off and on from 2 June to 15 August. There were also the now regular Lesser Black-backed Gull reports each month. Otherwise gull and tern counts were low. The peak Black Tern count in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit), the Region's usual stronghold for breeding now, was only 14.

Moving along toward the waders, we start with the last Red-throated Loon on 2 June and a few Common Loons scattered through the season. Two alternate-plumage Common Loons on Conesus Lake on 18 July is especially interesting. Peak heron counts were: Great Blue Heron—226 on 25 July and 350 on 23 August—and Great Egret—92 on 25 July and 200 on 23 — in that same area from 11-17 June, a *plegadis ibis* species there on 17 June, and an immature **Little Blue Heron** flying over there on 10 August and later seen for several days just south into Region 3 in the Knox Marsellus wetlands. **Black Vulture** singles were reported from North Wolcott, Wayne County on 14 July and Letchworth SP on 17 August.

Among the raptors, we find generally typical summer reporting, with BBA fieldwork not particularly increasing the numbers of reports of scarcer breeders. There were no Northern Goshawk reports, few Red-shouldered Hawk reports, and relatively few Broad-winged Hawk reports beyond the late migrants passing Braddock Bay. Good hawkwatch numbers included 23 June counts of 21 Bald Eagles, 10 Broad-winged Hawks, and 16 Red-tailed Hawks; then peaks of 65 Bald Eagles on 19 July and 65 Red-tailed Hawks on 27 July. There was again a formal, volunteer hawkwatch this summer at Braddock Bay beginning with 27 July and then all August, with 10 different birders sharing the official counter duties. There were some additional helpers and visitors, limited by the COVID issues. The peak counts were: 35 Turkey Vultures, 32 Bald Eagles, 46 Broad-winged Hawks, and 613 Red-tailed Hawks (on 11 August). There were nine days with Red-tailed Hawk counts exceeding 100. The total of 3271 raptors tallied was up almost 25% from the 2019 total. However, 30 July to 17 August brought the Birds of the Season, with the Region's sixth record of **Swallow-tailed Kite**, two birds first seen by Vaughn Bates on private land on 30 July, photographed there by Kathy Habgood on 1 August, and then seen and often photographed regularly from or not far from the Mount Olive Baptist Church parking lot (birders given permission to gather to view from there) on Rt. 272, the Monroe/Orleans County Line.



Birders came from all over NY State and farther to view these birds. Most had good views and many logged them as a life bird, certainly for NY, and county birds for both counties. Moving into the owls, only the regular Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl were reported. Next, in the woodpeckers we find good numbers of sites and locations for Red-headed Woodpecker through July, likely due to the BBA searches. Finally, the three regular falcons were all reported in good numbers other than a dip in Peregrine Falcons in June. Merlin nesting was only detailed at two locations in Wayne County by Joe Wing. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons hatched four young and three fledged, one on 11 June and two on 16 June. They were monitored through the nesting cycle by a dedicated group of volunteers, with details and many photos and videos on the [rfalconcam.com](http://rfalconcam.com) website.

Next, to the passerines, nearly half of our records and nearly all species expected reported each month of the season. There were no really rare species this season, but many interesting observations. The monthly Noteworthy Records tables for the Rochester Birding Association included mostly typical departure and arrival dates; peak counts, mostly not really unusual but useful for comparisons across years; and some banding summaries for species also good for comparisons. June brought us a good complement of the expected late spring migrants, both banded and just reported. These included: Olive-sided Flycatcher; Yellow-bellied and "Traill's" Flycatchers at peak spring numbers; Philadelphia Vireo; the only spring banding of Gray-cheeked Thrush (3); Swainson's Thrush; Lincoln's, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows; and Tennessee, Mourning, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers. As an aside, this illustrates why one needs to be very careful until nearly mid-June in doing BBA fieldwork to avoid assigning breeding codes to locally late migrants. Rarer late spring records included: **Sedge Wrens** (1-3), now a very rare local breeder, on Beatty Point, Town of Greece, continuing from late May and noted occasionally through 20 August; a record late Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Mendon Ponds Park on 7 June; a very late Palm Warbler on 14-15 June and a first June record for Monroe County for **Yellow-throated Warbler** on June 3-5, these latter two in Hamlin Beach SP; and Prairie Warbler at four sites. Another surprise was 835 and 655 Cedar Waxwings, otherwise only in low numbers, on 5 and 6 June moving along the Lake Ontario shore. In June and July, BBA fieldwork produced many records, but surprisingly few for some of the species we know breed in the hills south of Rochester, e.g. Letchworth SP. Maybe a large part of that is that almost none of that wonderful park habitat lies within a priority Atlas Block, a known issue with doing an Atlas based on a sampling subset of the Blocks in NY State. Nashville, Black-throated Blue, and Canada Warblers were not reported in July. Continuing banding at BBBO did pick up Swainson's Thrush on 18 July, White-crowned Sparrow on 14 July, and a Magnolia Warbler recaptured on 30 July, which had been banded on 7 June and in molt on both dates. 30 and 31 July also saw 40 and 38 Yellow Warblers banded, high numbers but in historically a peak period for the species migrating along the lakeshore. Another

location was added for **Sedge Wren**, with reports from the Nations Road IBA south of Avon in July. The Prothonotary Warbler(s) on Armitage Road in the NMWMA were also reported through 23 August. August produced a good start to the fall warbler migration, with 27 species reported, but we had no great rarities, really surprising fall arrival dates, or large counts. The most notable count of the month was 40,000 Red-winged Blackbirds in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) on 16 August. The rarest passerine of the month was at the end of the checklist, a passing **Dickcissel** heard by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach SP on 22 August.

In summary, an interesting season, with few great surprises. The Bird of the Season was clearly the two **Swallow-tailed Kites**. There was good species diversity each month as indicated by the species totals vs. the monthly 10-year averages: June – 207 vs. 184.1, July – 187 vs. 174.2, and August 207 vs. 196.1. As usual, Jim Adams supplied monthly notes with many interesting observations from Oatka Creek Park, Monroe County. A new one to me was that as he observed a Black-capped Chickadee nest from a distance, a Red-bellied Woodpecker showed up and ate all the nestlings. Too bad few people pass along such stories anymore. Always more to learn!

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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 Hawkwatch; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **CLWMA** – Conesus L WMA marshes, LIVI; **DE** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester at Lake Ontario; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – trails at west end of park; **HB-YC** – Yanty Creek area of HB; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P and vicinity at S end of Irondequoit Bay; **IB-W** – Irondequoit Bay P West; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou, NW side of Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA (GBM)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Guy Baldassarre Marsh, WAYN; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Sandhill Crane Unit often interchangeable with the Van Dyne Spoor Rd label; **NMWMA (VDSR)** – Van Dyne Spoor Rd area, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach area, T Charlotte MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **SB** – Sodus Bay WAYN; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN.

### WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**Mute Swan:** 75 IB-W 3 Jun; 75 Irondequoit Crk 12 Jun; 90 IB-S 6 Jul; max 108 IB-W 29 Aug, good sum counts.

**Wood Duck:** max 100+ CLWMA 8 Jun; 70 NMWMA (SCU) 13 Jul; good counts.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Shore Acres, Hamlin 2 Jun (CW); 1-2 IB-S & W 12-13 Jun, 1, 6 Jul (SG, *et al.*); 2 Northrup Crk, G 13 Jun (MB); BB-ES

15 Jun (JiM, LM), interesting for dates; 1-25 BB Aug (mob), many for loc and dates.  
**Northern Shoveler:** arr 2 BB 19 Aug (JiB, MB), early.  
**Gadwall:** max 14 NMWMA (SCU) 2 Jun; 1-3 BB 15-17 Jul, scarce in summer.  
**American Wigeon:** 2 NMWMA (VDSR) 14, 27 Jun (W&MR); 4 NMWMA (SCU) 28 Jun (TLe); BB 29 Jul (JeB, MB), unusual in summer; 1-4 BB Aug (mob), unusual for loc & date.  
**Mallard:** max 900 NMWMA (VDSR) 20 (JMcG, LS); 350 NMWMA (SCU) 23 Aug, good counts.  
**Northern Pintail:** arr NMWMA (VDSR) 23 Aug (LV), early.  
**Green-winged Teal:** last BB 25 Jun (MB) & Genesee Valley Greenway 28 Jun (JK), late or sum vis?; 2 BB 9 Jul (RB, JW, BCar), unusual loc for date; BB-ES 27, 30 Jul (RB, JiM), unusual loc for date; Hogan Pt, G 31 Jul (LB, RB), unusual loc for date; max 48 BB-ES 25 Aug, usually scarce in summer.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** last Nations Rd IBA 6 Jun.  
**Greater Scaup:** last 2 BB-WS 1 Jun; BB-ES 2 Jun (JV), scarce for date and loc; HB 7 Jul (AGu, ph), scarce in summer.  
**Lesser Scaup:** 2 CL 13 Jul (TBo); Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 14-19 Jul, 11-31 Aug (JWi); IB-S 25 Jul (RRo); scarce in summer.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** last HB 16 Jun (AGu), late; Summerville Pier 31 Jul, 2-3 Aug (sev obs); PtB 10 Aug (RB, JW); scarce in sum.  
**Bufflehead:** BB-ES 15, 25 Jun (sev obs); Irondequoit Crk 19, 26, Jun (SG); IB-S 1 Jul (SG, MD); BB 12, 15-24 Jul (mob, ph); usually scarce in sum.  
**Common Goldeneye:** 2 IB – Newport Yacht Club 18 Jun (JBo), late, unusual loc; BB-ES 18 Jul (MBe), scarce in sum.  
**Common Merganser:** max 42 Beechwood SP WAYN 21 Aug (TLe), good count for date.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** last HB 5 Jun.  
**Ruddy Duck:** last 3 Buck Pnd, G 11-23 Jun (sev obs), late; BB-ES 17-28 Aug (mob), unusual for dates & loc.  
**Northern Bobwhite:** 1-2 Irondequoit flats 16-26 Jul (JPi, mob), likely releases.  
**Chukar:** 2 T Wayland, LIVI 6 Jun (TBo, LH), likely release.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 55 NMWMA (VDSR) 20 Jun; 50 NMWMA (SCU) 4 Jul, low high counts.  
**Horned Grebe:** arr HB 30 Aug (AGu, BriM, DSh), early.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr HB & SPT 7 Aug (AGu; TLe), early; 1-6 HB 15-30 Aug (4 obs), early.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** max 11 MP 14 Jun (JGoe), good count.  
**Common Nighthawk:** last Long Pnd, G 9 Jun; arr 2 Casey P, T Ontario WAYN 19 Aug.  
**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** last Rochester 1 Jun.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 63 IB-S 11 Aug (KH).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 367 lines in eBird many loc Jul, 639 lines in eBird many loc Aug; *intro*.  
**hummingbird sp.:** Webster 28-29 Jul (MCoz, phs), not determined to species, *intro*.

## RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**Common Gallinule:** max 12 NMWMA (GBM) 13, 15 Jul, low max.  
**American Coot:** max 8 NMWMA (2 loc) 4 Jul, 3 Aug, low max.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 4 Taylor Marsh area, T Richmond ONTA 6 Aug (LBra); max 15 NMWMA (SCU) 22 Aug (DNu).  
**AMERICAN AVOCET (R2):** arr BB-ES 28 Jul (PMar, ph), rare.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** last BB 2 Jun; arr 3 loc Lake Ontario 2 Aug.  
**American Golden-Plover:** arr BB-ES 31 Jul (BCar, 9 oth obs), Reg record early.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last BB-ES 18 Jun; BB-ES 12 Jul; arr BB-ES 19 Jul; max 85 NMWMA (VDSR) 8 Aug (KR), good count.  
**Killdeer:** max 250 Church Rd, H 24 Aug (RB, JW, JaG), high.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr HB 10 Aug (AGu), now scarce.  
**Whimbrel:** last BB-ES 2 Jun; arr HB 22 Jul (AGu); 5 BB-ES 29 Jul (JeB, MB); max 29 Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 1 Aug (W&MR, ph); 5-6 BB-ES 2 Aug (sev obs); 10 NMWMA (VDSR) 2 Jul (DK); 12-14 SPT 2 Jul (JWi, MG).  
**MARBLED GODWIT (R2):** NMWMA (SCU) 17-22 Aug (W&MR, mob, many phs), rare.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 1-43 at 6 loc 1 Jun; max 43 BB-ES 1 Jun (BCar, JiM); last BB-ES 5 Jun; arr BB-ES 21 Jul (JeB), early; 20 SPT 2 Aug, fall max.  
**Red Knot:** arr BB-ES 1 Jun; last 3 off Edgemere Dr, G & max 12 BB-ES 2 Jun (JeB); arr 4 SPT 2 Jul.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr BB-ES 9 Jul (JMcG, LS), early, only rep.

**Sanderling:** last 1-2 BB-ES 5 Jun; Moscow Rd, H 5 Jun; arr 4 BB-ES & SPT 13 Jul; max 21 Summerville Pier & SPT 2 Jul (JiM & JSt).

**Dunlin:** 1-3 sev loc 1-28 Jun, mix of spring dep, fall arr, & lingering; 1-3 BB-ES 4-31 Jul.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr NMWMA (SCU) 15 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** last 5 SB 2 Jun; arr BB-ES 25 Jun; 90 NMWMA (SCU) 11 Jul (TL); max 100 BB-ES 16 Aug (MB).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** BB-ES 16, 28 Jun (JiM, LM, BCar, SG), late dep or?; arr BB-ES 4 Jul (SG, DSh), Reg record early.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 1-2 Church Rd, H 23-28 Aug (AGu, mob, phs).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 3 NMWMA (SCU) 4 Jul; max 55 NMWMA (VDSR) 8 Aug (JMcG, LS).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 580 BB-ES 2 Jun (JeB), high count; last BB-ES 18 Jun (JiM, LM, BCar); arr 3 BB-ES 9 Jul; 200 NMWMA (VDSR) 8 Jul (KR), good count.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 3 NMWMA (SCU) 9 Jul; max 32 NMWMA (SCU) 11 Jul (TL).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** last Old Duck Inn, T Tyre WAYN 1 Jun; arr Old Duck Inn, T Tyre WAYN 23 Jun (DO).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last Hogan Pt, G 1 Jun; arr BB-ES 25 Jun (MB), early; max 120 NMWMA (SCU) 1 Aug (TL).

**Willet:** BB-ES 15-16 Jun (JiM, LM, MB, SG), unusual for date & loc; arr OB 2 Aug (AGu, 4 oth obs, ph); 2 IBO 10 Aug (JSt, 3 oth obs); 5 PtB 11 Aug (JiM, 7 oth obs); SPT 27 Aug (W&MR); good showing.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr NMWMA (VDSR) 22 Jun (KGra), early; max 27 N. Hamlin Rd 17 Jul, low max.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** BB-ES 2 Jun (JeB); 4 BB-ES 4 Jun (BCar), many for date.

**SABINE'S GULL (R2):** 1 juv HB 30 Aug (AGu, BriM, DSh).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr BB-ES 11 Jul (BCar), early; arr HB 11 Jul (AGu), early; max 50 BB-ES 28 Aug, low max.

**LAUGHING GULL (R2):** 1 1<sup>st</sup> sum off Edgemere D., G 4 Jun (JeB, CW); 1 ad SPT 29 Jul (JWi); 1 juv HB 3 Aug (AGu).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 1<sup>st</sup> sum PtB 2 Jun (CW); 1 1<sup>st</sup> sum West Port Bay Pt, WAYN 12 Jun (W&MR); 2 HB 16 Jul (AGu, phs); 1 imm BB-ES 2 Aug (AGu, 7 oth obs); 1 imm PtB 10 Aug (RB, JW); 1 1<sup>st</sup> sum Crescent Beach, G 20 Aug (JeB, CW); 1 2<sup>nd</sup> sum HB 30 Aug (AGu), good numbers for summer.

**Glaucous Gull:** 1<sup>st</sup> sum 4 loc Lake Ontario shore 2-16 Jun, 4, 13, 23 Jul; 2, 7, 15 Aug (mob, phs), likely all one ind.

**Caspian Tern:** max 100 SPT 14 Aug (DEs).

**Black Tern:** max 14 NMWMA (SCU) 8 Aug (TL), very low max.

**Common Tern:** max 15 BB-ES 18 Jun, low max.

## LOONS – PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** last PtB 2 Jun.

**Common Loon:** 1-5 HB 5-23 Jul (AGu); 2 alt CL 18 Jul (BCar), unusual loc for alt; Silver Lake-S WYOM 3 Aug (RSt); 9 rep, 1-6 ind HB 7-31 Aug (AGu, BriM, JiM); SPT 7, 29 Aug (TL).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 525 HB 22 Aug (AGu).

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R2):** NMWMA (SCU) 11-17 Jun (mob).

**Great Blue Heron:** 170 NMWMA (SCU) 28 Jun (TL); 226 NMWMA (SCU) 25 Jul (TL); max 350 NMWMA (SCU) 23 Aug (JMcG, LS, DNi), high counts.

**Great Egret:** 92 NMWMA (SCU) 25 Jul (TL); max 200 NMWMA (SCU) 19 Aug (JMcG), good counts.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON (R2):** 1 imm NMWMA (SCU) 10 Aug (DK, ph), later found nearby in Reg 3.

**Plegadis ibis sp. (R2):** NMWMA (SCU) 17 Jun (IBA Monitoring, phs), rare.

**BLACK VULTURE (R2):** N Wolcott WAYN 14 Jul (W&MR); LSP 17 Aug (JAK).

This summer there was again an organized, volunteer hawk watch from late July thru August at the BB-HW, with 10 different official counters sharing the lead. Some data are included with the species listing. More details may be found in [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org), *intro*.

**Turkey Vulture:** 66 BB-HW 23 Jun; peak 35 BB-HW 23 Aug.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** 2 Hamlin MONR/Kendall ORLE 30 Jul-17 Aug (VB, *fide* KHab, mob, many phs), 6<sup>th</sup> Reg, *intro*.

**Northern Goshawk:** no reports.

**Bald Eagle:** 21 BB-HW 23 Jun; 65 BB-HW 19 Jul (MT), high for date & sum migr; peak HW 32 BB-HW 11 Aug; 347 lines in eBird many loc Aug.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Marrowback Rd, T Conesus LIVI 27 Jun SMu), only Jun rep; Wesley Hill NP ONTA 24 Jul (BCar), only Jul rep; 1-3 NY T Bloomfield 7-23 Aug (LK), good BBA find.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 10 BB-HW 23 Jun; max 46 BB-HW 10 Aug.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 65 BB-HW 27 Jul; max 613 BB-HW 11 Aug.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 24 rep, 21 ind 13 loc Jun; 33 rep, 16 ind 10 loc Jul, good showing for this Reg.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 10 Bristol Springs area ONTA 3 Jul (BH), typical of counts in breeding areas.  
**American Kestrel:** total ~ 47 ind 42 loc Jun; ~ 72 ind 43 loc Jul; ~ 75 ind many loc Aug.  
**Merlin:** 2 nesting pr Casey P, T Ontario WAYN 4, 6 Jun & 2 ad, 4 juv same loc 1-19 Aug (JWi, ph); 2 nesting T Williamson WAYN 3 Jun (JWi); total 7 oth 6 loc 3-25 Jun; ~ 9 ind 9 loc 5-31 Jul; ~ 31 ind many loc Aug.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** total ~ 5 ind 4 loc 6-22 Jun; ~ 18 ind 13 loc 4-30 Jul; total 18+ ind many loc Aug; 4 hatched, 3 fledged Rochester 11-16 Jun, tracked thru Jul, *intro*.

#### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last First Bible Baptist Church, G 3 Jun; arr MP 5 Aug (BaB); MP 31 Aug (JiM, LM).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max b 12 BBBO 3 Jun; total b 28 BBBO 2-4 Jun; last 10b BBO 4 Jun; arr NMWMA (West Shore Trail – W) 16 Aug (DK); total b 11 BBBO 18-31 Aug.  
**“Trail’s” Flycatcher:** max b 24 BBBO 4 Jun; total b 82 BBBO 1-16 Jun; total b 11 BBBO 8-31 Aug.  
**Least Flycatcher:** total b 20 BBBO 20-28 Aug.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** last 1b BBBO 6 Jun; arr HB-YC 30 Aug.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 41 Bristol Springs area ONTA 3 Jul (BH); 28 T Mendon MONR 11 Jul (PMar); total b 22 BBBO 7-31 Aug.  
**Horned Lark:** max 75 Church Rd, H 24 Aug.  
**Purple Martin:** max 250 Conesus Lake Marine P 22 Jun (DD) & off Edgemere Dr, G ES 28 Aug (JiB); 225 BB-ES 15 Aug (GLaw, NK).  
**Tree Swallow:** max 800 NMWMA (VDSR) 18 Aug (5 obs).  
**Bank Swallow:** max 400 IB-S 2 Jul (SG) & HB-WE 4 Jul (AGu).  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 36 Hemlock L P 7 Jun.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 1200 NMWMA (VDSR) 18 Aug (JG, TSc).  
**swallow sp.:** 2000 NMWMA (VDSR) 8 Aug (KR); 1000 NMWMA (VDSR) 23 Aug (JGar).

**Winter Wren:** total ~11 ind 7 loc Jul, good number; arr Beechwood SP WAYN 21 Aug (TLe), early.  
**SEDGE WREN (R2):** Beatty Pt, G 8, 11, 12 Jun, 8, 20 Aug (AGu, JeB, NR, CW); 3 Beatty Pt, G 10 Jul (RB, JW, NK); 1-3 Nations Rd, Geneseo 3-22 Jul (mob); now rare in Reg.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 50 NMWMA (GBM) 20 Jun (JMcG, LS); 40 Irondequoit Crk 26 Jun (SG); good counts.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** last MP 7 Jun (GF), Reg record late.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** total b 3 BBBO 2, 6 Jun, only spring bands for species; last Edgemere Dr, G & Lucien Morin P – N, Penfield 9 Jun.  
**Swainson’s Thrush:** total b 10 BBBO 1-6 Jun; last 1b BBBO 6 Jun; BB – Manitou Beach Pres 25 Jun (AP), unusual date for loc; 1b BBBO 18 Jul, unusual date for loc; arr 1b BBBO 21 Aug.  
**American Robin:** 465 lines eBird Jul.  
**Gray Catbird:** total b 44 BBBO Jun; 938 line in eBird Jul; total b 97 BBBO Aug.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 450 BB-ES 3 Jun (BCar); max 835 HB 5 Jun (JeB); 655 Edgemere DR, G 6 Jun (JeB, CW); 245 Beatty Pt, G 20 Jul; 240 Beechwood SP WAYN 21 Jul (TLe); 360 HB 22 Jul (AGu); high counts amid low numbers.  
**American Pipit:** arr 8 Moscow Rd, H 30 Aug.  
**Pine Siskin:** East Rush roads & trails 18 Jul (TBa), only rep.

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Cook Rd, Hamlin 19 Jun (AGu); Reed Rd Tree Farm, T Chili 15; 30 Jun (JGoe, NK); 1-2 Cook Rd, Hamlin 3, 24, 27 Jul (GF, JaG, RRe, LB).  
**Song Sparrow:** total b 30 BBBO 1-30 Aug, high banding number.  
**Lincoln’s Sparrow:** last 1b BBBO 4 Jun.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** last Irondequoit 13 Jun (SG).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** last 1b BBBO 6 Jun; 1b BBBO 14 Jul, unusual for date & loc.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 1b BBBO 6 Jun, unusual loc for date.  
**Bobolink:** 80 Nations Rd IBA 3 Jun (BBec); max 145 HB 22 Aug (AGu); good counts.  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** max 16 Geneseo Airfield 11 Aug (JK), good count.  
**Orchard Oriole:** max 12 Mumford GENE 19 Jul, good count.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** total b 23 BBBO 7-26 Aug.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 40000 NMWMA (SCU) 16 Aug (JMcG, BMc, DNi).

**Common Grackle:** max 8500 T Springwater ONTA 25 Jul (RB, JW).  
**Ovenbird:** max 20 Zurich Bog WAYN 25 Jun (TLc).  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 10 MP 5 Jun (CGoe).  
**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** HB-YC 30 Aug (AGu).  
**Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler:** SPt 29 Aug (TLc).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr HB 21 Aug.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1-2 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru 22 Jun (mob); NWMWA (VDSR) 17 Jul (BBec); NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 23 Aug (DK).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last BBBO 7 Jun; arr BB-ES 22 Aug.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr 1b BBBO 28 Aug.  
**Mourning Warbler:** last 1b BBBO 7 Jun; arr 1b BBBO 23 Aug.  
**Common Yellowthroat:** total b 13 BBBO 1-6 Jun; 569 lines in eBird Jul; total b 17 BBBO 1-31 Aug.  
**American Redstart:** total b 19 BBBO 1-8 Jun; max 18 Northampton P 26 Jun, low max; total b 43 BBBO 1-31 Aug, good number.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr G 21 Aug.  
**Northern Parula:** LSP – Dishmill Crk Trail 9 Jun (KSch), unusual loc for date.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** total b 19 BBBO 1-7 Jun; last 2b BBBO 7 Jun; 1 recap BBBO 30 Jul, from Jun, *intro*; total b 30 BBBO 15-31 Aug, good number b.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last 1b BBBO 5 Jun; arr HB & 1b BBBO 20 Aug.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 3 Sandra Frankel NP, Brighton 17 Aug.  
**Yellow Warbler:** max 40 Four Mile Crk Pres, Webster 15 June (DHo); 40b BBBO 30 Jul; 38b BBBO 31 Jul, *intro*; 523 lines in eBird Jul; total b 76 BBBO 1-26 Aug, high number b.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** total b 17 1-7 Jun; last 2b BBBO 8 Jun; arr HB & MAC 30 Aug.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last Firehouse Woods Trail, G 3 Jun; arr 1b BBBO & G 22 Aug; total b 11 BBBO 22-31 Aug.  
**Palm Warbler:** HB 14-15 Jun (AGu, ph, aud), very late; arr BB-ES 25 Aug.  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R2):** HB 3-5 Jun (AGu, CW, JeB, *et al.*, ph, aud), 1<sup>st</sup> MONR in Jun.  
**Prairie Warbler:** Marrowback Rd, T Conesus LIVI 5 Jun (SMu); 3 T Springwater ONTA 6 Jun (TBo, LH); Hoes Hill Rd, T Conesus LIVI SMu); T Savannah WAYN 21 Jun (DSc).  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 1b BBBO 20 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** last 1b BBBO 8 Jun; arr Beechwood SP WAYN 13 Aug (TLc).  
**Wilson’s Warbler:** last 1b BBBO 7 Jun; arr 2b BBBO 20 Aug.  
**Northern Cardinal:** 376 lines in eBird Jul.  
**DICKCISSEL (R2):** HB 22 Aug (AGu), flyover, rare here.



## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In Ithaca, the average high temperature in June 2020 was 77.2° F, 1.2° above normal. The average low was 52.5°, 0.8° below normal. Total rainfall was 2.04", 1.95" less than normal. The average high temperature in July was 84.1°, 4.2° above normal and the average low was 61.3°, 3.6° above normal. Total precipitation was 4.68", 0.85" more than normal. The average high temperature in August was 81.4°, 2.8° above normal. The average low was 57.6°, 1.3° above normal. Total rainfall was 3.74", 0.11" more than normal.

Observers reported high summer counts for several waterfowl species: 800 Canada Geese, 600 Wood Ducks, 48 Blue-winged Teal, 1200 Mallards, 600

Green-winged Teal, 16 Hooded Mergansers, and 65 Common Mergansers. Species scarce this season included a Canvasback on Cayuga Lake, a Ring-necked Duck at Stewart Park in mid-August, a Greater Scaup on Seneca Lake in July and at least one on Cayuga Lake in August, six Lesser Scaup at Seneca Lake State Park in early June, a Long-tailed Duck and four Bufflehead on Seneca Lake in early June, one or two Common Goldeneyes on Seneca, Canandaigua, Keuka, and Cayuga Lakes, and Red-breasted Mergansers on Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake. Two Red-necked Grebes lingered at the north end of Seneca Lake through early July.

Late were a Pectoral Sandpiper at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) on 4 June and a Whimbrel flying over Seneca Lake on 6 June. Early fall shorebird arrivals were a Black-bellied Plover on 17 July and a Hudsonian Godwit on 10 August, both at MNWR. Nineteen Red Knots, 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 24 Solitary Sandpipers were summer high counts for those species. Scarce in the Region this season were a rare summer American Avocet at Canandaigua in late July, and an American Golden-Plover, an Upland Sandpiper, a Marbled Godwit, and a Willet all at MNWR in late August.

After a short 15-day absence, Lesser Black-backed Gull reappeared in the Region at Long Point, Seneca Lake, marking an early fall arrival for the species. High counts of gulls and terns were 46 Bonaparte's Gulls, 12,000 Ring-billed Gulls, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 170 Black Terns, and 35 Common Terns. Scarce occurrences were a Laughing Gull in the Town of Lodi in mid-June and a Franklin's Gull at Myers Point in early June.

Observers reported high counts with six Least Bitterns, 30 Green Herons, and 55 Black-crowned Night-Herons. An American White Pelican was at MNWR in mid-June and an immature Little Blue Heron showed up at a pond in Schuyler County in early August and subsequently appeared at MNWR and at locations along Cayuga Lake.

High counts of raptor species were 120 Turkey Vultures, 17 Ospreys, six Northern Harriers, five Eastern Screech-Owls, five Merlins, and four Peregrine Falcons. During August, a Black Vulture was observed at locations in the Town of Dryden and one in the gorge in Watkins Glen State Park.

Insectivores with early fall arrivals were a Common Nighthawk over Sapsucker Woods on 24 July, a Sedge Wren at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area on 23 July, and two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Watkins Glen High School on 16 August. High counts among miscellaneous insectivores were 13 Red-bellied and 11 Hairy Woodpeckers, two Olive-sided and eight Alder Flycatchers, 2500 Purple Martins, 12 White-breasted Nuthatches, five Sedge and 10 Carolina Wrens, 111 Cedar Waxwings and 13 Orchard Orioles.

High counts among seed-eating birds were 14 Purple Finches, 16 Eastern Towhees, six Clay-colored Sparrows, and 60 Savannah Sparrows. Some "winter" finches made summer appearances. An Evening Grosbeak flew over the Town of Caroline on 13 August. Red Crossbills were observed in the Town of Dryden and at two locations in the Town of Danby. A Pine Siskin was at Sapsucker Woods



on 7 July. Very rare summer reports of Nelson's Sparrow came from two locations in Tompkins County. Dickcissels were at two locations.

A Tennessee Warbler in the Town of Lansing on 1 June was late to depart for the breeding grounds. A Wilson's Warbler in the Town of Dryden on 19 August was early to return from the breeding grounds, three Nashville, seven Mourning, 10 Cape May, 15 Blackburnian, seven Prairie, and 50 Black-throated Green Warblers were high counts. Observations of scarce warblers were of a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Monkey Run in the Town of Dryden on 27 August and of a Yellow-throated Warbler in the Town of Caroline on 26 August.

Some miscellaneous high counts were 220 Rock Pigeons, 15 Belted Kingfishers, and 55 Fish Crows. The latter count was interesting in having come from Geneva near the north end of the Region rather than the species' historical stronghold in the southern end.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**CygL** – Cayuga L; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP.

### WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**Snow Goose:** max 12 SenL SENE 1-20 Jun.  
**Canada Goose:** max 800 MNWR 16Aug (KT).  
**Wood Duck:** max 600 MNWR 27 Jun (JM, LiS), high.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 48 MNWR 21 Aug (SPe), high.  
**Mallard:** max 1200 MNWR 20 Aug (JM, LiS), high.  
**Northern Pintail:** arr MNWR 11 Jul; max 8 MNWR 13 Aug.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 600 MNWR 30 Aug, high.  
**Canvasback:** CygL CAYU 26 Jun (RR).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** Stewart P TOMP 20 Aug (JeC).  
**Greater Scaup:** SenL SENE 3 Jul thru; Hog Hole TOMP 16 Aug; MyPt 21 Aug.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 6 SLSP 1-13 Jun (BeB), high.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** last SenL SCHU 2 Jun (GH, AJ, MJ), late.  
**Bufflehead:** max & last 4 SenL SENE 8 Jun (TL), high.  
**Common Goldeneye:** 1-2 SenL SENE 1 Jun-3 Jul; Canandaigua L ONTA 3-28 Jun; Keuka L YATE 24 Jun; CygL CAYU 18 Jul.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 16 Turtle Pd SCHU 6 Jun (TA), high.  
**Common Merganser:** max 65 Elmira Dam CHEM 19 Jun (JM), high.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1-2 MyPt 2-5 Jun; SLSP 27 Jul.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 2 SenL SENE 6 Jun-4 Jul (mob), high; arr CygL TOMP 23 Aug.  
**Rock Pigeon:** max 220 T Torrey YATE 18 Jul (BBr), high.  
**Common Nighthawk:** last SenL YATE 3 Jun; arr SW 24 Jul (WH), early.

### RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**AMERICAN AVOCET (R3):** City Pier ONTA 28 Jul (mob, ph).

**Black-bellied Plover:** last 3 MNWR 9 Jun; arr MNWR 17 Jul (BeB), early; max 10 MNWR 29 Aug.  
**American Golden-Plover:** MNWR 28 Aug (ReS).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last MNWR 20 Jun; arr MNWR 21 Jul; max 30 MNWR 30 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** MNWR 23 Aug (JM).  
**Whimbrel:** last SenL SENE 6 Jun (TL!), late; arr & max 10 MNWR TOMP 2 Aug.  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** arr MNWR 10-13 Aug (mob, ph), early.  
**Marbled Godwit:** MNWR 17-21 Aug (mob, ph).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 9 Kershaw P ONTA 1 Jun; last 2 MNWR 13 Jun; arr MNWR 4 Aug.  
**Red Knot:** last & max 19 City Pier ONTA 1 Jun (DDa), high; arr MNWR 28 Aug.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 22 Jul; max 19 MNWR 31 Aug.  
**Sanderling:** last Geneva Lakefront P 2 Jun; arr & max 2 Elmira Dam CHEM 2 Jun; MyPt 1 Jun.  
**Dunlin:** max 15 MNWR 2 Jun; ast MNWR 13 Jun.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 10 Aug; max 8 MNWR 30 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** last 4 MNWR 4 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 8 Jul; max 60 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 15 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** last MNWR 9 Jun; arr MyPt 4 Aug; max 6 MNWR 23 Aug.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** last MNWR 4 Jun (TL, ph), late; arr 2 MNWR 8 Jul; max 35 MNWR 20 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 2000 MNWR 2 Jun (JM), high; last 10 MNWR 12 Jun; arr SRCP 18 Jul.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 4 MNWR 8 Jul; max 10 MNWR 11 & 18 Aug; 10 T Canandaigua ONTA 30 Aug.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr MNWR 16 Aug; max 2 MNWR 22 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** last MNWR 12 Jun; arr MNWR 4 Jul; max 24 LPBP 15 & 24 Aug (JM, LiS), high.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** last MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 5 Jul; max 400 MNWR 10 Aug.  
**Willet:** SLSP 25-28 Aug (mob, ph).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr MNWR 5 Jul; max 150 MNWR 17 & 23 Aug.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr MNWR 20 Aug; max 3 MNWR 23 Aug.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** max 4 MNWR 2-3 Jun (JM, MG), high; last 3 MNWR 4 Jun (TL), high; arr MNWR 9 Aug.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 46 Frontenac Harbor Marina 2 Jun (JM), high.  
**Laughing Gull:** T Lodi SENE 21 Jun (JKA!).  
**Franklin's Gull:** Myer's Pt TOMP 2 Jun (JM, ph).  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 12,000 T Genoa CAYU (JM, LiS), high.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 3 Cass P TOMP 1 Jun (MCI); 3 SenL YATE 3 Jun (TL), high; last Long Pt YATE 11 Jun; arr Long Pt YATE 26 Jun (GH, JH, MJ), early.  
**Black Tern:** max 170 MNWR 11 Jul (AD, KRo), high.  
**Common Tern:** max 35 Frontenac Harbor Marina CAYU 2 Jun (JM), high.  
**Forster's Tern:** last Seneca Yacht Club SENE 4 Jun.

#### LOONS – PARAKEET

**American White Pelican:** MNWR 10 Jun (DDu, ph).  
**Least Bittern:** max 6 MNWR 26 Jun (DK), high.  
**Little Blue Heron:** Mark Smith Pd SCHU 6-10 Aug (mob, ph); MNWR 10-11 Aug (mob, ph); Farley's Pt CAYU 17 Aug (JM, ph; TSc; DS, ph); Stewart P TOMP 22 Aug (mob, ph).  
**Green Heron:** max 30 LPBP 15 Aug (JM, LiS), high.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 55 MNWR 23 Aug (JM, BMc), high.  
**Black Vulture:** arr SRCP 9 Aug (JE), early; MR 24 Aug; Watkins Glen SP 28 Aug; TDry 29 Aug.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 120 SRCP 28 Aug (JCu, JGa, CH), high.  
**Osprey:** max 17 MNWR 19 Jul (MaR), high.  
**Northern Harrier:** max 6 Belle School Railroad Trail TOMP 21 Jul (SPo), high.  
**Eastern Screech-Owl:** max 5 Northeast Elementary School Woods TOMP 18 Jun (MCh); 5 Ringwood House TOMP 6 & 15 Aug (mob), high.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 15 LPBP 27 Jul (AD), high.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 13 MR 22 Jun (CW), high.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 11 SW 15 Aug (BoR), high  
**Merlin:** max 5 Turkey Hill TOMP 17 Jun (SO), high.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** max 4 Taughannock Falls SP TOMP 20 Jun (JDi, AD), high.

#### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last MR 7 Jun; arr Dryden L TOMP 12 Aug; max 2 T Van Etten CHEM (JoCo, MP), high.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last T Canandaigua ONTA 9 Jun; Durland Preserve TOMP 9 Jun; arr TDry 5 Aug; max 2 T Jerusalem YATE 30 Aug.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** max 8 T Newfield TOMP 30 Jul (mob), high.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Palmer Woods TOMP 28 Aug.  
**Fish Crow:** max 55 One Franklin Square ONTA 30 Aug (TL), high.  
**Purple Martin:** max 2500 MNWR 15 Aug (TL), high.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 60 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 22 Aug (JGa, BR), high.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 12 T Danby TOMP (WE), high.  
**Sedge Wren:** arr Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 23 Jul (mob, rec), early; max 5 EFGA 25 Aug (JM), high.  
**Carolina Wren:** max 10 Waterloo 3 Jun (RaS), high.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 Watkins Glen High School SCHU 16 Aug (MT), early.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last Northeast Ithaca 2 Jun; arr EFGA 13 Aug; max 4 MR 31 Aug.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 111 T Starkey YATE 19 Aug (TSh), high.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** TCAR 13 Aug (TA).  
**Purple Finch:** max 14 T Van Etten CHEM (JoCo), high.  
**Red Crossbill:** 2 TDry 30 Jun; T Danby TOMP 7 Jul; Finger Lakes Trail TOMP 9 Jul.  
**Pine Siskin:** SW 7 Jul (LyS).

#### NEW WORLD – SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** max 16 Arnot Forest TOMP 22 Aug (SB, BWa), high.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** max 6 T Lodi SENE 23 Jun (JM), high.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 60 T Fayette SENE 31 Aug (TL), high.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 10 T Ovid SENE 21 Jun; last T Ovid SENE 17 Aug.

**NELSON'S SPARROW (R3):** Goetchicus Wetland Preserve TOMP 2 Jun (JGa, ph); Hile School Road Wetland TOMP7 Jun (LC, MJ, ST!).

**Orchard Oriole:** max 13 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 14 Jul (JM), high.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** max 5 Ludlowville Fishing Access TOMP 16 Jul; last Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 15 Aug.

**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** MR 27 Aug (CW!).

**Tennessee Warbler:** last Arrowwood Drive Trails TOMP 1 Jun (NB), late; arr T Lansing TOMP 29 Jul; max 2 EFGA 26 Aug; 2 Cornell University 27 Aug.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 3 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 1 Jun (ChJ, JeJ, MJ), high.

**Mourning Warbler:** max 7 Arnot Forest TOMP 7 Jun (BWA), high.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr Northeast Ithaca TOMP 20 Aug; max 10 MNWR 30 Aug (TL, JM, DNi), high.

**Northern Parula:** TDry 18 Jul (TSc!); arr TCar26 Aug.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Ringwood House TOMP 25 Aug; max 2 Bishop Preserve SENE 26 Aug.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 15 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 4 Jul (JM, LiS), high.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** TCar 26 Aug (BeB!).

**Prairie Warbler:** max 7 LPBP 8-29 Jun (mob), high.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 50 Fillmore Glen SP 19 Jun (JaJ), high.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** arr TDry 19 Aug (JE!), early.

**Dickcissel:** Hopeton Rd YATE 2-14 Jun; Ridge Rd YATE 13-14 Jun; Cornell University 25 Aug; MyPt 25 Aug.

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## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2020 was a bit warmer than average regarding temperature and slightly drier than normal. July was four degrees warmer than the long-term norm and was drier than average. August was also warmer than normal and had about two and one-half inches more rainfall than average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Ten birds, including four juveniles, were seen and photographed there. This was the fourth year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh, and is the only place in the Region with confirmed breeding so far in 2020 atlas work. There were perhaps ten blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region.

Conveniently visible from a viewing platform at Pharsalia State Forest two adult Sandhill Cranes and a colt were photographed on 22 June by Mike DeWispelaere. They were again observed and photographed on 14 August in the same general area. 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 Common Nighthawks migrating through the Region though the numbers seemed down from last year.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was just one Sanderling seen in the Region in late August. However, a juvenile Stilt Sandpiper was seen on 29 August in a small pond in Chenango County.

There were 77 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 208 reports in the 2019 summer season. Most reports came from the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. It is not clear why there is such a fluctuation in numbers of Great Egrets from year to year. For example, in 2018 there were just 27 reports during the summer season.

Swainson's Thrushes were recorded singing in New Michigan State Forest on 21 June by different observers. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed breeding. 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.

Similar to last season there were only a few reports of Pine Siskins. However, there were 21 reports of Red Crossbills contrasting with only four reports last year.

There were two sightings of Yellow-breasted Chats in Tioga and Otsego Counties. The sightings were well documented with photographs and recordings. They both were observed for a week or so, but there was no confirmed breeding.

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

In summary, 182 species (last year 181) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations for the Region. If there are 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 88,272 observations (which is about twice as many as last year) 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. The increase in observations could be attributed to the pandemic, breeding bird atlas work, and the steadily increasing use of eBird.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AqPk** – Aqua Terra P, BROO; **Bpd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FLT** – Finger Lakes Trail; **FMHW** – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NMSF** – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **TomakRd** – Tomak Rd, TIOG; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO. Note also breeding codes.

### WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**American Wigeon:** Trout Pd TIOG 21 Aug, only report.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr ULCP 18 Aug.

**Lesser Scaup:** 2 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 24 Jun, 2m, rare for date.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 235 reports throughout Region.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 182 reports throughout Region.

**Common Nighthawk:** max 10 SusRB BROO 20 Aug; 16 other scattered rep in late Aug, numbers down from last year.

**Chimney Swift:** max 174 Owego TIOG 20 Aug, roost.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** widely noted, 1156 lines in eBird, about twice as many reports as last year.

### RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** max 10 SHM 3 Aug, 6 ad, 4 juv, ph.

**Sora:** SHM 25 Jul & 3Aug, ph; SusRB Aug 20, only reports.

**Common Gallinule:** max 10 SHM 23 Jun, 6 ad, 4 juv, ph, (MD), *intro*, all reports from SHM.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 23 Jun, 3 ad; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 22 Jul & 14 Aug, 2 ad, 1 juv, ph, (MD), *intro*.

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 6 SHM 3 Aug, ph.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** Buckley Hollow Rd CHEN 29 Aug, only report.

**Sanderling:** ULCP 17 Aug, only report.

**Least Sandpiper:** max 25 SHM 12 Aug, ph.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** ULCP 13-26 Aug.

**American Woodcock:** max 3 West Winfield OTSE 20 Jun, 1 ad, 2 juv.

**Wilson's Snipe:** max 6 SHM 27 Jul & 3Aug, ph.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 11 WHP 30 Jul.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 13 Stupke Pd CORT 20 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr SHM 27 Jul.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr SHM 3 Aug.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr Glimmerglass SP OTSE 11 Jul, ph.

**Laughing Gull:** Glimmerglass SP OTSE 11&13 Jul, ph, only reports.

**Caspian Tern:** arr 2 Plymouth Res CHEN 18 Jun.

**Black Tern:** Chenango Ri Binghamton BROO 8 Aug.

### LOONS – PARAKEET

**Common Loon:** max 3 Otsego L OTSE 18 Jul.

**American Bittern:** Chenango Creek Marsh CORT 5 Jun; Whitney Pt BROO 21 Jul.

**Great Egret:** max 8 SusRB 26 Aug; 77 rep thru Region, less reports this year than last.

**Black Vulture:** 3 reports from DELA and OTSE.  
**Osprey:** max 5 SusRB 8 Jun, ON.  
**Northern Goshawk:** DELA 31 Aug, only report visible on eBird (it is a sensitive species so some reports are not visible in eBird).  
**Bald Eagle:** many reports, very widespread.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 48 scattered reports.  
**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 2 Palmer Rd Sherburne CHEN 19 Jun, A.  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Red Brook SF CHEN 28 Jun, only report.  
**American Kestrel:** max 10 Bond Rd CORT 11 Aug, feeding on grasshoppers; 8 TomakRd 15 Aug.  
**Merlin:** max 4 SUNY Delhi Golf Course DELA 17 Jul, FY; 4 DorP 1 Aug, FL.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** max 4 Binghamton BROO 24 Jun, 1 ad, 3 juv, 9 reports of resident downtown Binghamton pr.

#### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Olive-Sided Flycatcher:** FMHW 24 Jun, ph; Fly Creek Valley Rd OTSE 13 Aug; Buckley Hollow Rd CHEN 29 Aug; T Middleton DELA 31 Aug, only reports.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 4 Richfield Springs OTSE 29 Aug.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** Long Eddy DELA 6 Jun; Hewitt SF CORT 30 Jun; Oxford CHEN 29 Aug, only reports.  
**Eastern Phoebe:** max 31 TomakRd 26 Aug (AdTr).  
**Horned Lark:** max 5 MHL 5 Jun.  
**Purple Martin:** 6 scattered reports.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 13 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 14 Jul, FL.  
**Winter Wren:** max 7 FLT Bainbridge CHEN 28 Jun, 2 ad, 5 juv, FL.  
**Marsh Wren:** most reports from BPd, MHL, and CG.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** max 3 NMSF 21 Jun, ph, recordings, *intro*; 3 T German CHEN 13 Jun; 12 other reports most from CHEN.

**Red Crossbill:** 21 reports most from state forests in CHEN and CORT, last year 4 reports.  
**Pine Siskin:** 3 scattered reports in BROOM and TIOG in Jun.

#### NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2 Long Creek Rd 20 Jun-18 Jul, ph; only report.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 3 TomakRd 8 Aug; Fairfield Rd TIOG 15 Jun; 2 Lockwood Rd TIOG 25 Jun; Ridge Rd TIOG 26 Jun, ph; Long Creek Rd TIOG 20 & 24 Jun; Beech Hill Rd DELA 22 Jun.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 25 TomakRd 28 Aug (AdTr); 20 Lisle BROO 30 Jun (AITri).  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** TomakRd 4 Jun; Galpin Rd TIOG 7-15 Jun, ph, audio recording; Parslow Rd Conservation Area OTSE Jun 27-Jul 8, ph, audio recording.  
**Bobolink:** max 120 Morgan Rd BROO 17 Aug.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 12 scattered reports in Jun, most of singles.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** ULCP 10 Aug, audio recording; only report.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** max 4 Parker St CORT 25 Jun, FY.  
**Northern Waterthrush:** max 4 Jam Pd CHEN 7 Jun.  
**Mourning Warbler:** max 8 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 5 Jun.  
**Hooded Warbler:** max 3 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 3 Jul, CF.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** 2 Warren Rd DELA 4 Jul;

#### ADDENDUM

**Blue-winged Teal x Green-winged Teal hybrid:** Upper Lisle CP, BROO (Jonathan Weeks, mob, phs) 22 Mar-25 Apr. Photos were published in KB 70.3 but record omitted in error in species accounts.



## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

David Wheeler

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Summer 2020 was hot and dry. June's average high of 81.1° F was 3.6° above average and there were five days above 90° compared to the typical 1-2. Rainfall totaled only 1.46", nearly 2" below average. Partly sunny (or better) skies prevailed for 24 of 30 days and quickly dried any precipitation. The month finished as 10<sup>th</sup> driest, with bare lands open to the bright June sun becoming hard and dusty. July quickly shaped up as a record-setter. The average maximum of 87.9° was an impressive 6.3° above normal and a new record for Syracuse. Overnights remained warm and provided little cooling, with the average minimum of 66.4° being 5.4° more than usual. Ten truly hot days above 90° were recorded, versus a normal of only three, and 27 of 31 days were partly sunny or better. Total rain of 5.22" was 1.44" above normal but came mostly in two heavy bursts that had little chance against already low water levels and parched ground. July finished as the warmest month ever, breaking a record which stood for 65 years.

The first half of August continued the theme of 'hot and dry', but the latter half gave welcome cooling back down to typical numbers. The month finished at 83.2°, 3.2° above normal and tied for 10<sup>th</sup> warmest. Five days exceeded 90° compared to the usual 1-2. A whopping 27 of 31 days were partly sunny or better with 4.61" of rain coming mostly in two good soakings. While the last few days seemed a welcome preview of early fall, the three-month summer season finished with 20 days above 90° compared to only six average. 78 days were partly sunny or better!

After a dry spring, the hot and dry summer led to very low water levels on Lake Ontario and much shorebird habitat. By mid-July David Wheeler found beach emerging on the West Barrier Bar at Fair Haven, surprised that such a thing was still possible and estimating the Lake to be two feet lower than the prior year. Matt Brown watched the Carl Island shoal at Sandy Pond emerge in early July after a years-long absence. It grew to impressive dimensions by the end of the season. Meanwhile at Delta Lake, Wheeler noted in mid-June the shallow east end was already getting mudflats and in typical condition for late-July of a 'normal' dry year. Being a month ahead of schedule led to exceptionally dry conditions there, too dry, extending all the way to Delta Lake State Park and difficult for birders to cover with heat shimmer and sun glare. Onondaga Lake, being part of the Erie (barge) canal system where water level is regulated for marine traffic, was closer to normal with little shorebird habitat on the west shore until August when some shallow edge began to emerge.

The season was fairly typical for waterfowl. A few diving ducks lingered into June and dabbling numbers were best in August. Matt Brown found a Brant on 20 July at Sandy Pond, rarely seen in summer. A **Barnacle Goose** was photographed



by Gretchen Dillon at Three Rivers WMA on 10 June, but not seen again. It is a sixth Regional record and first for the summer season, assuming they are all of wild origin. Blue-winged Teal likely nested at the McKoon's Road wetland but were not reported from Sterling Nature Center where they had been present in spring. Common Goldeneye were reported from northern Herkimer county where they may nest. Dennis and Dina Waters photographed a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in a suburban neighborhood of Rome where they reported the bird had been present for several months. The photo clearly separated it from the very similar-looking Ringed Turtle-Dove, a domestic breed of African Collared-Dove, which occasionally escapes from captivity. The bird called frequently and that helped clinch the identification. Where did it come from and how long will it stay? Several previous records exist for the Region: a flyby bird at Derby Hill was thought to be the species but not photographed and Turtle-Dove could not be conclusively eliminated. Another bird was heard-only by an experienced observer, conclusive within range but not usually considered enough evidence given its rarity in New York. Sandhill Cranes were reported from five different locations including Howland Island and the Kirkville/Ditch Bank Rd area in July and August.

As expected, it was a good season for southbound shorebirds. Piping Plover again nested at Sandy Pond and hatched three eggs. Two young fledged under the watchful eye of parks personnel. Matt Brown conducted frequent, often daily, surveys once the Carl Island shoal emerged and eventually found most of the expected species including Willet on 4 August, Whimbrel on 29 July and 2-4 August, and Red Knot on 28 and 30 August. These species are always scarce and often absent altogether in poor habitat years. Delta Lake's ample flats produced disappointingly small numbers of shorebirds but included a Buff-breasted Sandpiper found by Mark Burns on 26 August. Another lingered for a week at the Sky High Turf Farm in Lakeport, while two were found at the Oswego County airport in Fulton by Gregg Dashnau. David Wheeler found 11 Ruddy Turnstones, 28 Sanderlings, four Whimbrel, and a Red Knot at Fair Haven on 2 August. The date saw substantial movement everywhere. American Golden-Plover were found at the turf farm and Delta Lake. Mickey Scilingo found a Whimbrel at the Fulton airport on 29 July, an atypical fall location. Onondaga Lake produced northbound White-rumped Sandpiper and 50 Semipalmated Sandpiper on 6 June to kick off the summer shorebird season there. A southbound Least Sandpiper showed just 24 days later on 30 June. The good migration day of 2 August produced two Whimbrel on the west shore where water level continued to drop. Short-billed Dowitcher numbers were poor, with only three reports and Stilt Sandpiper was missed for the summer season. What would September bring? Tune in to the next report to find out.

A first summer **Franklin's Gull** was found by David Wheeler at Ditch Bank Rd. in northern Madison County on 13 June keeping company with many Ring-billed Gulls. The bird was often close to the road providing an excellent opportunity for study. Wheeler wrote in his field notes "adult-like feathers out to

and including P6; primaries outboard of that are still first cycle. Only a vague tail band remains.” It stayed four days giving excellent looks. An early season lakewatch on 25 August gave Wheeler good looks at a light juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** from the bluff at Derby Hill. August Bonaparte's Gull numbers at Sylvan Beach failed to build with only 12 present on 26 August. Numbers of 100-150 are typical of the spot. Matt Brown reported similar disappointment from Sandy Pond, but contributed the only report of Black Tern for the summer season. Is it gone from the Region as a breeder? Birding the newly-opened southwest trail at Onondaga Lake on 29 August, Drew Weber estimated 4000 Ring-billed Gulls (an excellent number for the date). Weber then had the good fortune to spot and photograph an immature **Arctic Tern** near the rock jetties. Subsequent efforts to relocate the bird, a second Regional record, were unsuccessful. Weber also found the previous individual on 4 October 2013 at the Onondaga Lake marina. It stuck around for several days and was extensively photographed flying at close range.

Two **American White Pelicans** were seen by Michael Howell on Tuscarora Lake on 31 August and are a first county record for Madison. The species has only been a regular visitor to the Region for 20-30 years. **Black Vulture** was reported from Utica on 1 June by Faith Thompson, while Deborah Dohne noted one near Jamesville on 29 June. Matt Brown was surprised to see one flying over his home near Pulaski on 15 June. Quick thinking on his part yielded a photo of what will likely be a once-in-a-lifetime yard bird. Several reports of Black-backed Woodpecker were filed from northern Herkimer County where they are expected in appropriate habitat. Utica and Syracuse Peregrine Falcon sites each fledged two birds. Fledge watchers in Utica noted all the milestones between early June and mid July: first flight leading to longer flights and brief soaring, mid-air food transfer from adults, brief prey chases, more distant forays, and eventually... dispersal. Thankfully it was smooth sailing for the Utica birds. In late June the female fledgling from the Syracuse nest was discovered grounded by an employee of the state office building and taken to a local wildlife rehabilitator, Cindy Page, and discovered to have lead poisoning. It was transferred to Cornell and treated there for a week before being released on the roof of the state office building on 30 June. The bird seemed well-recovered and accepted back into its family, which can sometimes be a problem when young Peregrines spend extensive time in rehab. The whole crew was checked on daily by volunteers through July. Eventually it and the male fledgling were presumed to disperse. Matt Perry observed the Utica Peregrines drinking from rooftop puddles during this hot dry summer, when standing water was scarce, and speculates that may be the source of the lead. The species normally gets most of its water from the prey it eats, but the heat likely forced supplemental drinking.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted from the traditional Labrador Hollow spot on 1 June and probable nesters were reported in northern Herkimer county on 18 and 21 June. Green Lakes hosted the first southbound migrant on 14 August. Acadian Flycatcher continued at Whiskey Hollow while Mickey Scilingo found a possible new location for the species near Parish with a bird present 24 June to

**PHOTO GALLERY  
SUMMER 2020**



Least Bittern, Round Lake, *Saratoga*, 14 July 2020, © Denise Hackert-Stoner.



Grasshopper Sparrow, Whallons Bay, *Essex*, 1 Jul 2020, © Larry Master.



Marsh Wren, Round Lake, *Saratoga*, 14 July 2020, © Denise Hackert-Stoner.



Purple Gallinule, East Moriches, *Suffolk*, 23 Jun, © Eileen Schwinn.



Purple Gallinule, Twin Lakes Preserve, Wantagh, *Nassau*, 28 Jun, © John Gluth.



Swallow-tailed Kite, Hamlin, *Monroe*, 1 Aug 2020, © Kathy Habgood. See pp. 326-327.



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Middletown, *Orange*. Photos clockwise from top left. A: The pair on 3 May; B: A mate chase on 9 Jun; C: Panting on the nest on 22 Jun; D: Mating on 19 Jun; all © Joyce Depew. See article on pp. 314-317.

5 July. Did it attract a mate? No reports came from Sterling Nature Center where the species was present through late May, likely due to lack of observer effort. Common Raven was well-represented by 420 eBird reports. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported from the Morgan Hill State Forest spot on Shackham Road in late July, possibly a local nester. Gregg Dashnau found a singing Sedge Wren in the 'big fields' area of Three Rivers WMA on 3 July. Numbers at the spot built to at least five singing males during the last week of July. Did they nest successfully? Meanwhile, Karl Curtis found one singing in the Manlius area on 13 July. Are these late-arriving mid-summer birds nesters (or failed nesters?) from another area as often supposed?

Small groups of Red Crossbills were present at the traditional Shackham Road spot throughout summer. Young were seen with adults gritting in the road at the four-corners and enjoyed by many birders. Some calls were recorded and the birds identified on that basis as Type 1 ('Appalachian') and Type 10 ('Sitka Spruce'). Like most finches, the birds often call in flight and birders are encouraged to obtain audio if possible. Recordings can be sent to Matt Young at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for identification to type. A male Clay-colored Sparrow returned to the spot it favored last year at Oakwood Cemetery. It was last seen on 26 June, presumably moving on after not attracting a mate. A pair was found in mid-July at Green Lakes State Park. A nesting attempt seems likely but was not confirmed. A Yellow-breasted Chat continued for two days into summer from the previous period at Labrador Hollow. An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen at a feeder in Remsen on 3 July by Naomi Gray. It had been present for several days before being photographed but the homeowners were out of town for the holiday week and it was not seen thereafter. Only one Golden-winged Warbler was reported, a possible late migrant given the date of 3 June. The author holds hope that some nesters remain in the vast lands comprising Region 5.

Ken Burdick found singing Prothonotary Warblers while atlasng along the old Erie canal near Cato. One bird sang an unusual two-parted rendition of the song which might be represented as "see-see-see-see, say-say-say-say" and easily overlooked as Yellow Warbler. Burdick reported to the author that at a distance the song could also be confused with Northern Waterthrush given its volume and descending character. According to 'Birds of the World' online, the song has been documented but rarely recorded, thus making the audio attained by Burdick an important contribution to eBird and the Macauley Library. On 6 July a singing Prothonotary was found at the traditional Toad Harbor spot along Oneida Lake's north shore in West Monroe. Not reported in eight years, the species has a long history there but much of the spot is inaccessible and records are likely biased in favor of years when the birds are close up the channels and audible from the parking area. A Palm Warbler, likely nesting, was reported from 'Palm Warbler Bog' in northern Herkimer county. Carla Bregman found a well-described **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Manlius on 21 August. It is the 17<sup>th</sup> Regional record and first for summer.

With NY Breeding Bird Atlas III beginning this year, one cannot help but wonder about the impact of hot, dry weather on nesting birds. How did the waterthrushes fare? American Woodcock? Are wet wooded areas sufficiently protected from drying out? Were the birds mostly done when it got really bad? Is 'too wet' worse than 'too dry'? Many questions but the birds are experts at finding what they need. In preparing this report, the author reviewed many records and was surprised how few birds were followed long enough to confirm breeding. The juicy potential nesters were twitched by many birders when found then ignored thereafter. Did Clay-colored Sparrow nest successfully at Green Lakes? What about the Prairie Warblers there? Three Rivers Sedge Wrens? Follow up on these species, and many others that are thinly-distributed in our Region, is essential to the Atlas.

This season a total of 227 species and two hybrids was reported, which is a whopping 18 above the recent 10-year average for the Region and due to a good showing of rarities and shorebirds. Highlights of the season included: **Barnacle Goose, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Willet, Long-tailed Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Arctic Tern, American White Pelican, Black Vulture, Sedge Wren, Red Crossbill, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Yellow-throated Warbler.**

Summer 2020 produced 105,945 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were contributed by 575 people.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**ADK** – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BW** – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; **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 West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego River, Indian Point, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest CP; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **L Ont** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MH** – Morgan Hill State Forest, Fabius; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L & Onondaga L P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **PSS** – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **Sithe** – trails at Independence Park, formerly Sithe Energy, Scriba; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TNP** – Tuscarora Nature P, MADI; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

### WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**Snow Goose:** 2 Parish 16 Jun; Lakeport 11 Aug.  
**Brant:** SP 20 Jul (MBr), very rarely reported in summer.  
**BARNACLE GOOSE:** TR 10 Jun (GDi, ph); 6<sup>th</sup> Reg rec and 1<sup>st</sup> for summer.  
**Canada Goose:** max 325 OnonL 30 Jun; flocks widespread thru.  
**Mute Swan:** max 67 FH 28 Jun, 4 pairs nested successfully in area (DR); nested also SP (MBr).  
**Trumpeter Swan:** max 8 TR 19 Jun incl young; pairs HI, SNC, Hannibal all likely nested.  
**Wood Duck:** 55 DL 19 Aug; max 56 UM 26 Jun; widespread.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 2 MW 30 Jun; max 55 DL 31 Aug; good nums Aug DL & OnonL; no reps SNC.  
**Northern Shoveler:** arr 2 OnonL 30 Aug; 5 OnonL 31 Aug.  
**Gadwall:** no reps.  
**American Wigeon:** SVB 27 Jun; OnonL 22 Jul; arr OnonL 31 Aug.  
**Mallard:** max 300 OnonL 30 Aug; flocks widespread.  
**American Black Duck:** max 18 n. HERK 12 Aug; small groups rep.  
**Northern Pintail:** 3 DL 31 Aug; only rep.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 2 LoopR 2 Jun, only Jun or Jul rep; max 40 DL 31 Aug; other Aug reps typ locs.  
**Redhead:** OswH 22 Jul-22 Aug; only rep.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 2 Atwell 4 Jun; 8 reps singles Brew, OnonL, WP, mostly Aug.  
**Lesser Scaup:** WP 5-6 Jun; WP 6 Jul.  
**Bufflehead:** Fourth L 17 Jun.  
**Common Goldeneye:** Phx 12 Jun-7 Jul; pairs rep n. HERK likely nesters.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 12 Erieville 7 Jun; small nums typ locs.  
**Common Merganser:** max 15 four locs; small groups typ locs throughout reg.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** SNC 3 Jun; 2 Bville 16 Jun, only reps.  
**Ruddy Duck:** Fult 25 Jun, 12 Jul; max 2 Fult 2 Jul; only reps.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** small nums var loc but few reps.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 9 HF 15 Aug; small nums typ locs.  
**Wild Turkey:** max 25 Const 18 Aug & Utica 13 Aug.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 20 LoopR 4 Aug.  
**Rock Pigeon:** flocks widespread.  
**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** Rome 31 Aug (DDW, ph, DWh) present for months per residents, often calling; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg rec but first with extensive documentation.  
**Mourning Dove:** max 260 OnonL 17 Aug, good num; widespread.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** singles/pairs thru.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** singles/pairs thru.  
**Common Nighthawk:** 3 Pulaski 1 Jun; WP 28 Jun; 2 Waterville 12 Jul; migrants arr TR 15 Aug; max 15 Oneida 31 Aug.  
**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** small nums from known locs north of Oneil and TSalisbury; last 31 Jul.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 25 var locs early Aug; small groups typ locs thru.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** max 22 Stillwater 26 Aug.

#### RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** max 6 CM 18 Jun.  
**Sora:** HI 21 Jun; Rome 26-27 Jun; MSI 30 Jul; only reps.  
**Common Gallinule:** max 27 OnonL 9 Aug; small groups typ locs.  
**American Coot:** OnonL Jun-Jul; 2 OnonL 2 Aug; small nums OnonL Aug; max 6 LoopR 4 Aug.  
**Sandhill Crane:** small nums HI, DB, 6 other locs; max 5 UM 6 Jun.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 2 FH 2 Aug; 1-2 SP 18-19 Aug.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr SHTF 22-24 Aug; DL 26 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last LoopR 1 Jun; arr DB 26 July.  
**PIPING PLOVER:** pair SP hatch 3 young, 2 fledge; last SP 30 Jul.  
**Killdeer:** good nums SHTF, DL; max 110 State Fair 29 Aug.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** Rome 21 Jun; Dolge 7 Aug; max 5 Deerfield 14 Jun, bred.  
**Whimbrel:** arr Fult 29 Jul (MSc), unusual loc; 2 OnonL 2 Aug (GD); 2 SP 29 Jul (MBr); SP 2-4 Aug (MBr); FH 19 Aug (DWh); max 4 FH 2 Aug (DWh).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** last SP 3 Jun; arr & max 11 FH 2 Aug (DWh); singles FH & SP.  
**Red Knot:** arr FH 2 Aug (DWh); SP 28 & 30 Aug (MBr); max 2 SP 29 Aug (MBr).  
**Sanderling:** arr SP 25 Jul; max 28 FH 2 Aug.  
**Dunlin:** LoopR 1 Jun; last & max 3 LoopR 2 Jun; only reps.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr FH 4 Aug; max 3 DL 29 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** last Dolge 3 Jun; arr OnonL 30 Jun; max 80 DL 19 Aug.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** last OnonL 6 Jun; arr SP 30 Jul; SP 19 Aug; only reps.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr SHTF 22-28 Aug; max 2 Fult 26 Aug; DL 26-28 Aug (MBu).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr DL 12 Aug; max 3 DL 28 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 50 OnonL 6 Jun; last 3 OnonL 7 Jun; arr SP 11 Jul.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr SP 20 Jul; Verona 28 Jul; MSI 29 Jul; only reps.  
**American Woodcock:** max 3 TR 2 Jul.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 2 Newport 17 Jun.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** 8 OnonL 11 & 24 Jun; max 11 OnonL 2 Aug.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Tully 12 Jul; max 8 Eaton 29 Jul & MSI 25 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 8 DB 18 Jul; max 17 DL 19 Aug.  
**Willet:** SP 4 Aug (MBr); only rep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** last 2 TR 13 Jun; arr 2 SP 21 Jul; max 14 DL 29, 31 Aug.  
**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** DH 25 Aug (DWh) on strong west winds.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** last 7 OSP 16 Jun; SP 25 Jun; arr 2 SP 21 Jul & 5 DL 21 Jul; max 12 Oneil 26 Aug; typ Aug nums at SVB failed to build.  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** imm DB 13-16 Jun (DWh, ph).  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 4000 OnonL 29 Aug.  
**Herring Gull:** 100 OnonL 6 Aug.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** OSP 30 Aug (DBo).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max OnonL 26 Aug.  
**Caspian Tern:** 72 FH 31 Jul; 131 SP 24 Aug; max 142 SP 3 Jun.  
**Black Tern:** SP 21 Jul (MBr), only rep.  
**Common Tern:** 114 SP 20 Aug; max 207 Oneil 9 Aug.  
**ARCTIC TERN:** OnonL 29 Aug (DWe, ph); 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg rec.

#### LOONS – PARAKEET

**Common Loon:** few singles Jun typ locs, else small groups n part of Reg; max 8 Twitchell L 8 Aug.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1200 OnonL 21 Aug.  
**American White Pelican:** 2 Tuscarora L 31 Aug (MH, ph); 1<sup>st</sup> county rec.  
**American Bittern:** max 2 WMonroe 2 Jun & Pulaski 20 Jun; few reps.  
**Least Bittern:** few reps typ locs; max 3 UM 26 Jun.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 32 SNC 13 Jun; reps widespread incl breeding colonies typ locs.  
**Great Egret:** Jun reps 3 locs; arr DL 16 July; max 13 DL 26 Aug.  
**Green Heron:** small groups widespread; max 8 Fult 9 Aug.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** TR 11 Jun; OLC 26-28 Jun; OnonL 30 Aug; max 4 OLC 26 Jun.  
**Black Vulture:** Utica 1 Jun (FT); Pulaski 15 Jun (MBr); Jamesville 29 Jun (DD).  
**Turkey Vulture:** widespread; max 120 DB 23 Aug.  
**Osprey:** pairs widespread typ locs; max 8 OswH 13 Aug.  
**Northern Harrier:** singles/pairs typ locs; max 3 DC 12 Jun.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** few reps of singles, pair 3 locs.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** singles/pairs; max 4 BW 6 Jul; Lpool 13 Jul.  
**Northern Goshawk:** no reps.  
**Bald Eagle:** widespread reps small nums; 12 LoopR 6 Jun; max 20 HI 2 Jun.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 2 four locs Jul; few reps of singles.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** widespread reps typ locs; max 108 DH 16 Aug, dispersal flight on south wind.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** small nums widespread; max 67 DH 16 Aug, dispersal flight on south wind.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** singles/pairs typ locs; max 5 FH 29 Aug.  
**Great Horned Owl:** singles/nesting pairs widespread typ locs.  
**Barred Owl:** singles/nesting pairs widespread typ locs.  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** few reps SH, n HERK Jun; Morrisville 24 Aug.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** small groups widespread; max 10 SSSP 18 Jul.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** pairs at established locs Ont & Onei lakeshores.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** common & widespread throughout Reg.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** singles/pairs var locs; max 5 HI 4 Jul & SH 14 Jul.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** two locs n HERK 12, 17 Jun; pair n HERK 8 Aug.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** common & widespread throughout Reg.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** common & widespread throughout Reg.  
**Northern Flicker:** common & widespread throughout Reg.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** common & widespread throughout Reg; max 6 BW 1 Jul.  
**American Kestrel:** singles/pairs Jun, family groups Aug; 8 Fult 26 Aug; max 9 Fairfield 26 Aug.  
**Merlin:** singles/pairs scattered about Reg; max 4 NHartford 17 Jul.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** pairs nest Syr, Jamesville, Utica, Little Falls, see *intro*; singles typ locs Aug.

#### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 5 var locs Jun/Jul.  
**Eastern Kingbird:** max 10 Dewitt Marsh 4 Jul.  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last LH 1 Jun; nesters n HERK 18 & 21 Jun (BL); arr GLSP 14 Aug; max 2 Fville 31 Aug.  
**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** max 14 KW 23 Aug.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** likely nesters n HERK 4, 5, 18 Jun & 4 Jul; arr Fabius 22 Aug; Bridgeport 29 Aug; only reps.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** WH June; Parish 24 Jun, 5 Jul, nesting unknown; no reps SNC but presumed there.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** max 10 TR 9 Jun.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** max 9 OnonL 28 Jul.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 8 OnonL 28 Jun.  
**Eastern Phoebe:** max 8 FH 17 Jun.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 6 HI 4 Jul.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 7 SH 17 Jun.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** n HERK 17 Jun; arr Const 26 Aug; Const & MSI 31 Aug.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 10 Cato 12 Jun, 9 Jul.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** 33 LH 20 Jun; max 34 DL 11 Jul; high counts depend on effort/distance.  
**Blue Jay:** common & widespread throughout Reg.  
**American Crow:** common & widespread throughout Reg.  
**Fish Crow:** continuing reps mostly from known locs and mostly ONON.  
**Common Raven:** 420 reports submitted typ locs, small nums/family groups.  
**Horned Lark:** max 10 SHTF 25 Aug; few reps typ locs.  
**Purple Martin:** max 43 Pulaski 27 Jul.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 135 Sterling 30 Aug.  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** max 32 Utica 16 Jul.  
**Bank Swallow:** max 44 OnonL 23 Jul.  
**Cliff Swallow:** 14 Phx bridge 2 Jul; 14 WMonroe barn 24 Jul; max 15 Clay shopping center 10 July.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 190 OnonL 22 Jul.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** widespread throughout Reg; max 39 NoyesS 23 Aug.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** widespread throughout Reg; max 14 NoyesS 25 Jul.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** small groups typ locs; max 19 Sangerfield 31 Aug.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** widespread throughout Reg.  
**Brown Creeper:** small nums typ locs; max 4 SH 26 Jul; few reps.  
**House Wren:** max 11 DB 15 Jun.  
**Winter Wren:** max 5 HF 6 Jun, WH 28 Jun & Williamstown 22 Jul.  
**Sedge Wren:** singing, Manlius 13 Jul (KC); 1 TR 3 Jul (GD); 5 TR 16-29 Jul (GD), singing birds, *intro*.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 31 DC 14 Jun.  
**Carolina Wren:** small nums typ locs, mostly ONON; max 7 Marcellus 21 Aug.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 6 TR 22 Jun & HI 13 Aug & Const 26 Aug.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Syr 29 Jul, unusual loc/date; max 15 SH 14 Jul.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** SH 29 Jul; Osw 20 Aug; MSI 29 Aug.  
**Eastern Bluebird:** widespread reps; max 8 Central Square 23 Jun.  
**Veery:** max 12 Bernhards Bay 24 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Cazenovia 3 Jun & 2 same loc 6 Jun (JK), late migrants?; Sangerfield 31 Aug; nesters n HERK Jun-Jul.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 12 Cicero Swamp; counts depend on distance/effort.  
**Wood Thrush:** max 16 GLSP; counts depend on distance/effort.  
**American Robin:** common and widespread throughout Reg.  
**Gray Catbird:** common and widespread; max 20 GLSP 30 Jun.  
**Brown Thrasher:** 5 GLSP 6 Jun; max 8 TR 6 Jun.  
**Northern Mockingbird:** singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON; max 6 Clay 10 Aug & New Haven 22 Jul.  
**European Starling:** common and widespread throughout Reg.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** common and widespread throughout Reg.  
**House Sparrow:** flocks widespread throughout Reg in urban/suburban environs.  
**House Finch:** small groups widespread throughout Reg; max 19 Manlius 20 Aug.  
**Purple Finch:** typ locs; max 37 Dolge 23 Aug; best nums Dolge area.  
**Red Crossbill:** groups Morgan Hill SF thru; max 22 MHSF 29 Jul; traditional loc.  
**Pine Siskin:** Stillwater 24 Jun; Hastings 8 Jul; Pulaski 23 Jul; Dolge 8, 29 Aug; only reps.  
**American Goldfinch:** common and widespread throughout Reg.

#### NEW WORLD – SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** max 10 TR 10 Jun & GLSP 25 Jun.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** common and widespread throughout Reg; max 25 Pine Plains Cemetery 21 Aug.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** OakC thru 26 Jun (DD, DWh); 2 GLSP 14-15 Jul (FL, mob), nesting status unknown; only reps.  
**Field Sparrow:** 10 GLSP 14 Jun; 16 Dewitt 6 Jul; 20 TR 5 Aug.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** few reps 9 locs; max 5 Williamstown 5 Jun, smaller num thru 27 Jul.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 10 Richfield Springs 14, 16 Jun.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** singles/pairs typ locs; few reps.  
**Song Sparrow:** common and widespread in Reg; max 30 OnonL 25 Aug & TR 22 Jul, 7 Aug.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 3 locs n HERK 6, 18 Jun, 4 Jul (DC, JF, TJS, RF).

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 27 DC 14 Jun.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 7 Old Forge 4 July; small nums mostly n part of Reg; singles elsewhere.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** last Cazenovia 4 Jun (JK).  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 11 Erieville 31 Aug.  
**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT:** LH 1, 2 Jun (mob), continuing from last day of prev period.  
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** ad m, Remsen 3 Jul (NG, ph); 19<sup>th</sup> Reg rec, 3<sup>rd</sup> for summer.  
**Bobolink:** max est 300 TR 15 Aug.  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** 11 Richland 25 Jul; 23 Fult 26 Aug.  
**Orchard Oriole:** few reps typ locs; max 3 DB 16 Jun.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** common and widespread in Reg; max 11 Osw 13 Aug.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** common and widespread in Reg; max 1500 SHTF 23 Aug.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** common and widespread in Reg; max 22 NSyr 16 Aug.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** n HERK 6 June (DC), possible nester.  
**Common Grackle:** common and widespread in Reg; max 917 Const 30 June.  
**Ovenbird:** max 16 HV 5 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** singles/pair typ locs, only 9 reps total likely due to effort.  
**Northern Waterthrush:** max 4 LH 20 Jun & Cicero Swamp 26 Jun.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** RCFS 3 Jun (DBa); only rep.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 4 LH 4 Jun & SSSP 22 Jul.  
**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** RCFS 2 Jun; SSSP 22 Jul; Bridgeport 24 Aug.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 3 n HERK 4 Jun.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1-3 Cato early Jun (KB) incl bird singing unusual song, *intro*; max 5 Cato 5 Jul (JM, LS); singing bird Toad Harbor 6-7 Jul (SDz), *intro*.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Eagle Bay 16 Aug & Salisbury 19 Aug, presumably migrants; Hastings 30 Aug; Const 31 Aug; only reps.  
**Nashville Warbler:** max 3 Pitch Pine Bog 17 Jun & Const 31 Aug; few reps.

**Mourning Warbler:** max 7 WH 5 Jun.  
**Common Yellowthroat:** max 18 TR 12 Jul; counts depend on distance/effort.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 7 SNC 7 Jun; max 9 KW 30 Jun, 7 Jul.  
**American Redstart:** max 25 SNC 7 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 2 OneiL 18 Aug; a few singles var loc 23-31 Aug.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** 11 Cicero Swamp 29 Jun; max 24 HI 4 July.  
**Northern Parula:** HF 9 Jun; HI 22 Jun & 4 Jul, status there in summer unknown; nesters rep n part of Region Jun-Jul; arr OSP 29 Aug.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 6 SH 12 Jul.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Hastings 26, 28 Aug; Const 31 Aug; only reps.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 8 var locs Jun.  
**Yellow Warbler:** common in Reg; max 21 OnonL 6 Jun, FH 3 Jun; counts depend on distance & effort.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 8 SH 11 Jun, 5 Jul & Sterling 8 Jun.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 2 Onei lakeshore 4 Jun; arr 2 Dolge 28 Aug.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 6 Old Forge 2 Jul; best nums n part of Reg.  
**Palm Warbler:** Beaver River n HERK 17 June, likely nesting (TJS); only rep.  
**Pine Warbler:** max 5 Berhards Bay 29 June.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 8 Old Forge 18 Jul; few reps most from n part of Reg.  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** Manlius 21 Aug (CB); 17<sup>th</sup> Reg rec, 1<sup>st</sup> for summer.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 2 GLSP thru Jun; SH 8 Jun (GM); Erieville 6 Jul (KP); only reps.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 10 n HERK 28 Jun.  
**Canada Warbler:** max 6 TR 13 Jun.  
**Wilson’s Warbler:** last Const 2 Jun; arr SFNS 18 Aug; Salisbury 31 Aug; only reps.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** max 6 HI 4 Jul & SH 26 Jul.  
**Northern Cardinal:** common and widespread throughout Reg.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 12 Pulaski 14 Jun.  
**Indigo Bunting:** max 12 Dewitt 6 Jul.

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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A period of warm, dry weather that began in May predominated through the summer, with above normal temperatures all three months, and below normal precipitation during June and July. Watertown's mean temperature for June was 65.6° F, which was 2.1° above normal. July was much warmer, with a mean temperature of 74.4°, or 5.8° above average. August had a lower departure from normal but was still 1.5° above average. The 2.8" of precipitation that fell during June and July combined was 2.7" below normal, but the dry spell broke in August, when 2.5" of rain fell between 2 and 5 August, and the last month of the season saw 4.8" of rain.

The dry late spring and early summer weather resulted in low water at most of the Region's ponds, lakes, and streams, but Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River remained high. Efforts to reduce high water on the Great Lakes from excessive precipitation in recent years resulted in water levels that were somewhat lower than in 2017 and 2019, but still well above average. Unlike at Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, where exposed shoreline was hard to find, mudflats lined most of the Region's streams and ponds, and many typically damp places were completely dry.

This summer marked the first breeding season in New York State's third Breeding Bird Atlas, and a few noteworthy waterfowl breeding records were documented in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties. Trumpeter Swans continue to increase in Region 6, with multiple nests at Perch River and Upper and Lower Lakes WMAs, and additional nests in several other locations. At Upper and Lower Lakes WMA groups of up to 22 adults were seen in addition to at least four pairs that fledged young, making for the highest summer Regional Trumpeter Swan count yet. A group of six fully grown American Wigeon at Upper and Lower Lakes was thought to be a brood, and Blue-winged Teal broods were seen at Fort Drum and three Wildlife Management Areas. A female Ring-necked Duck with two young chicks at Fort Drum on 7 July appears to be the only nesting record from Jefferson County since the 1950s, when this species apparently nested at Perch Lake. This was the only confirmed nesting of Ring-necked Duck in Region 6 away from Upper and Lower Lakes, where an estimated 15-20 broods were observed throughout the summer. Bill Munro saw a female Common Goldeneye with two tiny chicks near Picton Island on the St. Lawrence River, and noted that goldeneye have nested annually at this site for many years, although nesting anywhere in Region 6 has rarely been documented.

**American White Pelicans** are occasionally spotted in Region 6 but typically don't linger, so many birders appreciated a cooperative individual at Wilson Hill WMA 1-6 June. The season that started with a white pelican ended

with a **Brown Pelican**, first seen around 28 or 29 August by a non-birder boating on the St. Lawrence River near Chippewa Bay, who told Glenn Seeholzer about it allowing Glenn to find it on 31 August. While spending most of its time on American islands or shoals, the Brown Pelican generally required the use of a boat to see, although a few Canadians had distant glimpses from the north side of the river. Also rare in the region were **Black Vultures** seen over Potsdam on 12 June by Sarah Sirsat and over Carthage on 18 June by Mike Pierce. American and Least Bitterns were well documented on the Breeding Bird Atlas this year, with confirmed nesting in four blocks for each species, compared to nine blocks for American Bittern and no blocks for Least Bittern in Region 6 for all of Atlas 2000.

Given the modest expectations typical of Region 6, shorebird numbers and diversity were reasonably good. High water along Lake Ontario did not leave much room for shorebirds, but there was enough to allow a few Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstones, and other species to stop by. Some of the best conditions were at Perch River WMA, where the mostly dry Stone Mills Pool and Lower Pool attracted good numbers of Semipalmated Plovers and Least Sandpipers with a smattering of other species, including multiple Baird's Sandpipers. The East Pool at Wilson Hill WMA, which was mostly drained for vegetation management, was also very good until early August when NYSDEC began refilling the pool, with an adult White-rumped Sandpiper and multiple *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitchers being the highlights. The Whetstone Gulf Reservoir, also low because of dry weather, attracted a Stilt Sandpiper among other species, allowing some Lewis County birders a chance to pad their county shorebird lists. The best shorebird of the season was an adult **Hudsonian Godwit** foraging on the Richard's Point shoals in the St. Lawrence River for a week in August, allowing a number of people to see this Regional rarity.

NYSDEC conducted statewide Black Tern surveys in 2020, something that happens every 3-4 years. Black Terns were found in five locations in Region 6, with 60-65 each at Perch River and Upper and Lower Lakes WMAs. Overall, Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties accounted for 58% of all of the Black Terns documented in the state, but because of COVID-related personnel limitations fewer sites were surveyed than usual. NYSDEC also counts colonial waterbirds at Little Galloo Island annually, documenting 2280 Caspian Tern this year, 33% more than in 2019 but about average for the past few years. The Herring Gull colony at Little Galloo Island continues to grow, with a record high 1247 nests counted in June. The number of Common Tern nests on Lake St. Lawrence was at a five-year low, but high productivity this summer will hopefully help reverse the recent declining trend.

Eastern Whip-poor-will nesting was confirmed about a dozen times this summer, unfortunately every one of those confirmations was of the same nest located at the edge of a trail at Chaumont Barrens Preserve. This preserve was one of several sites that attracted many birders to Region 6, in this case primarily to see Henslow's Sparrows nesting in an area most birders did not seem to realize was closed to the public. Four Henslow's Sparrows in the Chaumont field, and

another six at Perch River WMA were all that were found this summer, as this species continues to decline in Jefferson County. Upland Sandpipers were similarly scarce, although the approximately 12 territories from five locations was marginally higher than in most recent years. Sedge Wren numbers were low as well, with 8-10 territories at six locations, but given the dry summer it would have been surprising if many more were present.

Several species of irruptive finch were present this summer, primarily in the Adirondacks and mostly in small numbers. Red Crossbill accounted for the bulk of these reports, with several transients seen on Fort Drum and elsewhere in addition to likely breeders in the mountains, although nesting was not confirmed in Region 6. The season's two White-winged Crossbill reports were likely of transient birds as well, as suggested by the single report from Massawepie Mire where dozens of birders submitted eBird checklists. Evening Grosbeak and Pine Siskin were represented by just one and two reports, respectively.

The top rarity of the season was a **Western Tanager** that Julie West photographed at her feeders in Henderson on 30 June. Because of COVID concerns no visitors were able to see the tanager, which in any case didn't seem to stick around for any length of time. This tanager was also the only true rarity among passerines reported this summer.

Many songbirds seemed to nest later than usual this summer. Several Breeding Bird Atlas volunteers reported that adult songbirds feeding young or carrying food were unexpectedly hard to find during late June and early July, usually the peak of the nesting season. Numbers of adults with dependent young seemed to peak later in July than usual, and for some species, especially Eastern Wood-Pewee and Red-eyed Vireo, the peak did not arrive until mid-August. Adult Cerulean Warblers were seen feeding young in Dekalb on 26 June and attending a begging juvenile on Fort Drum on 27 July, dates at which this species is usually just about impossible to find. Other species seen feeding young at or after reported late nesting dates include Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler. Many Breeding Bird Atlas volunteers seemed to have trouble confirming species in 2020, and one reason for this difficulty may have been that they stopped collecting data too early in the season.

For the summer I received reports of 212 species, about seven species higher than the most recent ten-year average, but only two species higher than the most recent five-year mean. During the roughly 15 years I have been editing the Region 6 report species tallies have gradually increased, especially for the summer season, thanks mostly to the increasing number of birders visiting the Region from elsewhere, with summer 2020 seeing a particularly large number of visiting birders. Unfortunately, despite the large number of observers in the field relatively few atlas blocks received more than cursory attention, and it is hoped that in the next few years visitors can be directed to uncovered blocks rather than just hitting the same handful of hotspots.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AFWMA** – Ashland Flats WMA; **CBn** – Chaumont Barrens Pres; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LGI** – Little Galloo I; **LPd** – Leonard Pd trail, T Colton; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard’s Landing Dike trail, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WEP** – Winona Experimental Forest, T Lorraine; **WGSP** – Whetstone Gulf SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

### WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**Brant:** flock over FD 1 Jun only report.

**Mute Swan:** max 12 T Clayton 8 Aug.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 22 ULLWMA 7 Jun where at least 4 pr fledged y; breeding confirmed 9 blocks; increasing.

**Wood Duck:** max 300 PRWMA 6 Jun.

**Blue-winged Teal:** breeding confirmed AFWMA, FD, PRWMA & ULLWMA; max 245 WP 28 Aug.

**Northern Shoveler:** 3 WHWMA 1 Jun; WHWMA 16 Aug; 2 PRWMA 8 Aug; only reports.

**Gadwall:** max 9 WHWMA 31 Jul.

**American Wigeon:** 6 ULLWMA 14 Jul possible brood.

**American Black Duck:** max 6 PRWMA 2 Aug.

**Northern Pintail:** 2 WHWMA 28 Aug only report.

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 WHWMA 1 Jun only report before mid-Jul; unclear whether reports

of 2-3 latter half July PRWMA & WHWMA local breeders or early migrants.

**Ring-necked Duck:** at least 15-20 broods ULLWMA thru; f with 2 y FD 7 Jul only other confirmed nesting & apparently only 2<sup>nd</sup> JEFF breeding record (*intro*).

**Common Goldeneye:** ad f with 2 small chicks near Picton Is SLR July (BM).

**Hooded Merganser:** breeding confirmed 7 blocks.

**Common Merganser:** max 32 RLT 11 & 22 Aug.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 WISP 11 Jul (KR) only report.

**Ruffed Grouse:** breeding confirmed 16 blocks mostly SE STLA.

**Spruce Grouse:** 7 reports MM inc f with 2 y 18 Jul (JM, LS); 2 Cranberry L Wild Forest 17 Jul (JM, LS).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 36 ULLWMA 8 Aug.

**Red-necked Grebe:** ad SLR T Louisville 21 Aug (NK.), early.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 60+ reports from 35+ locations; high.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** about 80 reports more than usual; max 10 FD 13 Jun.

**Common Nighthawk:** distraction display FD 22 Jun where up to 12 per day Jun & Jul; T Diana & T Fowler 7 Jun only breeding season reports away from FD (although within 5 km of FD).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** nest adjacent to CBn trail (mob) only confirmed nesting; max 50 FD 8 Jun.

## RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** max 7 ULLWMA 27 Jun; nesting confirmed FD & ULLWMA.

**Sora:** max 3 ULLWMA 27 Jun.

**Common Gallinule:** max 22 PRWMA 6 Jun; nesting confirmed LWMA, FD, PRWMA, ULLWMA & WHWMA.

**Sandhill Crane:** T Hammond 13 Jun (ET); ad w 2 y T Clayton 3 Jul (RB); ULLWMA 26 Jul (JB); 2 T Madrid 31 Jul (JB); 2 ULLWMA 26 Aug (BD).

**Black-bellied Plover:** max 7 WHWMA 1 Jun where last spring migrants 4 Jun; RLT 21 Aug only southbound report.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last northbound WHWMA 1 Jun; arr WHWMA 31 Jul; max 20 PRWMA 5 Aug.

**Upland Sandpiper:** max 8+ terr FD Jun-Jul where ad w juv 10 Jul (JB); ad with juv 2 locations < 1 km apart T Clayton 19 Jun (JC,

PR, AS, BW); additional reports T Lyme & T Orleans.

**Whimbrel:** T Alexandria 19 Jul (SD) only report.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT (R6):** ad RLT 6-11 Aug (JB, mob), rare R6.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** LWMA 25 Jul; RLT 6 Aug; Dark Is shoals 30 Aug; more reports than usual.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** PRWMA 8 Aug (AC, SD); Whetstone Gulf Reservoir 28 Aug (MR); only reports.

**Sanderling:** arr LWMA 15 Jul; 5 reports Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** ad PRWMA 5 Aug; 2 juvs T Clayton 20-25 Aug, PRWMA 21 & 29 Aug & RLT 28 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr WHWMA 12 Jul; max 90 PRWMA 21 Aug.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** ad WHWMA 2 Aug; T Henderson 30 Aug.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr WHWMA 20 Jul; max 3 WHWMA 2 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr WHWMA 12 Jul; max 20 PRWMA 19 Aug.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** *hendersoni* WHWMA 12-31 Jul; max 5 PRWMA 17 Aug.

**American Woodcock:** breeding confirmed AFWMA & T Morley; broods seemed unusually scarce.

**Wilson's Snipe:** max 13 PRWMA 24 Jul.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 21 RLT 24 Aug.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr WHWMA 12 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr T Clayton 9 Jul; max 32 WHWMA 20 Jul.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr WHWMA 12 Jul; max 29 WHWMA 20 Jul.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr PRWMA 24 Jul; max 7 RLT 21 Aug.

**Little Gull:** SLR T Alexandria 23 Jul (MMC)

**Ring-billed Gull:** max approx 40,000 LGI 16 Jun.

**Herring Gull:** max 1247 nests LGI 16 Jun record high.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 4 WP 24 Aug.

**Caspian Tern:** max 2280 nests LGI 16 Jun 33% higher than 2019 but similar to recent mean.

**Black Tern:** max 65 PRWMA & 60 ULLWMA on NYSDEC surveys; also present WHWMA, White Swamp T Alexandria & Wilson Bay marsh CV; R6 accounted for 58% state-wide total on NYSDEC surveys.

**Common Tern:** 626 nests L St. Lawrence continues 5-year decline since record high in 2015; 1.6 y fledged/nest best success in 10

years (LH); nest on log LWMA 3 Jun (MB) 2<sup>nd</sup> year nest at this site.

### LOONS – PARAKEET

**Common Loon:** breeding confirmed 10 blocks.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max approx. 2000 LGI 16 Jun.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R6):** WHWMA 1-6 Jun (JF, mob, photos!).

**BROWN PELICAN:** Dark Is shoals SLR 31 Aug (GSe, mob, photos!).

**American Bittern:** max 9 FD 12 Jun; nesting confirmed 2 blocks FD.

**Least Bittern:** max 5 LWMA 15 Jul; nesting confirmed LWMA, FD, ULLWMA & WHWMA.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 40 WHWMA 6 June.

**Great Egret:** max 28 WHWMA 15 Aug.

**Green Heron:** max 8 PRWMA 24 Jul.

**Black Vulture (R6):** T Potsdam 12 Jun (SS); T Carthage 18 Jun (MP); rare R6.

**Turkey Vulture:** nest w y T Edwards 10 Aug only breeding confirmation.

**Osprey:** confirmed 36 blocks R6 compared to 27 all of BBA II.

**Northern Harrier:** breeding confirmed 5 blocks.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** ad w 2 y LPd 7 Aug.

**Cooper's Hawk:** found in 12 atlas blocks but no breeding confirmations.

**Northern Goshawk:** 2 juv at nest site FD 20 Jul.

**Bald Eagle:** breeding confirmed in 10 atlas blocks.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** carrying nest material near Indian R WMA 18 Apr only confirmed breeding.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** different locations FD 4 Jun & 6 Jul only reports.

**Long-eared Owl:** MM 15 June only report (RZ).

**Short-eared Owl:** up to 3 per day FD early Jun not seen after 24 Jun.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** FD 19 Jun only report (PR).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** confirmed 2 atlas blocks FD; WISP 10 Jul only other report.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** multiple reports MM & LPd; near Horseshoe L 4 Jul only other report.

**Merlin:** nesting confirmed T Massena & PRWMA.

**Peregrine Falcon:** juv T Canton 31 Jul.

### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Eastern Kingbird:** max 31 FD 21 Aug.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** last obvious spring migrant T Adams 8 Jun; max 6 MM 5 Jun likely migrants & breeders; fall migrants arr T Lyonsdale 23 Aug.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** many adults feeding y FD 15-30 Aug.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max on breeding grounds 7 MM 5 Jun; last obvious northbound migrant FD 10 Jun; FD 31 Aug only obvious southbound migrant.

**Alder Flycatcher:** max 46 FD 8 Jun.

**Willow Flycatcher:** max 20 FD 12 Jun.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** T Fine 14 Jun & MM 19 Jul only breeding season reports; arr Baker Woods Preserve 20 Aug.

**Canada Jay:** max 5 Cranberry L Wild Forest 17 Jul.

**Horned Lark:** different locations FD 4 Jun & 7 Jul; T Canton 31 Jul; only reports.

**Boreal Chickadee:** no reports despite much effort MM and other sites where nested recently.

**Sedge Wren:** singles at 3 locations T Canton Jun & Jul (BD, JB, mob); 2 AFWMA 17 Jul (SK); PRWMA 13 Jun where 2 19 Jun (SM, PL, PR); max 4 terr FD where ad feeding juv 24 Jul (JB); low.

**Carolina Wren:** Murry I 10-12 Jul & T Hammond 8-9 Aug only reports.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 5 LBSF 4 Jul.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** breeding confirmed 6 block all in Adirondacks.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** many reports MM where max 3 15 Jun; 3 other locations T Fine.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 4 MM multiple dates; Clarkson Univ 27 Aug only report outside Adirondacks & Tug Hill.

**Northern Mockingbird:** multiple reports FD where nest w 4 y 4 Aug; CBN 29 Jun (RS) only report elsewhere.

**Evening Grosbeak:** Cranberry L Wild Forest 17 Jul (JM, LS) only report.

**Purple Finch:** max 11 T Croghan 11 Jul.

**Red Crossbill:** 15 reports mostly Adirondacks but several reports from lowlands Aug; max 6 Brantingham L 9 Aug.

**White-winged Crossbill:** MM 9 Jun (JC); T Constableville 28 Jun (JA, DE).

**Pine Siskin:** MM 6 Aug & L Ozonia 22 Aug only reports.

## NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** max 19 FD 28 Jun.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** max 27 FD 6 Jul.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 21 FD 3 Jul.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** 4 CBN thru 27 Jul (mob); max 6 PRWMA Jun & Jul; only reports!  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 11 MM 18 Jul.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 2 locations T Henderson 5-9 Jun & 3 Jul only reports (SA).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** Janack's Landing trail T Fine 28 Jun & 7 Aug (BC); 2 MM 9 Jun & 18 Jul (JC, JM, LS); only reports.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** T Rodman 6 Jun (SK); WGSP 14-16 Jun (SM, PL); Downerville SF thru 16 Jul SF (mob).  
**Northern Waterthrush:** ad carrying food FD 29 Jul only breeding confirmation R6.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** breeding confirmed 4 blocks R6; max 8 LBSF 6 Jun.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** breeding confirmed CBN & 7 atlas blocks FD; max 13 FD 3 Jun.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** f performing distraction display FD 3 Jun; 17 from 10 locations Jun & Jul.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** male carrying food FD 1 Jul.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** Horseshoe Bog 13 Jun (LF) & MM 18 Jul (JM, LS) only breeding season reports; ICNC 8 Aug surely early migrant (VR, SS); main arr T Potsdam 26 Aug.

**Mourning Warbler:** breeding confirmed WEP, 2 blocks FD, 2 blocks T Colton; max 13 WEP 15 Jul.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 8 reports from at least 5 locations T Ellisburg where max 4 WEP 15 Jul inc only breeding confirmation R6; CBN 5 Jun only other report.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr Murray I 16 Aug.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** ad f feeding juv T Dekalb 26 Jul; begging juv FD 27 Jul.  
**Northern Parula:** different locations FD 13 Jun & 21 Jul; CBN 14 Jun; CV 18 Jul; more than usual outside Adirondacks.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** CBN thru 7 Jul (mob) & nearby T Brownville 7 Jun (JM, LS) only reports in L Ontario Plain or St. Lawrence Valley.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr RRT 27 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last spring migrant T Henderson 3 Jun; early southbound arr WEP 9 Aug.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** breeding confirmed 9 blocks all in Adirondacks.  
**Palm Warbler:** breeding confirmed MM & Horseshoe bog; present 6 blocks R6.  
**Prairie Warbler:** max 26 FD 7 Jun.  
**Canada Warbler:** max 12 MM 1 Jun.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr RRT 27 Aug.  
**WESTERN TANAGER:** T Henderson feeders 30 Jun (JW, photos!) 1<sup>st</sup> regional record.



## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

**Bill Krueger**

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Rainfall for June was not evenly distributed across Region 7. The lower Champlain Valley was the driest with only 1-2" on average. The upper Valley and most of Essex County along with portions of Franklin and Hamilton Counties received 2-3". The northwestern section of the Region got 3-4". Temperatures in June were near normal over most of the Region except for the northern quarter which averaged 1-3° above normal.

July rainfall for all of Region 7 averaged 1-2" with a few scattered patches where the average was 2-3" or even 3-4". The month was also warmer than normal with temperatures averaging 3-5° hotter over most of the Region and 5-7° warmer along the border with Canada.

August was bookended by the remnants of Hurricanes *Isaias* in the first days and *Laura* in the last, both now downgraded to Tropical Storms. *Laura*'s impacts were compounded by a front from the upper Midwest, but still it was a minor event. *Isaias* had a major impact with two days of rain, most of it hard. This is borne out in the dramatic increase of the level of Lake Champlain (see below) and the more than doubling of the average rainfall for August to 5-6" in most places, and up to 6-7" in the Champlain Valley and an area that surrounded Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. On average, August temperatures were very close to normal, +/-1°, over most of Region 7. The exception was a small portion along the border with Canada where they averaged 1-3° warmer than normal. It is unknown how likely it is that the Brown Booby, first reported 14 August, was an *Isaias* driven bird.

In June the water level of Lake Champlain continued the steady drop started in May. It began at 96.6' on 1 June and declined almost linearly to 95.1' on 30 June. After leveling off for two or three days, it resumed a shallower decline to 94.4' at the beginning of August. Then heavy rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm *Isaias* added 0.4', after which it began a slow decline to 94.3' on 31 August. In early June these water levels were favorable for shorebirds at the Chazy Riverlands, but the northward migration was well past its peak. In August the mud flats there were dry and covered with vegetation. Once again the southward migration was best observed at Noblewood Park.

One of the three **Trumpeter Swans** found at Lake Alice this spring was last seen on 2 June. The more than two dozen sightings, many of them multiple, of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** from separate locations suggest an explosive season for this species in Region 7. A check of eBird records in the twenty years from 2000 to 2019 turned up only ten records, an average of one every two years. There were several reports of **Sandhill Crane** from its known breeding site in the Tupper Lake area as well as a flyover in Saranac Lake and a pair seen in the Gabriels vicinity on three separate occasions. The discovery of an **Upland Sandpiper** by an out of state birder was the first report of this bird in Region 7 since 2010, and, according to eBird, only the third since 2000. Once uncommon but reliable in well known spots, it has all but disappeared from the area. With the advent of hyper-intensive farming practices, hedge rows and windbreaks were destroyed. Pastures, all unused fields, and even former dirt roads were tilled and put to the plow. The last reliable area was a field so marginal that after a year or two of cultivation it was allowed to go fallow again. But the damage had been done. The **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** found at Noblewood Park was only the fourth since 2000 and the seventh overall for Region 7. Of these, four were within a week of Labor Day suggesting the best time look for this species. A rare **Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull hybrid**, first documented in 2019, was found again in July and August. Derek Rogers wrote the following:

“An apparent Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull hybrid that was photographed and described the previous summer on 24 August 2019, sporadically continued at the mouth of the Boquet River at Noblewood Park....

Little is known about this rare hybrid combo and this appears to be the first documented occurrence in the Lake Champlain basin.”

A **Brown Booby**, first reported 14 August from Indian Lake in Hamilton County, was seen almost daily by many observers until 22 August. As unlikely as it may seem, this is not the first record for Region 7. The first was in August of 2018 from Long Lake just to the north and also in Hamilton County. The only report of **Golden Eagle** was of an adult soaring over Carpenter’s Flats in Clinton County. The first sightings of **Clay-colored Sparrow** since 2011 were reported from two locations, one in Franklin County and the other in Essex County. Since 2000 only a single record is listed in eBird for Region 7. There are records from 2002 and 2011 in Clinton County (where it has bred) that were not reported to eBird. For the first time since 2006 **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at two closely spaced locations nearly a month apart. Region 7 was once home to a colony of 17 individuals (M. Gretch, *The Kingbird* 2006; 56.2) on what had been Plattsburgh Air Force Base, but is now Plattsburgh International Airport. This species has been all but extirpated from the Region.

**CORRECTION**—In *The KINGBIRD*, Vol. 70, No. 3, p. 284, the sentence, “Gordon Howard reported that 641 individuals of fifteen species were banded...” should read: “Gordon Howard reported that 641 individuals of 61 species were banded in the two weeks of operation.”

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AFT** – Art Farm Tract; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **Bdl** – Bloomingdale; **BKT** – Black Kettle Trail; **Bom** – Bombay; **BRd** – Blue Ridge Rd; **BRM** – Boquet Ri mouth; **BRR** – Bull Rock

Rd; **CF** – Carpenter’s Flats; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CMt** – Cascade Mt; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CPd** – Connery Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRd** – Cemetery Rd; **CRv** – Chubb Ri; **DM** – Dalton Mt; **DmR** – Dumont Rd; **EB** – Eagle Bay; **EL** – Eagle L; **EP** – Ensign Pd; **Es** – Essex; **FC** – Fort Covington; **FO** – Fegiel Overlook; **FSP** – 1st & 2nd Ponds; **Gb** – Gabriels; **GCB** – Gadway Cement Barrens; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **HPd** – Horseshoe Pd; **HRd** – Hogback Rd; **ILk** – Indian L; **JPd** – Johnson Pd; **KMR** – Keese Mills Rd; **KV** – Keene Valley; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LLk** – Limekiln L; **LnP** – Lincoln Pd; **LP** – Lake Placid; **LMt** – Lyon Mt; **Mac** – Macomb Mt; **Mad** – Madawaska; **MB** – Montys Bay WMA; **MFR** – Miner Flat Rock; **MLk** – Meacham L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MRCE** – Middle Rd, Conservation Easement; **MtA** – Mount Adams; **MV** – Mountain View; **NE** – North Elba; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NR** – New Russia; **OH** – Owls Head; **OPd** – Osgood Pd; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd; **OT** – Onciota Trail; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Plattsburgh; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RFR** – Reagan Flats Rd; **RLk** – Raquet L; **SB** – Sabattis Bay; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **ScL** – Schroon L; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **SPB** – Spring Pd Bog; **SRd** – Shattuck Rd; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **TPd** – Taylor Pd; **VI** – Valcour I; **WA** – Wadams; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WI** – Willsboro; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Wilsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WV** – Westville.

#### **WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Mute Swan:** 2 EB 28 Jul (BC).  
**TRUMPETER SWAN:** LA 2 Jun (ABd, ph).  
**Wood Duck:** 6 AM 28 Jun (NT), Co-FL; 81 LCTM 21 Jul (SR).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 8 CR 22 Aug (SR).  
**Gadwall:** 6 CH 8 Aug (BK, SJ), Co-FL.  
**American Wigeon:** BB 10 Jun (SG).  
**Green-winged Teal:** 2 PS 18 Jul (JS), Co-FL.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 7 SP 12 Jul (BM), Co-FL.  
**Bufflehead:** LLk 16 Jun (GL), only report.  
**Common Goldeneye:** 23 VI 6 Jul (KMc).  
**Hooded Merganser:** GCB 28 Jun (MM), Co-DD.  
**Common Merganser:** 12 CH 8 Jul (BK, SJ), Co-FL; 26 FSP 27 Jul (CB).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 2 Es 3 Jun (MM, DRg).  
**Ruffed Grouse:** 5 BB 19 Jul (JM), Co-FL.  
**Wild Turkey:** 12 TPd 28 Jun (JS), Co-FL.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** 3 SP 10 Jul (BM), Co-FL.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** WP 2 Jun (MM); SL 25 Jun (AB).  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 3 AFT 25 Jun (DRg).  
**Common Nighthawk:** 9 MFR 6 Jul (JH).  
**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** 5 GCB 4 Jul (SR).

**Chimney Swift:** 2 EL 13 Jul (SR), Co-ON.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 3 HPd 17 Jul (JM).

#### **RAILS – TROPICBIRDS**

**Virginia Rail:** 3 AM 12 Jul (JB), Co-FL.  
**Sora:** 2 CL 20 Jun (JH).  
**Common Gallinule:** 4 PC 4 Jul (SR), Co-FL; 4 CR 22 Aug (SR), Co-FL.  
**SANDHILL CRANE (R7):** 2 TL 5-18 Jul (GB, SB, TB); SL 12 Aug (JS); 2 Gb 23-25 Aug (FC).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** no reports.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 Peru 10 Aug (SR).  
**Killdeer:** 15 WP 16 Jul (SR), Co-FL.  
**UPLAND SANDPIPER (R7):** DmR 23 Aug (SF).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** NP 27-31 Aug (SR, mo).  
**Sanderling:** NP 23 Jul (SR).  
**Baird’s Sandpiper:** 2 NP 29 Aug (DRg).  
**Least Sandpiper:** WV 16 Jul (SF).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** NP 17 Jul (SR); 2 BRM 9 Aug (DRg).  
**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (R7):** NP 31 Aug (MM, SR).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** BRM 9 Aug (DRg); BRM 29 Aug (DRg).  
**Sempalmated Sandpiper:** 3 PH 4 Jun (SR).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** no reports.  
**American Woodcock:** 3 SB 13 Jul (TH).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** 6 TL 15 Jun (ABk).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** 9 VI 6 Jul (KMc); 15 VI 31 Aug (KMc).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** 2 LCTM 21 Jul (SR).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** WP 16 Jul (SR).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 HB 14 Jul (RB).  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** OPd 1 Aug (BMc&CV).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** NP 17 Jul (SR).  
**Little Gull:** 1-4 BRM 29 Jul-27 Aug (DRg, mo); WP 30 Aug (DRg).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** 2 CP 26 Aug (SR).  
**HERRING GULL X GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** NP 28 Jul-10 Aug (DRg, ph).  
**Caspian Tern:** max 146 NP 8 Aug (MM); 21 CR 22 Aug (SR).  
**Black Tern:** FC 4 Jun (SR); NP 29 Aug (DRg).  
**Common Tern:** max 150 WPt 30 Aug (DRg); 95 NP 23 Jul (SR).

#### LOONS – PARAKEET

**Common Loon:** 5 NP 6 Jun (SR).  
**BROWN BOOBY:** ILk 14-22 Aug (RS).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 700 NP 17 Aug (N&PH).  
**American Bittern:** 3 SP 10 Jul (BM), Co-FY.  
**Least Bittern:** WM 20 Jun (RB).  
**Great Blue Heron:** 22 LCTM 19 Aug (SR).  
**Great Egret:** 4 AP 5 Aug (OS).  
**Green Heron:** 3 EL 8 Aug (SR), Co-FL.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 4 LCTM 19 Aug (SR).  
**Black Vulture:** Peru 14 Jun (DR), rare Clin.  
**Turkey Vulture:** 15 CRd 20 Jul (J&PT).  
Osprey: 5 AM 24 Jun (AM).  
**GOLDEN EAGLE (R7):** CF 17 Aug (DR).  
**Northern Harrier:** 3 Bom 11 Jul (AB).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 2 BB 25 Jul (AB), Co-FL.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** 5 TL 19 Aug (EF).  
**Northern Goshawk:** MFR 4 Jun (SR); SbB 12 Jun (JC, GL).  
**Bald Eagle:** MV 2 Jul (JT), Co-NY.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 2 HRd 7 Jul (SR).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 3 PS 23 Jul (JB), Co-FL.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 3 TI 22 Jul (MMr), Co-FL.  
**Eastern Screech Owl:** no reports.  
**Great Horned Owl:** 3 ILk 15 Jun (MMo).

**Barred Owl:** DM 20 Jul (AB), Co-FL.  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** BRd 9 Jun (JC).  
**Belted Kingfisher:** 6 AM 11 Jul (LM), Co-FL.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 3 PC 4 Jul (SR), Co-FL.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 6 SLB 3 Jul (AB), Co-FL.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 3 JPd 17 Jun (RR).  
**Northern Flicker:** 3 SL 13 Jun (BMc).  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 KV 1 Aug (LM).  
**American Kestrel:** 2 Es 31 Jul (J&PT).  
**Merlin:** 3 LnP 29 Jun (SR).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 VI 3 Jul (KMc), Co-FL.

#### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 4 PtF 1 Aug (SR).  
**Eastern Kingbird:** 4 RLk 29 Jun (SH).  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 4 OT 29 Jul (JB).  
**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 5 AM 10 Aug (SR).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 3 MtA 23 Jul (GB), Co-FL.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** 4 LA 17 Jun (BK).  
**Willow Flycatcher:** FC 4 Jun (SR).  
**Least Flycatcher:** 6 MB 25 Jul (OS).  
**Eastern Phoebe:** 4 PS 25 Jul (RH).  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 3 LCTM 21 Jul (SR), Co-FL.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** 4 SL 19 Aug (GS), Co-FL.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** NP 1 Jun (MM); 2 CP 16 Aug (KMc).  
**Warbling Vireo:** 6 AM 1 Jul (KMc).  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** 14 PS 18 Jul (AG).  
**Canada Jay:** 7 BB 18 Jul (LS).  
**Fish Crow:** 2 ScL 11 Jun (SR).  
**Common Raven:** 8 MLk 18 Jul (JMc), Co-FL.  
**Horned Lark:** 2 SL 28 Aug (JS).  
**Purple Martin:** 11 CP 11 Aug (SR); FC 1 Aug (AB), Co-CF.  
**Tree Swallow:** 21 AM 28 Jul (OS).  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 7 CPd 14 Jul (RB).  
**Bank Swallow:** 2 NP 17 Jul (DRg).  
**Cliff Swallow:** 18 SL 23 Jun (LM).  
**Barn Swallow:** 25 BRR 10 Jul (MC), Co-FL.  
**Boreal Chickadee:** 4 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).  
**Tufted Titmouse:** 5 BRR 12 Aug (MC).  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 7 SL 18 Jul (SF), Co-FL.  
**Brown Creeper:** 2 LP 2 Jun (MC), Co-NB.  
**House Wren:** 5 CP 16 Jul (SR).  
**Winter Wren:** 11 WMt 18 Jun (ST).  
**Sedge Wren:** 2-4 MRCE 3-20 Jun (DRg, MM).  
**Marsh Wren:** 26 LCTM 9 Jul (SR), Co-CF.



**Carolina Wren:** PL 10 Jul (NO, MS); 2 MM 2 Aug (SR), Co-CF.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 5 LCTM 21 Jul (SR), Co-FL.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** LMt 26 Jun (AM); 10 OPR 14 Jul (SF), Co-CF.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 6 Mac 6 Jul (GD).  
**Eastern Bluebird:** 4 Gb 18 Aug (EG).  
**Veery:** BB 9 Aug (BMc), Co-CF.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 5 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** 8 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).  
**Hermit Thrush:** 19 GCB 28 Jun (MM).  
**Wood Thrush:** 5 KMR 25 Jul (RH).  
**Gray Catbird:** 4 PtF 1 Aug (SR).  
**Brown Thrasher:** 4 Bom 9 Jun (AB).  
**Northern Mockingbird:** 4 MR 27 Jun (ABd).  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 30 GCB 28 Jun (MM).  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 12 NR 12 Aug (ET).  
**Purple Finch:** 3 BRR 13 Aug (G&MC), Co-FL.  
**Red Crossbill:** 18 GCB 28 Jun (MM); 35 WMt 4 JUL (LW).  
**Pine Siskin:** 2 WMt 13 Jul (SF), Co-CF.

**NEW WORLD – SPARROWS –  
 CARDINALIDS**

**Eastern Towhee:** 4 PtR 8 Jun (KA).  
**Chipping Sparrow:** 30 NR 15 Aug (SR), Co-FY.  
**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R7):** Gb 20-30 June (AB); WA 6-8 Jul (M&PF), rare.  
**Field Sparrow:** 5 PtR 8 Jun (KA).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 7 WP 9 Jun (SR).  
**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7):** WI 4 Jun (MM); WBR 1 Jul-12 Aug (DRg), rare.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** SL 27 Aug (AB), Co-FL.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 12 EP 10 Jul (SR), Co-FL.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 9 BB 19 Jul (JMc), Co-CF.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** CMt 18 Aug (MK), early.  
**Bobolink:** 15 WP 2 Jun (RB).  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** 7 NP 26 Aug (OS).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** 5 BRR 12 Aug (MC).  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 12 AM 11 Aug (OS).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 4 CRv 7 Jun (ET).  
**Ovenbird:** 11 SPB 14 Jul (GB).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 2 BKT 5 Jun 9 (DRg, ph); LCTM 9 Jul (SR).  
**Northern Waterthrush:** 5 CRv 2 Jul (SR), Co-CF.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** WP 2 Jun (MM).  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** WI 2 Jun (DRg); MRCE 3-6 Jun (DRg, MM); WRS 18 Jun (RB).  
**Brewster's Warbler:** 2 WI 2 Jun (DRg), RFR 9 Jun (AB).  
**Black and White Warbler:** 4 GCB 28 Jun (MM).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** 2 BB 24 Jun (DV).  
**Nashville Warbler:** 10 GCB 28 Jun (MM).  
**Connecticut Warbler:** TI 27 Aug (MMr), rare.  
**Mourning Warbler:** LP 19 Jul (AG), Co-FY.  
**Common Yellowthroat:** 11 BPD 17 Jun (SR).  
**American Redstart:** 2 WP 16 Jul (SR), Co-FL.  
**Cape May Warbler:** NE 24 Jul (AB), Co-FL.  
**Northern Parula:** 4 Bdl 16 Jun (JS).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** 9 MP 27 Jun (BB).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Bd 19 Aug (MK).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** BRR 10 Jul (MC), Co-CF.  
**Yellow Warbler:** 7 LA 4 Jul (GR).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 2 EL 8 Aug (SR), Co-FL.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** 9 WMt 10 Jun (JCI).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 12 LMt 6 Jul (EM).  
**Palm Warbler:** 3 Mad 8 Jul (SM, PL), Co-CF.  
**Pine Warbler:** 4 MFR 4 Jun (SR).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 14 WMt 18 Jun (ST).  
**Prairie Warbler:** TI 9 Jun (GC); 2 CP 24 Aug (SR).  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 10 LMt 6 Jul (EM).  
**Canada Warbler:** 2 Mad 8 Jul (SM, PL), Co-CF.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** OH 16 Jul (SO).  
**Scarlet Tanager:** 3 SRd 12 Jun G&MC).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 3 LCTM 15 Jun (SR).  
**Indigo Bunting:** 2 FO 6 Aug (G&MC), Co-FL.



## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	70.8°	67.2°	+3.6°	65.6°	35.6°	+1.3°
Jul	75.9°	71.8°	+4.1°	72.9°	30.6°	+4.1°
Aug	68.8°	70.1°	-1.3°	67.9°	32.8°	+0.9°

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	1.98"	3.79"	-1.81"	1.79"	3.55"	-1.76"
Jul	3.57"	4.12"	-0.55"	3.04"	4.09"	-1.05"
Aug	6.07"	3.46"	+2.61"	5.61"	3.68"	+1.93"

The weather in June 2020 was characterized by above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation, which exacerbated ongoing abnormally dry/drought conditions in the Region. A four-day heat wave occurred on 20-23 June. July continued with the heat, but at least there was a more regular distribution of showers and thunderstorms. At Albany, every July day featured a high at or above 80° F. August offered some relief with near-normal temperatures and an abundance of rainfall, much of it due to the passage of Tropical Storm *Isaias* on 4 August.

For the second consecutive year **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** was reported in Region 8. A flock of seven birds was observed at Six Mile Waterworks in the City of Albany on 31 August by Susan Beckhardt. Her original report was submitted to iNaturalist, and the birding community was unaware of their presence until a week had passed and the ducks had moved on.

A **Chuck-will's-widow** was seen and heard in Cossackie, Greene County, in early June. The property-owner said that the bird had been present for two weeks and had been heard the previous summer as well.

On 2 August, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein and Jim de Waal Malefyt were scanning Cohoes Flats for shorebirds when a flock of eleven **Whimbrel** touched down. The birds preened and bathed for twenty minutes, then continued south. This appears to be the fourth record for the Region.

The record tropical-cyclone season in the Atlantic basin brought Tropical Storm *Isaias*, now downgraded from hurricane status, up the east coast of the United States and inland across the mid-Atlantic states. The center of the system passed just west of the Capital District of New York and northward into Canada. Birders were alert for tropical/ocean-based birds to be carried into or deposited through the area, and **Sooty Tern** was indeed observed along the Hudson River in two locations. Dr. Bill Cook of the Alan DeVoe Bird Club summarized it

thusly: “Sooty Terns were carried north to the Hudson River this month by hurricane Isaias. Will Yandik saw one at Lasher Park in Germantown on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Rich Guthrie saw one at Hudson on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Normally found no further north than the Gulf of Mexico, they are a very rare vagrant in New York almost always following a tropical storm. Our last club record was in September 1979 when hurricane David, the “most intense” hurricane on record up to that time, brought over 100 Sooty Terns to eastern New York and Long Island.”

Alan Mapes photographed a handsome adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** at his feeders near Saratoga Springs on 4 June. Not to be outdone, on the following day Susan Beaudoin lamented, “My son-in-law photographed a **Blue Grosbeak** at our feeders this morning. It stayed about five minutes, feeding with a titmouse. Very unfortunately, I was not at home. I’ve been staring at the feeder for hours with no luck.”

204 species were reported during the period.

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## 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** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Pres, 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 Pres, 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 Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

## WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK:** 7 Six Mile Waterworks, Albany ALBA 31 Aug (S. Beckhardt), *intro*.

**Snow Goose:** Henry Hudson P ALBA 8 Jun.

**Mute Swan:** max 2 Coeymans Landing ALBA 17 Jun.

**Wood Duck:** 58 BCR 12 Jun; 46 VFNHP 25 Aug.

**American Black Duck:** 8 Schuylerville SARA 7 Jul; 6 Carters Pond WMA WASH 6 Aug.

**Northern Pintail:** 2 S Johnsbury WARR 10 Aug.

**Green-winged Teal:** 5 TR 31 Aug.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 3 CRM 28 Aug.

**Greater Scaup:** Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 3-31 Aug.

**Hooded Merganser:** 10 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 13 Jul; 8 S Johnsbury WARR 13 Jun.

**Common Merganser:** 37 Yankee Hill Lock MONT 30 Jun.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 17 Jul.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 10 Tower Rd, Hadley SARA 17 Jul; 8 Plateau Mt GREE 26 Jun; 7 Bear Swamp Pres, Westerlo ALBA 14 Jun.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 5 Catskill View Pres COLU 8 Jun, ad with juv.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 3 Plotterkill Pres SCHE 9 Jul; 3 Babcock L RENS 27 Jun; 3 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 8 Jun.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2 FR 2 Jul; 2 CRM 9 Aug; 2 Prospect MT WARR 10 Jul.

**Common Nighthawk:** 58 Albany ALBA 21 Aug; 41 Albany ALBA 24 Aug; 15 Schenectady SCHE 28 Aug; 15 Colonie ALBA 28 Aug; 10 APBP 25 Aug.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW:** Coxsackie GREE 4-7 Jun, *intro*.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** 4 North Creek WARR 4 Jun; 4 Luther Forest SARA 25 Jul; 4 Coeymans Hollow ALBA 8 Jun.

**Chimney Swift:** 50 CF 19 Aug.

## RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**Virginia Rail:** max 13 Tamarac Marsh RENS 5 Jun.

**Sora:** Princetown SCHE 9 Jun; Carlisle SCHO 14 Jun; Argyle WASH 14 Jul; Clemons Marsh WASH 30 Jul; CRM 28 Aug.

**Common Gallinule:** max 7 Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 22 Jul; Clemons Marsh WASH 30 Jul.

**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 CF 3 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 8 CF 2 Aug.

**Killdeer:** 46 TR 5 Aug.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 2 W Ames Rd, Canajoharie MONT 21 Jun.

**WHIMBREL (R8):** 11 CF 2 Aug (ZS-W, JdWM), *intro*.

**Sanderling:** CF 4 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** CF 23-24 Aug.

**Least Sandpiper:** max 25 CF 25 Aug.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** CF 3-4 Aug; Stanton Pd ALBA 8 Aug; CF 19 Aug; L George WARR 20 Aug.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 2 CF 3-4 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 15 CF 24 Aug.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** CF 21-22 Jul.

**American Woodcock:** max 5 Schodack I SP RENS 8 Jun; Altamont ALBA 12 Jun.

**Wilson's Snipe:** max 5 Ft Plain MONT 12 Jul; Charleston MONT 24 Aug.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 16 Lock 4 Champlain Canal RENS 4 Jul.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 5 Charleston MONT 23 Aug.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 10 CF 23 Aug.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 5 CF 23-24 Aug.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 2 Saratoga L SARA 30 Jun; Germantown COLU 22 Jul; Round L SARA 30 Aug.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 695 CF 26 Aug.

**Herring Gull:** max 10 L George WARR 28 Aug.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** CF 14 Aug, rare in summer.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 2 CF 3 Aug; L George WARR 8 Aug & 20 Aug.

**SOOTY TERN:** Germantown COLU 4 Aug; Hudson COLU 5 Aug, *intro*.

**Caspian Tern:** 8 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 31 Jul; 3 Coeymans Landing ALBA 9 Jul; 2 Saratoga L SARA 24 Jun; CF 9 Aug; Athens GREE 18 Aug.

## LOONS – PARAKEET

**Common Loon:** max 10 L George WARR 15 Jul.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 97 TR 9 Jul.  
**American White Pelican:** Hudson COLU 21-25 Jul.

**American Bittern:** max 2 FtEG 5 Jun; Edinburg SARA 8 Jun.

**Least Bittern:** max 5 Clemons Marsh WASH 22 Jul.

**Great Blue Heron:** 22 Whitehall WASH 2 Jul; 19 Henry Hudson P ALBA 12 Jul.

**Great Egret:** max 64 CF 17 Aug, high count.

**Little Blue Heron:** Pine Plains COLU 24-31 Jul.  
**Green Heron:** max 9 BCM 18 Jul.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 2 CF 27 Aug; 1 FR 14 Aug; Putnam WASH 23 Aug; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 27 Aug.  
**Glossy Ibis:** Great Vly WMA GREE 13 Jul.  
**Black Vulture:** max 112 Coeymans ALBA 3 Jul.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 37 Warrensburg WARR 16 Jul.  
**Osprey:** max 7 Dresden WASH 22 Jul.  
**Northern Harrier:** 3 FtEG 5 Jun; Kingsbury WASH 28 Jul; OCA 26 Aug.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 4 Washington P ALBA 8 Jul.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 7 Athens GREE 4 Aug.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 5 Elka P GREE 15 Aug.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 5 Grafton Lakes SP RENS 15 Aug.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 6 SNHP 8 Jun.  
**Eastern Screech-Owl:** max 3 Kinderhook COLU 19 Aug.  
**Great Horned Owl:** max 4 Cairo GREE 11 Jun.  
**Barred Owl:** max 4 mult loc.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** max 5 Round L SARA 13 Aug.  
**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R8):** Saratoga Springs SARA 4 Jun, *intro*.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 9 Normanskill Farm ALBA 20 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 18 Petersburg RENS 16 Jun.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** max 12 Normanskill Farm ALBA 10 Jul.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 6 mult loc.  
**Northern Flicker:** max 9 BCM 26 Jul.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** 4 BCM 26 Jul.  
**American Kestrel:** max 10 Fultonville MONT 18 Aug.  
**Merlin:** max 4 Glenville SCHE 26 Jul.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** max 4 Troy RENS 10 Jun; Vromans Nose SCHO 22 Jun.

#### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 8 Mildred Denton Wildlife Sanc WASH 9 Jun.  
**Eastern Kingbird:** max 15 Kingsbury WASH 9 Jul.  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Amy's P WARR 5 Jul; Ghent COLU 15 Aug; CRM 15 Aug; Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 25 Aug; APBP 26 Aug; E Hoosick RENS 27 Aug.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 18 Albert Fam Comm Forest RENS 26 Jul; 14 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 8 Jun; 12 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 27 Jun.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 6 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun; Colonie ALBA 11 Aug; 2 APBP 21 Aug; Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 25 Aug.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** Rensselaerville SF ALBA 8-16 Jun.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** max 15 BMB 7 Jun; last Stratford FULT 29 Aug.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** max 15 BCM 10 Jun; last Papscahee I SP RENS 26 Aug.  
**Least Flycatcher:** max 13 Boice Fam P SARA 15 Jun.  
**Eastern Phoebe:** max 14 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 21 Aug.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 8 Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 8 Jun.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 10 Stephentown RENS 21 Jul.  
**Warbling Vireo:** max 20 VFNHP 20 Jun.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 59 Rensselaer Forest Trail RENS 16 Jun.  
**Fish Crow:** max 25 Stockport Flats COLU 6 Aug.  
**Common Raven:** max 13 Poestenkill RENS 7 Jun.  
**Purple Martin:** max 7 Saratoga L SARA 8 Jul; 6 Henry Hudson P ALBA 9 Aug.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 1500 Catskill View Pres COLU 13 Aug.  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** max 73 APBP 24 Aug.  
**Bank Swallow:** max 140 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 1 Jun.  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 27 Middleburgh SCHO 1 Aug.  
**Barn Swallow:** max 60 Warren Cty Arpt WARR 15 Jul.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 55 Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 28 Aug.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 25 Boice Fam P SARA 15 Jun.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 25 Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 25 Aug.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 13 Wilton Wildlife P SARA 27 Jun.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 7 Lake Luzerne WARR 16 Jun.  
**House Wren:** max 8 Garnsey P SARA 25 Jun.  
**Winter Wren:** max 7 Edinburg SARA 8 Jun; Hunter GREE 20 Jun.  
**Marsh Wren:** max 30 BCM 7 Jun.

**Carolina Wren:** max 10 Normanskill Farm ALBA 25 Jun.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max 8 VFNHP 13 Aug.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 6 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 2 Plateau Mt GREE 27 Jun.  
**Eastern Bluebird:** max 11 Hillsdale COLU 16 Aug.  
**Veery:** max 51 BMB 26 Jun.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** max 3 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** max 6 Hunter Mt GREE 13 Jun.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 14 Hunter Mt GREE 20 Jun.  
**Wood Thrush:** max 12 Kingsbury WASH 8 Jul.  
**Gray Catbird:** max 41 Corkscrew Rail Trail COLU 21 Aug.  
**Brown Thrasher:** max 5 Stuyvesant COLU 8 Jul.  
**Northern Mockingbird:** max 5 Stuyvesant COLU 8 Jul.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 100 Jefferson SCHO 5 Aug.  
**House Sparrow:** max 51 Colonie ALBA 28 Aug.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 Hunter GREE 4 Jul; one Albert Family Comm Forest RENS 21 Jul.  
**Purple Finch:** max 19 Providence SARA 27 Aug.  
**Red Crossbill:** max 17 Thurman WARR 16 Jul.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 3 Grafton RENS 16 Aug.  
**American Goldfinch:** max 73 OCA 3 Aug.

#### NEW WORLD – SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** max 16 Taconic SP COLU 6 Jul; APBP 28 Jul.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** max 29 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 27 Jun.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 3 Ft Plain MONT 16 Aug; singletons Hoosick RENS 14 Jun; FtEG 19 Jul.  
**Field Sparrow:** max 19 Stillwater SARA 31 Jul.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 Stuyvesant COLU 18 Jun; Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 23 Jun; Saratoga Springs SARA 4 Jul.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 23 OCA 23 Jun.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 3 Albany Int Arpt ALBA 3 Jun; 3 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 5 Jun; 3 Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 23

Jun; 3 Maalwyck P SCHE 6 Jul; singletons Claverack COLU 7 Jun; FtEG 13 Jun; Ancram COLU 21 Jun; Knox ALBA 23 Jun; OCA 29 Jun; Saratoga Springs SARA 17 Jul; W Cossackie GREE 20 Jul.  
**Song Sparrow:** max 44 Normanskill Farm ALBA 10 Jul.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Garnet L WARR 16 Jul; Galway L SARA 22 Aug.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** max 85 BMB 26 Jun.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 9 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 26 Jun.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 25 Cairo GREE 11 Jun.  
**Bobolink:** max 150 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 25 Aug; 80 Livingston COLU 14 Aug; 68 OCA 17 Jun.  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** 9 FtEG 5 Jun; 6 SNHP 8 Jun.  
**Orchard Oriole:** max 5 SNHP 8 Jun.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** max 18 Babcock L RENS 11 Jul.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 500 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 6 Aug.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 48 Colonie ALBA 21 Aug.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 3 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 20 Aug.  
**Common Grackle:** max 200 Fultonville MONT 2 Aug.  
**Ovenbird:** max 43 Rensselaerville Forest Trail RENS 16 Jun.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** max 4 Alander Mt Trail COLU 7 Jun; Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 8 Jun.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** max 4 Valatie COLU 6 Aug.  
**Northern Waterthrush:** max 4 Hoosick RENS 25 Jun.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** 2 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 15 Aug; singleton Putnam WASH 2 Jun.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 6 OCA 3 Jun.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 3 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 30 Jul; singletons Garney P SARA 3 Jun; Putnam WASH 14 Jul.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** Whitehall WASH 6 Jun.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 8 Berlin Mt RENS 21 Jun.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** Surrender March Trail SARA 1-6 Jun.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** Lake Luzerne WARR 15 Jun, late migrant; arr Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 29 Aug.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 4 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 17 Jun; Amy's P WARR 21 Jun; Shaker Mt Forest FULT 21 Jul.

**Mourning Warbler:** max 2 Hague WARR 12 Jun; Summit SCHO 17 Jun; Fulton SCHO 22 Jun.

**Common Yellowthroat:** max 38 BMB 26 Jun.

**Hooded Warbler:** max 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 31 Jul.

**American Redstart:** max 86 Papscahee I SP RENS 4 Jun.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr 2 Gull Bay Pres WASH 14 Aug, early; New Lebanon COLU 27 Aug; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 27 Aug; Keleher Pres ALBA 28 Aug.

**Cerulean Warbler:** max 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 2 Jun.

**Northern Parula:** max 4 Thurman WARR 6 Jun.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 6 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun; Edinburg SARA 8 Jun; Burnt-Rossmann Hills SF SCHO 15 Jun.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Hague WARR 25 Aug.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** max 15 Hunter Mt GREE 4 Jul; Bolton WARR 4 Jul.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 38 Wilbur Rd Towpath Trail SARA 6 Jun.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 20 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 20 Jun.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 22 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 12 Johnsburg WARR 4 Jul.

**Pine Warbler:** max 10 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 27 Jun.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 14 Plateau Mt GREE 6 Jun.

**Prairie Warbler:** max 6 APBP 16 Jun.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 20 Hunter Mt GREE 13 Jul.

**Canada Warbler:** max 6 Edinburg SARA 8 Jun; Corkscrew Rail Trail RENS 1 Aug.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Charlton SARA 21 Aug.

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 17 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 21 Jun.

**Northern Cardinal:** max 16 Henry Hudson P ALBA 13 Jun.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 12 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 20 Jun.

**BLUE GROSBEAK:** Stillwater SARA 5 Jun, *intro*.

**Indigo Bunting:** max 8 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 14 Jun.



## REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The National Weather Service records from Poughkeepsie reported a high temperature of 92° F on 22 June and a low of 39° on 1 June. Temperatures overall averaged 3.4° above normal. Rainfall for the month was 1.12", 3.31" below normal, resulting in a warm, dry month. July was similar. There was a low of 60° on 2 July and a high of 97° on 19 July. The average was 4.6° above normal. There was 2.92" of rain, 1.73" below normal resulting in another hot, dry month. Thunderstorms on 1 August were immediately followed by Tropical Storm *Isaias*, downgraded from a hurricane before it reached our area. The storm dropped over five inches of rain on parts of our area, notably Sullivan, Ulster, and Orange Counties. Periodic thunderstorms produced downpours that kept water levels much above normal throughout the period. The east side of the Hudson River, however, had much less precipitation. While water levels to the west were above capacity, to the east things were quite dry. Both conditions nearly eliminated

much of the shorebird habitat for the next several weeks, and only late in the month did things start to normalize. The Poughkeepsie report indicated a high of 87° on 10, 11 and 24 August, with a low of 46° on 31 August. This resulted in an average temperature for the month that was just over a degree below normal. There was a total of 6.07" of rain in the Region, 2.61" above normal. All of this resulted in a cooler, wetter month.

With the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas under way, it was hoped that some interesting birds would come to light, and indeed a few were recorded. On 27 June, a photo of two **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** was posted to Facebook requesting identification. The birds were photographed in Gardiner, Ulster County, but were not seen again. At least two Snow Geese were reported in the Region during June, one each in Westchester and Sullivan Counties.

The Sandhill Cranes that bred earlier this year, but lost their chicks, nested a second time. On 13 June, their nest was discovered, once again on the New Jersey side of the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. On 27 June, Andrew Block observed two chicks with the adults, confirming their success. They were subsequently seen again at approximately a few weeks old and photographed by Linda Scrima. The lack of future sightings and the adults seen free-flying several weeks later leaves their fate in question.

On 4 June, Rob Stone found a Wilson's Phalarope at the Camel Farm in Orange County. The bird was present just that day but allowed several birders to view this Regional rarity. The **Black Rail** that was present at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge the last week of May continued through the first of June but was not reported thereafter. Due to the bird's status as a "species of special concern" the bird's presence was not made known to the public to protect any attempt at breeding.

In a repeat of last year, there was an incursion of Laughing Gulls along the Hudson River at least as far north as Newburgh/Beacon. Laughing Gulls along the Hudson River included one spotted at Newburgh Waterfront on 1 June by Bruce Nott. Bruce found a second on 11 June, and he and I together had two at Plum Point that same day. There were several more reports through the end of the period. Exceptional, and only the second Orange County record, Matt Zeitler found and photographed a **Franklin's Gull** on 10 July at Plum Point in Cornwall. Unfortunately, the bird continued north and was not seen again.

On 4 August Tropical Storm *Isaias* passed through New York. There were many effects from the storm, but some of the better results were in the form of the birds it brought. At Newburgh Waterfront Rob Stone had two **Sooty Terns** fly by making their way back to sea. Down on the coast at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye, Sean Camillieri had two **Sooty Terns** as well. Also, at the Newburgh Waterfront, Matt Zeitler found a hatch year Laughing Gull. Adding to the mix that evening, Bruce Nott found a Forster's Tern on Washington Lake. In Westchester County at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary, Kristen Johnson photographed a Black Tern the same day. The following day, Charlie Roberto had a **Sooty Tern** at Dockside Park, a first record for Putnam County.



The appearance of Caspian Terns in late July and August has come to be the norm, and birds were seen at several locations along the Hudson River. The discovery of a **Royal Tern** at Piermont Pier on 31 July, however, was most unexpected. Linda Pistolesi first reported the bird, which continued off and on for the next several days.

On 30 August, Andrew Block found an adult **Brown Booby** on the Ashokan Reservoir. The bird continued through 31 August and was seen by an abundance of birders. On 21 August Sean Camillieri found an American White Pelican on the Ashokan Reservoir, the bird remained through the end of the period. On 30 July, Bruce Nott found an adult Little Blue Heron at the Beaver Pond on Pine Hill Road in Orange County. This was a rare record of an adult bird, most in the Region being juvenile, post-fledging dispersal birds. That same day, Alan Wells found a first-year bird at Haverstraw Bay County Park in Rockland County. Eventually several others were reported in the Region as well.

The ongoing pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons continued in Orange County at least through mid-July. Though breeding behavior was again observed, the birds were again unsuccessful in producing young. See the article in this issue on pp. 314-317. Joyce Depew has done a great job of monitoring these birds, and hopefully they will eventually successfully breed.

On 9 May, a **Mississippi Kite** was seen soaring overhead at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary. Typical for this time of year, the bird was not seen again.

At least one pair of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was seen regularly on Slide Mountain in Ulster County from 1 June onward. On 18 June they were confirmed breeding when one was photographed on its nest.

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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; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **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; **I** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Pres, WEST; **LR** – Larchmont Res, 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 Pres, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island Turf Nursery, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **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** – Stewart 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**  
**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:** 2  
 Gardiner 27 Jun, *intro*.

**Snow Goose:** Wurtsboro SULL 6-19 Jun (AB, SB, JH); Steamboat Riverfront P WEST 15 Jun (LT).

**Brant:** Norrie SP 2 Jun (CV); 2 Greenhaven Area WEST 14 Jun (AF); CPP 22 Jun (PC, RL, LT).

**Northern Shoveler:** 2 Tibbetts Brook P WEST 22 Aug (EL).

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 9 EMLH 28-30 Aug (DW).

**Green-winged Teal:** MP 13-27 Aug (JH); 2 HVRT 19 Aug (BB); PP 20 Aug (LP); 3 Kensico L WEST 24 Aug (KS); Muscoot Res WEST 25 Aug (SC); max 8 GV 26-29 Aug (RM, PS); max 15 SHSR 28 Aug (RH, BN).

**Greater Scaup:** 2 Five Islands P WEST 11 Jun (EC).

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 2 MC 4 Jun (PC).

**Bufflehead:** EGR 1 Jun -11 Jul (TB, GB, mob); Five Islands P 10-11 Jun (LB, EC).

**Hooded Merganser:** Pound Ridge WEST 20 Jun (TA), widespread in Region.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 4 Tibbetts Brook P WEST 22-29 Aug (EL).

**Ruffed Grouse:** 3 Red Hill Rd ULST 19 Jul (GP, TP); Brace Mt DUTC 4 Jul (Joshua Harkness).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 15 WRNWR 1 Jun-30 Jul (JF, AP, DH, mob).

**Common Nighthawk:** Pulaski Highway ORAN 1 Jun (BF); Hudson Overlook WEST 10 Jun (JA); MC 16 Jun (NG); 500 Pawling DUTC 29 Aug (MP).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** SFSP 22 Aug (EF, TF).

## RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**BLACK RAIL:** WRNWR 1 Jun (BF), *intro*.

**Clapper Rail:** max 4 MC 1 Jun -31 Aug (GB, mob).

**Virginia Rail:** max 3 BSWMA 2-26 Jun (SB, JH, KMcG); 2 HVRT 13-16 Jun (CP, DvZ, DC); 3 William Clough Preserve PUTN 28 Jun (SC); Somers Marsh WEST 2 Jul (TJ, KJ); Nyquist-Harcourt Sanctuary ULST 8-21 Jun (SS, MMi, DW); 6 GV 3 Jul (PS); 5 MP 1 Aug (JH).

**Sora:** max 2 WRNWR 1-29 Jun (AP, TH, BN, mob); 2 Fireman's P SULL 5 Jun (RD); Schoolhouse Rd DUTC 25-26 Jun (CP, BM, KF, mob); Somers Marsh 13-15 Jun (RMA, SC).

**Common Gallinule:** Madam Brett P DUTC 30 Jul (DvZ, KB, SR), widespread in Region.

**American Coot:** WRNWR 1-7 Jun (AP, VH, mob).

**Sandhill Crane:** max 4 WRNWR 1 Jun-1 Aug (AP, VH, PR, mob); Cornwall-on-Hudson

ORAN 4 Jun (AA); 2 Goshen ORAN 8 Jun (MZ); 2 PITN 26 Aug (JM), *intro*.

**American Oystercatcher:** max 5 MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (AL, LB, DJ, mob); max 8 EGR 11 Jun-31 Aug (GB, TB, KMcG, mob).

**Black-bellied Plover:** OCBDR 17 Aug (BN, LS).

**American Golden-Plover:** MP 28-30 Aug (JH, PD, RDe, LV, SB, mob).

**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 MC 2 Jun (JS); max 4 16-29 Jul (JC, GB, SC, mob); max 2 PP 25-29 Jul (SB, CW, ME); MP 29 Jul -1 Aug (JH); Beaver Pd ORAN 30 Jul-3 Aug (BN, KA, KMi, MZ, mob); MP 26 Aug (PD).

**Upland Sandpiper:** MC 14 Aug (GB, TB).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 Greenhaven Area WEST 14 Jun (AF);

**Dunlin:** 3 Greenhaven Area 14 Jun (AF).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** OCBDR 17 Aug (MZ); OCBDR 28 Aug (LS, BN, YH, JH, mob); MP 29-31 Aug (JH, KMi, RDa, MGor, mob).

**Least Sandpiper:** max 7 AP 10-11 Jul (JH, SB); 7 PP 11 Jul (ME), Widespread reports.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** PITN 27-29 Aug (BN, LS, JH, MZ); Skinner Lane ORAN 28 Aug (RSt).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Goose Chase Pd DUTC 27 Jul (CP); max 10 Turtle Bay Rd ORAN 4-10 Aug (LS, BN, KMi, mob); max 2 GV 26-30 Aug (RMi, PS).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** MC 2 Jun (KMcG); 11 Greenhaven Area 14 Jun (AF); max 3 EGR 2-3 Jun (BS, EM); max 3 Turtle Bay Rd 4-8 Aug (RD, LS); Missionlands Rd ORAN 4 Aug (JM); Lake Jefferson SULL 4 Aug (JH); 2 MP 26 Aug (PD).

**Western Sandpiper:** MC 25 Aug (GB, TB).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 4 MC 4 Jun (DJ); Beaver Pd 3 Aug (MZ, DB); max 3 Turtle Bay Rd 4-5 Aug (LS, BN); Missionland Rd 4 Aug (JM).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 4 Beaver Pd 30 Jul -17 Aug (BN, KA, KMi, MZ); 2 DRT 9 Aug (DvZ, AS); max 6 Strevener Farm Pd DUTC 18 Jul -9 Aug (CP, DC, BM, mob).

**Willet:** max 6 MC 1-30 Jun (ALo, GB, MT, mob).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Turtle Bay 4-6 Aug (LS, MZ, KMi); Five Islands P 12 Aug (VH).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Camel Farm ORAN 4 Jun (RSt, LS, JH, BN, TB, GB, LV, mob), *intro*.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** AP 10-12 Jul (JH, SB); 3 Traver Pd DUTC 14 Jul (KB, DvZ); 14 Lake Jefferson 4 Aug (JH).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** PP 24 Jul (LP).

**Laughing Gull:** NW 2, 11 Jun (BN); 4 Five Islands P 11 Jun (EC); Plum Pt ORAN (BN, JH); max 12 EGR 2-11 Jun (GB, TB, MT, EM); Hastings-on-Hudson WEST 11 Jul (JA); NW 4 Aug (MZ, RSt, CM, BN); Beacon Waterfront DUTC 7 Aug (KB, ASw); 4 PP 24 Aug (CW, LP); SS 30 Aug (JY), *intro*.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL (R9):** Plum Pt ORAN 10 Jul (MZ), *intro*.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** NW 1 Jun (BN).

**SOOTY TERN:** 2 NW 4 Aug (RSt); 2 EGR 4 Aug (SC); Dockside P DUTC 4 Aug (CR), *intro*.

**Least Tern:** 2 EGR 16 Jun (GB, TB); MC 25 Jun (EM); max 2 EGR 10-11 Jul (GB, TB, SC).

**Caspian Tern:** NW 10 Jul (MZ); max 2 CPP 12-14 Jul (ME, MBK, RL, mob); 2 CPP 2-6 Aug (RL, SR, GB, SC, mob); 3 Cornwall Bay ORAN 2 Aug (BN); max 3 SS 2-30 Aug (PS, DT, DW, mob); 2 Ashokan Res ULST 29-31 Aug (DSt, ES, SB, BN, KMi), *intro*.

**Black Tern:** Hunt-Parker Sanctuary WEST 4 Aug (KJ); 3 WRNWR 7 Aug (LS, BN, KA); WRNWR 29 Aug (MZ).

**Common Tern:** max 14 EGR 1-29 Jun (GB, TB, mob); max 8 MC 1-29 Jun (MT, PC, KMcG, mob); 2 CPP 28 Jun (JP); Washington L ORAN 4 Aug (BN).

**Forster's Tern:** 4 MC 6 Jun (FG); 8 CPP 22 Jun (RL, LT, PC); 4 PP 29 Jul (ME); Washington L 4 Aug (BN).

**ROYAL TERN (R9):** PP 31 Jul-3 Aug (LP, CW), *intro*.

### LOONS – PARAKEET

**Common Loon:** MC 2 Jun (KMcG); RR 2 Jul (GP, TP); Grassy Pd Dr DUTC 7 Jun (DM); max 5 Ashokan Res 16-18 Jul (PS, AG, LVV); Hudson River DUTC 19 Jul (SR).

**BROWN BOOBY:** Ashokan Res 30-31 Aug (AB, PS, DH, mob), *intro*.

**American White Pelican:** Ashokan Res 21-31 Aug (SCam, DO, PS, mob), *intro*.

**American Bittern:** 2 Madam Brett P DUTC 17 Jun (DvZ, CP); Buttercup Preserve DUTC 8 Aug (AS, DvZ).

**Least Bittern:** max 2 BSWMA 2-3 Jun (JH, SB); SFSP 4-13 Jun (SM, PL, GB, PR); max 2 WRNWR 1-30 Jun (AP, DH, MMc); 2 CMACS 20 Jun (SC, KB, RS, mob); 2 HVRT 12-19 Jun (CP, AM, KF, CF, mob); max 2 GV 12-26 Jun (PS); 2 Somers Marsh 2-22 Jul (TJ, KJ, SC, KB, mob); max 3 SHSR 11-25 Jul (KA, KMi, BN, MZ); MP 15 Aug (JH).

**Great Egret:** max 3 WRNWR 18-19 Jul (KMi, CR); CPP 7, 13 Jul (LL, BS); West Pt Foundry

ORAN 7 Jul (CR); Rt 84 Swamp ORAN 7, 18 Jul (BN); Kingston ULST 8-18 Jul (PS, DO, DF, mob); max 10 BSWMA 11-31 Aug (JH, SB, KMi, mob).

**Little Blue Heron:** CPP 28 Jun (JP); Beaver Pd 30 Jul-1 Aug (BN, JH, KA, LS, MZ, KMcD); Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 30 Jul (AW, ME); Kingston Res #1 ULST 1-22 Aug (PS, WT, JP, mob); 2 Klara Sauer Trail DUTC 7 Aug (CP, AS, DvZ, ALA, mob); max 3 EMLH 9-26 Aug (DW, DO, LQ, mob); Mills-Norrie SP 16-25 Aug (DvZ, DT); Wappingers L DUTC 19-23 Aug (MK, SC, DvZ, mob), *intro*.

**Green Heron:** 11 SHSR 25 Jul (KA); 8 Dutchess Rail Trail DUTC 27 Jul (BT, DvZ); 8 MP 25 Aug (JH).

**Snowy Egret:** CPP 17 Jul (SC).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 2 Bowdoin County P DUTC 6 Jun-20 Aug (SI, DvZ, CP, mob); max 3 EGR 8 Jun-10 Jul (GB, TB, EC, mob); Madam Brett P 16 Jun (SI); Croton Railroad Station WEST 17 Jun (KFT); Nyquist-Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary ULST 7-12 Jul (TB, SG, PS).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 2 VanBurenville Rd ORAN 2 Jun-13 Jul (JD, SB, KMi), *intro*; RSP 2 Jun (MG); CPP 1-9 Jun (CR, RL, LT, niob); max 5 Five Islands P 3 Jun-7 Jul (VH, EC).

**Glossy Ibis:** GV 12-14 Jul (PC, DC, PS, mob); 4 MC 25 Jul (VH); 3 MC 13 Aug (GB, TB); 3 WRNWR 16 Aug (LS).

**Northern Harrier:** OCBDR 26 Jun (BN); Benedict Farm ORAN 9 Jul (JD).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 9 May (KJ), *intro*.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 3 Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 8 Jun-3 Aug (KJ, MMi, mob); Blow Down Restoration Area WEST 13 Jul (SC).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2 Vassar Farm and Ecological Pres DUTC 2-10 Jun (MK, CV); OCBDR 2 Jun (KF, CF); WRNWR 9 Jun (KW); RSP 21 Jun-3 Jul (AS, SR, FG, mob); SS 26 Jun (FM).

**Merlin:** KP 16 Aug (FM, DF); CPP 18 Aug (RL); max 2 MP 19-26 Aug (JH).

**Peregrine Falcon:** max 3 CPP 7 Jul-22 Aug (RL, LT, AS, mob); Turtle Bay ORAN 17-18 Aug (BN, LV); SHSR 22-25 Aug (KMi, MZ).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Slide Mt ULST 15 Jun (Steve Chorvas); Panther Mt ULST 17 Jun (DSc).

**Monk Parakeet:** max 4 Red Bridge Area WEST 13 Jun-19 Jul (FG).

## FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Ward Pound Ridge Reservation WEST 2 June (NT, LW, LT); Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary DUTC 14 Jul (CV); Kendridge Farm ORAN 22 Aug (BN); Pine Kill Rd SULL 26 Aug (JH).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** RSP 4 Jun (HR); 2 Angle Fly Pres WEST 5 Jun (AW); BMSP 6 Jun (ASi, CB); 2 Slide Mt 4-19 Jun (CF, RM, PS, mob); Slide Mt 9 Aug (AC), *intro*.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Cranberry L Pres WEST 13 Jun (KB).

**White-eyed Vireo:** PHP 9-27 Jun, 9 Jul (KF, CF, AM, mob); max 2 Ninham Mt Multiple Use Area PUTN 3-16 Jun (SC, KB, AM); SFSP 9 Jun (TD); Chappaqua WEST 14 Jun (JA); CMACS 20 Jun (SC, KB, RSe).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Kukok Ln ULST 23 Aug (MD).

**Purple Martin:** max 13 CPP 1 Jun-31 Aug (LT, SR, CR, mob); max 9 Rockwood Hall, RSP 9 Jun-24 July (RL, SM, LO, VH, mob).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Slide Mt 18 Jul (KW).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** max 9 Slide Mt 4 Jun- 18 Jul (CF, BM, DH, mob); 2 Slide Mt 25 Aug (NG).

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 12 Slide Mt 1-21 Jun (CK, DO, PS, mob); Hillside Woods and Children's Village WEST 26 Aug (JA, PM); Pinecliff Sanctuary WEST 28 Aug (MGol).

**Red Crossbill:** max 2 Hartwood Rd SULL 28-31 Aug (VB); 2 Catskill P ULST 30 Aug (PS); Schoenberger Yard Patch ULST 30 Aug (PS).

## NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 3 CPP 1 Jun-11 Aug (RL, MB, ASw, mob); max 8 SGNWR 1-30 Jun (MS, RH, FM, mob); max 4 OCBDR 4-26 Jun (BN, LS); Appalation Trail Pawling DUTC 4 Jul (CD).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** OMRLMSP 1-7 Jun (CV, DSt, ES, mob).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** CPP 5 Aug (ASw, BS, TS).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Isaacson Pres WEST 6-21 Jun (TA, GB, TB, SC).

**Tennessee Warbler:** BSWMA 30 Aug (LV).

**Mourning Warbler:** Vassar Farm 5 Jun (KB); PITN 28 Aug (BN).

**Kentucky Warbler:** SFSP 28-29 Jun (BF, TB, GB, LV, BN).

**Hooded Warbler:** max 3 Muscote Farm 7 Jun-24 Jul (AS, AB, LO, mob); Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 25 Jun-12 Jul (KJ).

**Cape May Warbler:** Minnewaska SP ULST 26 Aug (SB); High Falls ULST 30 Aug (HB).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Nichols Pres WEST 27 Aug (NG); CFSP 28 Aug (SC, MMu); Hillside Woods and Children's Village 26 Aug (JA, PM); 2 BSWMA 30 Aug (SB).

**Wilson's Warbler:** SGNWR 7 Aug (BH).

**Dickcissel:** Somers WEST 6 Jun (PC); Hillview Res WEST 26 Aug (SC).

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## REGION 10—MARINE

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Following the brutal and terrifying viral surge of spring 2020, the Covid pandemic eased considerably in the New York City area during summer 2020, giving weary citizens some sense of relief and freedom. We could not help but notice crowds, well over the imposed limits, gathering for picnics or events in the parks, the majority without masks and ignoring social distancing. The birding community,

on the other hand, stayed consistently strong and followed the protocols carefully, birding alone or at distance in small groups, avoiding narrow paths crowded with unmasked joggers, bikers and dog-walkers. Needless to say, the season's ornithological record was collected and preserved under challenging circumstances.

Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	73.7°	71.4°	+2.3°	70.7°	68.4°	+2.3°
Jul	80.0°	76.5°	+3.5°	77.7°	73.9°	+3.8°
Aug	76.9°	75.2°	+1.7°	75.3°	72.8°	+2.5°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	1.76"	4.41"	-2.65"	1.56"	4.27"	-2.71"
Jul	6.58"	4.60"	+1.98"	5.15"	3.43"	+1.72"
Aug	5.03"	4.44"	+0.59"	3.25"	3.98"	-0.73"

The summer season was again warmer than normal, particularly in July, which featured relentless heat and humidity. June's relative dearth of rainfall was somewhat offset by higher than normal totals in July, and near-normal totals in August. It was simply never cool in July. In many residential areas, observers awoke day after day to low temperatures above 70 F.

With unusually warm air over the still-cold ocean, persistent fog hampered seawatching for the first part of June, normally one of the most productive periods for observing seabirds from land in our Region. Perhaps because of this, or at least partly so, all of the seabirds commonly seen from shore in this period were recorded less frequently and in smaller numbers than usual.

For the first time since 2004, a June-July season passed with no confirmed reports of Arctic Tern on Long Island. Occurrence is highly variable from year to year, as this season shows, but note that in 2014 there was just a single record, just a year after scores were documented in June-July 2013. This inter-annual volatility is driven primarily by variation in the number of first- and second-summer individuals from June to mid-July, and secondarily by variability in inshore detection of northbound adult migrants in late May and early June. There couldn't be a better illustration of the independence of these two modes of occurrence than 2020, which featured an unusually strong set of records of adult migrants in late May, but which was completely bereft of records of any kind in June and July.

Two notable tropical storms produced interesting records of birds in New York City and Long Island. Tropical Storm *Fay* on 10 July yielded a **South Polar Skua** at Robert Moses SP, a tremendous reward for seawatchers there, along with 21 Great Shearwaters, the high count there this season. In a normal year, this number would be routine at this site, but the same can't be said for the count of 52 Great Shearwaters at Riis Park, on the Rockaway Peninsula, where the species

is seldom detected at all, or for a single bird over the Hudson River near 70<sup>th</sup> St, Manhattan early on 11 July—a truly exceptional record. On 4 August, Tropical Storm *Isaias* roared into the Region, bringing damaging winds and downed trees and power lines. As the storm center moved from south to north, well to the west, powerful southeasterly and southerly winds struck the south shore of Long Island just at the time of high tide, but the heaviest rains occurred west of our area, sparing us the major flooding that was feared. The highest wind gust recorded for the storm was 78 mph, at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, westernmost Suffolk County. The fortunes of storm-birders tackling the ocean coast are famously uncertain, ranging wildly and without warning from spectacular success to complete failure to physical danger to pure frustration due to lack of access. New York City birders have become adept at detecting and tracking storm birds on the Hudson River, illustrated on 4 August by multiple Least and Black Terns among other important observations in that area. The most notable sightings were an impressive and widespread fallout of **Sooty Terns**, at least one **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** in the Fire Island Inlet, a **South Polar Skua** on the Hudson River, and two **Pomarine Jaegers** at Eaton's Neck, on the North Shore of western Suffolk County, where this pelagic species is extremely rare. Joining a still very small set of shore-based records, this season's two **South Polar Skuas** exemplify two contrasting narratives: the Robert Moses SP bird, during *Fay*, co-occurred with Great Shearwaters and was probably displaced just a short distance from shelf feeding areas where the shearwater is a core constituent of localized multi-species feeding aggregations in many summers (Mitra and Lindsay 2001: *The Kingbird* 51: 665-671). The Hudson River bird, during *Isaias*, might have been displaced from further offshore, as suggested by co-occurrence with **Sooty Terns** and **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, and also by the overall near-absence of even common pelagic birds inshore in the weeks prior (e.g., the 12 Wilson's Storm-Petrels seen with the Band-rumped were the local max for the whole season and likely originated far offshore). Somewhat muddling these models was the **Brown Booby** at Riis Park on 10 June during *Fay*. Prior to a few years ago, this would have been offered as evidence that the storm displaced birds from afar, but times have changed. Consistent with the past few summers, single **Brown Boobies** were seen during shore-based seawatches at Robert Moses SP on 4 July and at Cupsogue CP on 9 July, both of these prior to the storm.

The summer season in Region 10 is very complex, featuring northbound migration, various kinds of mid-summer movements, and the first six weeks or more of fall migration. A large suite of the longest-traveling Neotropical migrant passerines occurs in Region 10 as northbound migrants in early June as well as southbound in August. Compared to some recent years, early June 2020 was relatively productive for such species as Eastern Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied, Alder, and Acadian Flycatchers, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and Mourning Warbler.

The Breeding Bird Atlas III stimulated much dedicated block coverage and several lines of effort directed toward hard-to-confirm species. At the same time,

many birders expressed confusion or frustration regarding the atlas portal, the significance of priority blocks, and the locations of block boundaries in relation to their familiar eBird pins and associated routes and modes of coverage. We expect these issues to be largely resolved as atlasers become more familiar with the protocols.

The Captree June Count was conducted on 6 June, for the sixth consecutive year since its reestablishment, yielding valuable quantitative and qualitative data regarding breeding birds in southwestern Suffolk County. Many of this year's data points are included in the species accounts below, as easily interpretable indicators of abundance.

This summer's update regarding Big Black Birds is much the same as it has been in recent years: Wild Turkey continues to spread westward into western Suffolk and even Nassau Counties; Turkey Vulture is now present throughout the Region and is scarce only locally, for instance in southern Nassau and southwestern Suffolk Counties; Black Vulture's advances lag behind those of its more docile relative, but it is no longer really surprising anywhere in the Region; and Bald Eagles and Common Ravens can now be seen almost anywhere at any time. Fish Crow continues to increase in abundance and to penetrate further into its few remaining areas of relative scarcity on eastern Long Island, whereas American Crow continues to simmer in a strange sort of limbo: it is too numerous and widespread to attract careful study, and yet it is obviously still drastically reduced compared to the pre-West Nile Virus times.

Some grassland breeders continue to benefit from recently restored landfills in New York City, especially Freshkills on Staten Island, but also at Shirley Chisholm SP in Kings and other, less accessible, sites. It is hoped that with these additions to the Regional matrix that older sites like Floyd Bennett Field will be less constrained by isolation. Nesting Sedge Wrens are just the latest and most electrifying occurrence at Freshkills. Suffolk County's grassland habitat is anchored in and near Calverton, with smaller patches on the North Fork, at the mostly inaccessible Gabreski Airport in West Hampton, and even, as detailed in the accounts for Savannah Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark, in and near Republic Airport in Farmingdale, near the Nassau County border. The uncertain future of the habitat at EPCAL in Calverton continues to be of deep concern, especially given the newly emerging potential for multiple Regional foci for grassland birds in the Region. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Canarsie Beach Park in Brooklyn on 31 August was a remarkable record of a species seldom detected at all in migration; its oddly early date suggests that perhaps it was not necessarily a migrant from afar, but perhaps a dispersing individual from one of the nearby patches of habitat described above.

In Region 10, many forest-breeding species show a preference for relatively hilly and mesic sites on Staten Island, the Bronx, and the North Shore and East End of Long Island, vs. the flat, dry, sandy outwash plains of southern Nassau and southwestern and southcentral Suffolk Counties. Examples include Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, American



Redstart, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. In contrast, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Red-eyed Vireo have broader tolerances and reach amazing densities in the xeric coastal plain. Hermit Thrush is peculiar in this regard, reaching its southern limits as a breeder in Long Island's Pitch Pine Barrens, but nevertheless shunning large swathes of the most extensive and "typical" barrens in favor of a few highly localized seams of habitat, featuring wetter soils and more complex plant communities. Still others, most notably Warbling Vireo, though formerly rare or absent as breeders on the coastal plain, have colonized the area with spectacular success over just a couple of decades. This theme recalls the perplexing case of Swamp Sparrow, one of the most enigmatic breeding birds in the Region. Leaving aside the odd individuals trapped for the summer (forever?) in New York City parks, June records are most prevalent in areas with the "mainland character" in terms of geology and vegetation, especially Staten Island and the Bronx. Its presence this season at three sites along the North Shore of Suffolk was consistent with this pattern, but its scarcity there, and also its near-absence from the South Shore of Suffolk (Wertheim NWR was the only exception this year), stand in inexplicable contrast to its presence at south coastal sites in Brooklyn, Queens, and even Nassau. We look forward to insights into these and other matters from the ongoing Atlas work.

The shorebird guild preferring freshwater and grassy pools showed very poorly this season, with absence or disturbingly low counts for Ruff, Stilt Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, and other species. Although these species can occur almost anywhere and probably occur sparsely over huge areas of salt marsh, their Regional abundance is highly local, with consistent occurrence of the rarer species and high counts of the common ones tightly associated with a very few highly attractive sites. In our lifetimes, the East Pond of Jamaica Bay has always been premier among these. It has been badly degraded for years now, yielding high counts in summer 2020 of just three Stilt Sandpipers, 40 Lesser Yellowlegs, and zero adult Long-billed Dowitchers. Other traditional sites for these species, such as the dynamic inlets at Sagaponack Pond and Mecox Bay, also seem consistently less productive than they used to be. The state of the art of Regional shorebirding has devolved toward flashmobs of vehicles and telephoto lenses huddling around a handful of accessible parking lot puddles, a pitiful substitute for what used to be.

The fall migration of passerines was mostly not very remarkable, with a few exceptions, detailed below. One general trend worth noting is the increasing breadth, intensity, and competence of studies of morning flight and visible migration. In addition to traditional sampling sites such as Robert Moses SP and Fort Tilden, Coney Island Creek Park and the North Channel Bridge at Jamaica Bay were expertly covered on many of the most productive mornings, yielding prodigious (but not really surprising) counts of various species. The morning of 26 August stands out in the species accounts below for the diversity and abundance of passerine migrant arrivals observed throughout the Region, but especially at these points where dynamic flux can be observed. By the end of

August it was clear that Cape May Warblers, whose numbers are notoriously variable over periods of up to decades, were appearing in relatively large numbers.

August 2020 marked the start of a very impressive fall irruption of forest-breeding species from the Boreal, and possibly from closer to home as well. As we have come to expect, early pulses of Purple Finches and Myrtle Warblers during the latter part of August foretold big flights of Red-breasted Nuthatches by month's end. A couple of Brown Creepers and a Hermit Thrush were also reported away from potential breeding sites during this period, which is unusual. Pine Siskins and others (e.g., "resident" woodpeckers, Blue Jay, and White-breasted Nuthatch) did not arrive until later, so be sure to check the fall season report for details of a memorable flight year.

Lastly, Region 10 always holds potential for rarities. In addition to the rare seabirds described in detail above, this summer featured a motley assortment of vagrants, as usual. A **Eurasian Collared Dove** reported at Floyd Bennett Field 7-9 August was well described and very likely a valid record, but without photos, it was not regarded as sufficiently documented for a first County record. We've chosen to include it here, to keep it in view as we learn more about this species' changing status. A **White-faced Storm-Petrel** near Hudson Canyon was in line with emerging expectations, and once again, several **Brown Boobies**, **White-faced Ibises**, and **Sandwich Terns** were recorded in the Region. Similarly, several **Mississippi Kites** in the western parts of the Region in June were not unexpected, whereas **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** at West Sayville on 3 June and Cupsogue CP on 16 June remind us of that month's under-appreciated potential for vagrant landbirds more associated with the fall-winter season.

All of the bold-faced birds just discussed have changed status greatly in recent years, and rarity is often just an ephemeral phase on a route from absence to abundance, or vice versa. In contrast, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** has long been and is still a major rarity in Region 10, and one at Conference House Park on Staten Island was great find by Dick Veit. Similarly, **Purple Gallinule** stands out as one of the most enduring vagrants to our Region, a great rarity with a penchant for appearing under preposterous circumstances, never expected, and yet never really surprising either. It has occurred rarely and irregularly for as long as records have been kept—almost two centuries—with little hint of changing its ways. Two adults appeared on Long Island on 22 June, at Long Beach, Nassau County, and in a private community in East Moriches, Suffolk County. The former was briefly taken into rehab, then released at Twin Lakes Preserve, Wantagh, a site festooned in lilypads and other emergent vegetation, where it was seen by many at least through 29 June. The Suffolk bird was also reported through 29 June, making its stand on the edges of a sterile suburban water feature amid pedestrians, sprinklers, mowed grass, and flower beds.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**APEC** – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BCA** – Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BTTP** – Bush Terminal Piers P, KING; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CJC** – Captree June Count; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CRSP** – Connetquot Ri SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FINS** – Fire Island National Seashore, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GGI** – Great Gull I, SUFF; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **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; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MBI** – Moriches Bay and Inlet, SUFF; **Mon** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **NRSP** – Nissequogue R SP, SUFF; **OB** – Oak Beach, SUFF; **OIn** – Old Inlet, Brookhaven, SUFF; **OP** – Orient Pt, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PNS** – Pine Neck Sanctuary, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **Sagg** – Sagaponack Pd/Inlet, SUFF; **SBNW** – Stony Brook Nighthawk Watch, SUFF; **SCSP** – Shirley Chisolm SP, KING; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, Babylon, SUFF; **Timber Pt** – Timber Pt Golf Course, SUFF.

### WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

**Brant:** many reps from RICH and south shore of LI; max 61 SCSP 21 Aug (DGo); 2 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); PBP 23 Aug (E. Leon, S. Leon), only rep from LI Sound.

**Canada Goose:** max 400 Miller Field, RICH 15 & 28 Aug (E. Johnson), 517 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Mute Swan:** max 150 Jam Bay 30 Aug (E. Schumann); 128 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), similar to last four years.

**Wood Duck:** rep widely from all counties Jun-Jul; 12 CJC 96 Jun (PJL et al.); sb arr difficult to assess but reps increased Regionwide 26-31 Aug; max 30 Frank Melville Mem. P SUFF 28 Aug (PJL, SSM).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Jam Bay 3 & 20 Jun, Captree I, SUFF 6 Jun (CJC: EMu, FMu,

SMu), only Jun reps; SPP 1 Aug (J. Braunsdorf), ambiguous; Jam Bay 20 Aug & widely throughout Region 26-31 Aug; max 35 Jam Bay 30 Aug (CF).

**Northern Shoveler:** a few Jun reps Jam Bay; arr CP 4 Aug (K. Victor, ph.), early; many reps NYC 22 Aug and later; max 8 Jam Bay 30 Aug (G. Lam); 2 Sagg 30 Aug (ACo), only rep e of QUEE.

**Gadwall:** many reps from all parts of Region except BRON and e SUFF (easternmost CCP); 4 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 75 Jam Bay 17 Jul (ABu).

**American Wigeon:** at least one Jam Bay Jun-Jul, only rep.

**Mallard:** max 340 Jam Bay 14 Jun (CF); 192 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), almost identical to last two yrs.

**American Black Duck:** max 188 Jam Bay 30 Aug (J. Landesberg); 7 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 10 Aug NRSP (K. Hart); widespread arrival thru Region 26-28 Aug; max 19 Jam Bay 26 Aug (A. Honeywood).

**Greater Scaup:** Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 14 Jun (S. Yale); Setauket Harbor, SUFF 3-11 Jul (EMu, FMu, SMu); 2 Plumb Beach, KING 31 Jul (DGo); JBSP 12 Aug (K&SF); only reps.

**Lesser Scaup:** pr Timber Pt SUFF 5 Jun (TD, KT).

**Common Eider:** summered widely along the ocean coast, including small flocks; sites included BPT, Jones In, Fire Island In, Moriches In, Shinn (up to 32 on 21 Jul), MBI, Amagansett, SUFF, Mon, Gardiners I, OP (max 131 1 Jun), GGI, and Fisher's I (breeding site).

**Surf Scoter:** singles and duos summered widely again (see last year), including GKP and various typical oceanfront sites (max 7 Mon oceanfront 27 Jun), and OP.

**White-winged Scoter:** singles and duos reported reported at about 8 sites, max 3 Blue Point Beach, FINS 24 Jul (C. Kessler).

**Black Scoter:** many reps of 1-3 along outer coast and OP; max 24 Mon oceanfront 27 Jun (AnW).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 1-2 at seven typical sites, max 8 BPT 5 Aug (J. Kramer).

**Bufflehead:** scattered reps of 1-2 from about 8 sites.

**Hooded Merganser:** six Jun reps, including CJC 6 Jun (BBe) & Wertheim NWR 18, 26 Jun & 1 Jul (P. Bealle et al.); latter site has hosted summering birds before and should be checked for evidence of breeding.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** small numbers widely rep RICH, ocean shore & OP, as expected.

**Ruddy Duck:** many reps Jam Bay, max 50 on 1 Jun (J. Rothman et al.; a few others, as usual).

**Northern Bobwhite:** no completely convincing reports of wild birds, but plausibly wild birds present North Fork and Montauk areas.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 4 MPB 8 Aug (HL) & SCSP 21 Aug (DGo); persistence of wild populations east of NYC doubtful.

**Wild Turkey:** present RICH and PBP, unreported KING & QUEEN; Upper Brookville, NASS 20 Jun (A. Scott), notable so far west; many reports from w SUFF; *intro*.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 2 Ridgewood Res, QUEE 27 Jul were noteworthy as to date; others arr late Aug.

**Horned Grebe:** Shirley Beach, SUFF 30 Jun (G. Farley, ph.); alt. plumage.

**Red-necked Grebe:** no reps.

**Rock Pigeon:** max 500 SCSP 30 Aug (SBI, DGo); 156 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** FBF 7-9 Aug (R. Jett, D. Paul, P. Paul), *intro*.

**Mourning Dove:** max 94 SMSP 7 Aug (JGI); 123 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 5 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); probable breeders and migrants widely rep, including 2 BPT 20 Jun (DGo, SSI).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** probable breeders sparsely rep, including BPT 20 Jun (DGo, SSI), singing; not detected CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), second consecutive year missed; sb arr 20 Aug Westbury, NASS (MMcB) and RMSP (MMcB et al.).

**Common Nighthawk:** reps from four sites in Jun: River Road Marshes, RICH 12 Jun (H. Smith); Snug Harbor, RICH 26 Jun (CB); PNS 7 Jun (K. Munroe); Northwest Woods, SUFF 12 Jun (AnW); sb arr SBNW 14 Jun (PDom et al.); max counts there **351** on 28 Aug (PDom et al.) & **487** on 29 Aug (PDom et al.).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Quogue, SUFF thru 4 Jul, from spring; 3 Blue Pt Beach, FINS 27 Jul (C. Kessler).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** all reps were from known breeding sites: Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Pres, SUFF (max 6 on 24 Jul), CRSP, Riverhead-Westhampton pine barrens, Nap; 2 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Chimney Swift:** 48 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); 18 Northville SUFF 25 Aug (MLL), wb along LI Sound in 20 min; sb max 516 FT 26 Aug (CF).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 2 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); sb max 9 High Rock P, RICH 30 Aug (CB).

## RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

**Clapper Rail:** 4 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 11 CCP 11 Aug (K&SF).

**Virginia Rail:** reps from several sites in RICH, PBP and four sites North Shore and e SUFF.

**Sora:** arr 30 Aug Jam Bay (S. Stokes) and Sunken Forest, FINS 30 Aug (N. Schleissmann), v. rare on barrier beach.

**PURPLE GALLINULE:** two were found on LI on 22 Jun: Long Beach, NASS and E. Moriches, SUFF, *intro*.

**Common Gallinule:** ad SMSP 17-18 Aug (M. Vedder).

**American Coot:** two summered PP.  
**Sandhill Crane:** GKP 11 Aug (S. Wollney), only rep.  
**American Avocet:** Timber Pt 20 Jun (PDom, DF).  
**American Oystercatcher:** 34 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 220 NB 17 Aug (BF).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); 127 Oln 25 Aug (BBo, TS); max 200 OB 27 Aug (PJL, SSM).  
**American Golden-Plover:** arr Cutchogue, SUFF 24 Aug (MMcB); Amityville, SUFF 26 Aug (MMcB); only reps.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 680 Rockaway Beach, QUEE 16 Aug (SA, MN, CF).  
**Piping Plover:** 19 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 26 MBI 19 Jul (MMcB); 26 Rockaway Beach 3 Aug (A. Romua).  
**Killdeer:** 22 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 40 Cutchogue, SUFF 20 Aug (JRa).  
**Upland Sandpiper:** BPt 1 Aug (DGo, SSI); Timber Pt 7 Aug (PJL); Lemon Creek Pier, RICH 24 Aug (ACi); Upper West Side, NEWY 25 Aug (R. Zucker); rare enough now that all reps included.  
**Whimbrel:** many more reps than usual, including from sites away from outer coast and e LI (e.g., 7 SMSP 28 Jul); max 8 Jam Bay 16 Aug (L. DeMarco).  
**Hudsonian Godwit:** no reports.  
**Marbled Godwit:** max 3 Oln 20 Aug (APe).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max northbound 100 CCP (B. Bull); max southbound 150 CCP 1 Aug (M. Adams).  
**Red Knot:** no large counts in Jun; max southbound 50 JBSP 15 Aug (K&SF), low.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** HSP 10-11 Jun (KT et al.), unus. date; reported from ca. 7 sites southbound, max 3 Jam Bay 28 Aug (P. Paul), astonishingly scarce; *intro*.  
**Sanderling:** 2 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 3000 Oln 23 Aug (K&SF).  
**Dunlin:** a few nb thru 8 Jun; 3 MBI 16 Jun (A. Virgin), trad summering site.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** ads BPt 15 Jul (ABu, ph.) & Brown's Pt Marsh, Orient, SUFF 18 Jul (JRa); ads rare in Region; about 7 widely spaced juvs 20-31 Aug.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 325 IHP 4 Aug (DBa, AF).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 5 Jam Bay 23 Aug (A. Swaim et al.).  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr HSP 12 Aug (G. Straus), early for a juv; reported from five sites in RICH and SUFF, max 4 Cutchogue 31 Aug (P. Hanly).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr Miller Field, RICH 13 Jul (D. Harrison); max 8 PlumbB 5 Aug (G.Keri).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 1000 Jam Bay 28 Aug (P. Paul).  
**Western Sandpiper:** 8 alt ads MBI 13 Jul (PJL, SSM), large number.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 280 MBI 19 Jul (MMcB), low.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr 23 Jul MBI (PJL, SSM); only rep; *intro*.  
**American Woodcock:** reported from 13 sites, the most unusual being Bryant P, NEWY 1 Jun thru 11 Jul.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** reports from early Jun many and widely distributed, but almost all lacking details regarding potential breeding; two noted pairs of interacting birds in potentially suitable habitat: Santapogue Cr, SUFF 7 Jun (PMo); APEC 15 Jun (SWa), one present there 9 Jun (M. S. Ackley).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 5 Quogue WR, SUFF 31 Aug.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 64 MBI 13 Jul (PJL, SSM), actively migrating past a site that is not favored for stopover; low for a seasonal max; max at Jam Bay 40 on 28 Aug (D.Aronov); indicative of the loss and degradation of shorebird stopover sites in the Region; *intro*.  
**"Eastern" Willet:** 40 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 178 MBI 19 Jul (MMcB).  
**"Western" Willet:** alt ad MBI 11 Jun (PJL, SSM), Jun records almost always SYs.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 42 Amityville, SUFF 30 Jul (MMcB), v low max, indicative of the loss and degradation of shorebird stopover sites in the Region.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** no reports  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** Sagg 29 Aug (mob), only rep.  
**SOUTH POLAR SKUA:** RMSP 10 Jul (DF, K&SF), very rare from land; Riverside P, NEWY 4 Aug (ABu, R. Zucker); *intro*.  
**POMARINE JAEGER (R10):** 2 Eatons Neck, SUFF 4 Aug (BBo); *intro*.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** 2 Mon near shore waters 2 Jun (FD); RMSP 18 & 23 Jun, 10 & 17 Jul (SSM et al.); only reports; *intro*.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** scattered reps RICH, NASS, and SUFF spanning all three months; max 2 CJC 6 Jun (BBo, BF, TS); 2 FI Inlet SUFF 28 Aug (SSM).  
**Little Gull:** juv Fire Island Inlet, SUFF 27 Aug (PJL, SSM, et al.).  
**Laughing Gull:** 292 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 31 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 435 Randall's I, NEWY 19 Aug (DBa, AF).

**Herring Gull:** 225 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); 541 Javit's Center, NEWY 15 Jun (K. Parkins).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 66 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), tripling last year's max for count; max 61 RMSP 2 Jul (K&SF); 61 RMSP 10 Jul (MMcB); *intro*.

**Glaucous Gull:** SY L Montauk In 8 Jun (D. Chernack).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 194 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 750 Bpt 4 Aug (R. Ellard).

**SOOTY TERN:** 13+ during passage of *Isaias* 4 Aug; at least 8 Hudson Ri. shore, NEWY (ABu, DBa, JDiC, AF, N. O'Reilly, P. Shure, N. Sourigi, J. Spindel, R. Zucker); at least one Gravesend Bay KING (DGo, SSi, D. & P. Paul); 3 Kings Pt, NASS (MMcB); Fire Island Inlet (K&SF); *intro*.

**Least Tern:** 105 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 400 Oln 13 Jun (M. Jensen); 11 IHP 4 Aug (DBa, AF) & 2 Randalls I NEWY 4 Aug (DBa, AF), locally rare, *intro*.

**Gull-billed Tern:** many reps from traditional sites around Jam Bay and Jones Inlet, NASS, but none from SUFF and no counts greater than 2; GKP 8 Jul (RBA).

**Caspian Tern:** max 4 Lemon Cr Pier, RICH 30 Aug (ACi).

**Black Tern:** max 10 Shinnecock Bay, SUFF 28 Aug (P. Markee, E. Ratner); 2 IHP 4 Aug (DBa, AF) & Randalls I 4 Aug (DBa, AF), locally rare, *intro*.

**Roseate Tern:** max Bpt 4 on 20 Jun & 1 Jul (DGo, SSi); max NB 2 per day; 1 CJC 6 Jun (PJL, SSM); max Oln 1 on 20 Aug (J. Klein, APe); max MBI 19 on 28 Jun (MMcB); max Shinn 2 on 28 Aug (J. Piscatella); max MB 2 on 28 Jul (HMcG); max Sagg 1 on various dates; max 10 per day ca. Nap-Mon, low; max Cartwright Shoals, Gardiners I, SUFF 10 on 30 Jun (AF); max Sammy's Beach, SUFF just 2; max OP 38 on 31 Jul (JRa); no data from GGI this year, but overall max 40 on 8 Jun from nearby waters (SSM); 10 SMSp 29 Jun (J. Braunsdorf), many for site; overall poor numbers.

**Common Tern:** 178 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**ARCTIC TERN:** none reported; *intro*.

**Forster's Tern:** 61 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Royal Tern:** Bpt 20 Jun (R. Mandelbaum); 3 JBWE 12 Jun (E. Leonardi); RP 13 Jun (RBA); still scarce and local along western oceanfront before mid July; 3 high over Northville in *Isaias*' strong gusts 4 Aug (MLL); max 77 Oln

23 Aug (K&SF), now consistently favored vs. MBI (max 35 on 28 Aug), previously the focus of high counts.

**SANDWICH TERN:** MBI 11 Jun (PJL, SSM), BP 28 Jun (RBA); MBI 29 Jun (KF).

**Black Skimmer:** 7 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 537 NB 8 Jul (JWP).

## LOONS – PARAKEET

**Red-throated Loon:** Shagwong Pt, Mon, SUFF 26 Jun (TS); MB 27 Jul (HMcG); only reps.

**Common Loon:** 5 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 10 CCP 9 Jun (S. Biasetti).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** monthly maxima from shore: 9 RMSP 18 Jun (PJL, SSM); 6 RMSP 17 Jul (J. Klein, MMcB, A. Perkins); 12 RMSP 4 Aug (PJL, SSM), during *Isaias*; very few and low overall; max 150 Mon near-offshore waters 19 Aug (FD); *intro*.

**WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL:** Hudson Canyon 9 Aug (A. Davis et al., ph.)

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL:** RMSP 4 Aug (PJL, SSM); *intro*.

**Cory's Shearwater:** single-digit counts RP, RMSP, Oln, MBI, and MB; max 379 MP 11 Jul (ACo), unique this year.

**Sooty Shearwater:** 1 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 6 off East Hampton 3 Jun (FD), astonishingly low; *intro*.

**Great Shearwater:** scarce, with almost exclusively single-digit counts RMSP, SPCP, MBI, and Mon; max 26 Mon near-offshore waters 28 Jun (R. Gedney); three notable records during and after Tropical Storm *Fay*: 21 RMSP (DF, K&SF), amazingly the max count for this site this season; 52 RP 10 Jul BF, DGo, T. Preston, SSi), exceptional number for site; Riverside P at 70<sup>th</sup> St, NEWY 11 Jul (A. Auerbach, RZ, ph.), extremely rare for Hudson Ri; *intro*.

**Manx Shearwater:** singles Mon near-offshore waters 3 Jun (FD) and RMSP 17 & 18 Jun (SSM et al.); only reps; *intro*.

**BROWN BOOBY:** RMSP 4 Jul (K&SF); MBI 9 Jul (MMcB); RP 10 Jul (DGo et al.), *intro*.

**Northern Gannet:** 2 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 4 RMSP 18 Jun (GB).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 470 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Great Cormorant:** RMSP 18 Jun (SSM et al.), imm, unus date for this site; 2 through Jun OP.

**Brown Pelican:** 3 RMSP 5 Jun (PJL, SSM); 14 CCP 25 Jun (RBA); 3 RMSP 26 Jun (RBA); 2 CCP 30 Jun (RBA); Lower New York Bay 5

Jul (RBA); 6 BPt 5 Jul (RBA); 9 Swinburne I, RICH 11 Jul (I. Grant); Coney I Beach KING 18 Jul (RBA); WPP 19 Jul (RBA); 2 Avalon Beach RIVH 25 Jul (RBA); mid Fire I SUFF 25 Jul (RBA); 2 GKP 1 Aug (RBA); 2 BPt 8 Aug; Miller Field RICH 13 Aug (RBA); BPt 15 Aug (RBA); Cedar Grove Beach RICH 23 Aug (RBA); Robert Moses Causeway SUFF 27 Aug (RBA); all records included.

**American Bittern:** Watch Hill, FINS 7 Jul (J. O'Sullivan); 5 singles SUFF 15-31 Aug.

**Least Bittern:** reported only from Jam Bay and Arshamomaque Pres, SUFF, trad sites.

**Great Blue Heron:** 7 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 29 Jam Bay 30 Aug (CF).

**Great Egret:** 72 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 241 Ketcham's Cr, Amityville, SUFF 26 Aug (EMu).

**Snowy Egret:** 41 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 240 Willow Pond, Hewlett Bay P, NASS 20 Aug (SP).

**Little Blue Heron:** max 11 Oakwood Beach, RICH 9 Jul (E. Johnson).

**Tricolored Heron:** reported from about a dozen sites spread fairly uniformly along southern shores of RICH and LI, but almost all singles; max 3 Captree I, SUFF (K&SF).

**Cattle Egret:** Ocean Breeze, RICH 14 Jul (ACi).

**Green Heron:** 7 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 10 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 42 Jam Bay 30 Aug (CF).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** max 21 Cammanns Pd P NASS 29 Aug (J. Landesberg).

**Glossy Ibis:** 35 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 60 Jones Inlet interior marshes 23 Jun (BF).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** Captree I, SUFF 18 Jun (KF) thru 11 Jul (mob); Lido Beach Passive Nature Area NASS 1 Jul (J. Landesberg).

**Black Vulture:** 2 Northville SUFF 11 Jul, 3 here 22 Jul and 9-13 Aug (MLL); these and various nearby singles were the only reports east of QUEE.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 47 Riverhead, SUFF 3 Jul (ACo); widely reported throughout Region, scarce only s NASS and sw SUFF.

**Osprey:** 116 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Northern Harrier:** Nap 7 Jun (A. Lusty), only Jun rep! Unambiguous migr RMSP 20 Aug (SSM), reported widely 26 Aug and later.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** about 6 reports of singles, one RICH and 5 North Shore of NASS & SUFF; always rare here in summer, it has decreased greatly overall as the extremely

similar Cooper's Hawk has increased; burden of proof is now very high for summer reports.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 4 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); widely reported all counties.

**Bald Eagle:** widely reported; two juvs CRSP 6 Jun (CJC).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 74<sup>th</sup> St KING 6 Jun (SBI); Mount Loretto SF RICH (ACi) 7 Jun; Cemetery of the Resurrection RICH 13 Jun (ACi); Charles Memorial P QUEE 28 Jun (RBA); APP 2 Jul (I. Resnick).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** several reports RICH & BRON; CP 15 Aug DBa, A. Cunningham), locally rare; on LI where rare in summer, nested successfully Lake Panamoka, Wading River SUFF, 3 young fledged; CRSP 16 Jun (K&SF, AMcl), a nesting site in past years.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** a few migrants in the extreme w of Region: PBP 23 S. Leon, E. Leon), 27 (P. Horan), 28 Aug (M. Benoit); IHP 26 Aug (JDiC, N. O'Reilly, D. Karlson); CVP 27 (SBI) & 30 Aug (AxW).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 4 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Barn Owl:** no reports but presumably present at trad sites.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 10 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); well reported from RICH and SUFF, but no reports from BRON, KING, QUEE, and only three from NASS, all n of the moraine; IHP 20 Aug (M. DeGulis), locally rare resident.

**Great Horned Owl:** 5 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); reported from all counties except NEWY.

**Barred Owl:** not reported away from Fishers I, SUFF.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 1 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); present at low density throughout the Region in summer, garnering little attention; singles migrating at coastal vantages such as CIC 25 Aug (SBI, DGo, P. Paul) and RMSP 26 Aug (SSM et al.) offer phenological data.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** pairs noted at four sites in the central SUFF Pine Barrens between Ridge and Hampton Bays, with juvs noted at at least one; more than usual for this rare LI breeder.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 90 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), max for 6 yrs of this effort.

**Downy Woodpecker:** 28 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Hairy Woodpecker:** 16 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Northern Flicker:** 26 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** no reps beyond RICH.

**American Kestrel:** max 7 Gramercy, NEWY 10 & 16 Jun, illustrative of the species' shift to urban settings as a Regional breeder.



**Merlin:** RP 21 Jun (CF), interesting date; singles widely reported late Aug.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 1 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); reported from all counties in Region.  
**Monk Parakeet:** 12 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 35 Irmisch P, SUFF 21 Jun (PMo).

#### FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 94 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), max in 6 years of this effort.

**Western Kingbird:** RMSP 11 Jul (MMcB), usus date.

**Eastern Kingbird:** 26 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 1628 FT 26 Aug (CF et al.); large number, *intro*.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** CHP 23 Aug (RRV).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 42<sup>nd</sup> St, NEWY 3 Jun (AF); sb arr RMSP 18 Aug (K&SF) and PP 20 Aug, widespread NYC from 25 Aug; Pine Meadow CP 29 Aug (M. Adams), easternmost of 4 SUFF reps.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 21 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); still a widely distributed breeder, relatively tolerant of xeric woodlands of s NASS and sw SUFF.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** a few nb reps thru 3 Jun; sb arr 20 Aug IHP (N.O'Reilly); widespread NYC parks 26 Aug thru; 4 reps SUFF 28-31 Aug.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** nb migrants thru 7 Jun, mostly in NYC; PP 1 Jul thru 6 Aug, successful nest with two fledglings 26 Jul (R.

Mandelbaum, ph.); FBF 13 & 20 Jun (HL, T. Preston); HSP 6 & 9 Jun (CJC: JGI, LN); sb arr 18 Aug CHP (RRV); only a few others thru end of Aug.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 5 nb reps RICH, NASS, and SUFF thru 10 Jun; BCA 29 Aug (JGI), only sb report, convincing description.

**Willow Flycatcher:** 45 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); single-site max 20 Freshkills 8 Jul (JRG).

**Least Flycatcher:** max 10 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (BF, DGo) & 10 RMSP 30 Aug (BBo et al.).

**Eastern Phoebe:** 5 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), widely by sparsely distributed as a breeder in Region, absent from intensely urbanized areas and almost so from the coastal plain of s NASS and sw SUFF, w of CRSP and HSP.

**White-eyed Vireo:** 15 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), including single-site max 7 HSP (JGI).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Owl's Head P, KING 3 Jun (R. Manian, ph., aud), surely a late migrant; PBP 25 Jun (N. Bark), plausible

breeding site; Paumanok Trail, Manorville, SUFF 1 Jun (JRa), ambiguous, but exactly the sort of context where the species formerly nested on LI; sb migr arr several sites in w parts of Region 26 Aug.

**Warbling Vireo:** 55 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 111 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), incl single-site max 31 CRSP (K&SF).

**Blue Jay:** 109 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**American Crow:** 43 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); almost all reports in single digits, especially those with details indicating careful identification; no single-site count >45 in eBird.

**Fish Crow:** 93 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 515 Verrazzano Narrows, KING 5 Aug (DGo), a very large number for summer; multiple reports 100+, with counts 10+ routine.

**Common Raven:** 5 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); widely reported from all 7 counties.

**Horned Lark:** 1 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 6 Gardiner's I, SUFF (AF).

**Purple Martin:** 32 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 275 FBF 29 Aug (SBI), large number.

**Tree Swallow:** 89 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 3000 Arshamomaque Pres, SUFF 2 Aug (JRa).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 9 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Bank Swallow:** no large counts of coastal migrants by end of season.

**Cliff Swallow:** 10 APEC thru at least 13 Jul, colony; occupied nest Canarsie Beach P, KING 11 Aug (DGo) and later, at least one nestling 31 Aug (P. Paul); small numbers of migrants along outer coast late Aug.

**Barn Swallow:** 250 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); 700 RMSP 25 Aug (DF); max 850 OIn 23 Aug (K&SF).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** 56 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Tufted Titmouse:** 39 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** MPB 17 Jun (HL), unusual date away from likely breeding sites and only Jun report; Arbutus L, RICH 25 Jul (ACi), possibly sb; coastal arrival 15 Aug; widely reported from throughout Region 20 Aug and later; max 24 RMSP 26 Aug (K&SF); *intro*.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** 12 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); no hint of irruption to come by end of Aug.

**Brown Creeper:** several reps Jul-early Aug from e. SUFF possibly nesting, but singles BPt 22 Aug (R. Ellard) and Rego Park, QUEE 25 Aug (J. Gilmour) probably part of forest-breeder irruption; *intro*.

**House Wren:** 63 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).  
**Sedge Wren:** FKP 6-31 AUG (S. Curley, JRG); up to three singing males and two nests; *intro*.

**Marsh Wren:** 21 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Carolina Wren:** 129 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 51 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Eastern Bluebird:** well distributed in SUFF, including South Shore sites such as CRSP and Wertheim NWR, and n NASS, where exclusively n of moraine; absent NYC and s NASS.

**Veery:** 13 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), max in 6 yrs of this effort, encouraging.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one or more nb singles CP through 4 Jun.

**Swainson's Thrush:** many reps 1-2 Jun; last northbound CP 5 Jun; sb arr CP 20 Aug, widespread in NYC by 26 Aug; max 9 CP 31 Aug (ABu, B. Kane); no reports east of NYC by season's end.

**Hermit Thrush:** territorial birds reliably reported at five sites in the SUFF Pine Barrens: Rocky Point 4 Jul (K. Kleinpeter, aud.); Panamoka Pine Barrens SF 2 Jun (VP); 3 at Paumanok Trail, Manorville 4 Jun (JRa, ph.); Hunters Garden, Riverhead, many reps, max 6, including 3 juvs, 19 Jul (MMcB); Maple Swamp, Flanders 11 Jun (MMcB); GwC 26 Aug (R. Goldberg), well described—very early, possibly associated with forest bird irruptions; *intro*.

**Wood Thrush:** sparsely but widely reported, mostly from mesic “mainland” and North Shore of LI sites (vs. coastal plain of s NASS and sw-sc SUFF).

**American Robin:** 401 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Gray Catbird:** 537 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), max for 6 years of this effort.

**Brown Thrasher:** 9 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Northern Mockingbird:** 86 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**European Starling:** 341 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 207 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**House Sparrow:** 208 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 260 Astoria Park, QUEE 31 Aug (TH).

**House Finch:** 63 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), increasing.

**Purple Finch:** arr CIC 25 Aug (SBI, DGo, P. Paul), many reps thru end of month..

**European Goldfinch:** many reps. KING, 6 sites from BTPP to FBF.

**American Goldfinch:** 77 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Snow Bunting:** GKP 8 Jun (J. Gavriity, ph.); alt female; v. unus. date.

## NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

**Eastern Towhee:** 186 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 99 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** PBP 19 Aug (P. Horan); molting adult; v. unus. date.

**Field Sparrow:** 5 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Vesper Sparrow:** no documented reports.

**Lark Sparrow:** arr 26 Aug FT (L. Ewing) and JBWE (A. Simmons, mob); FMCP 30 Aug (C. Jones); GwC 31 Aug (SBI); only reps.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Jun reps confined to NYC mounds and grass/farmlands in the Calverton-Riverhead-North Fork strip, except for 6 Republic Airport, Farmingdale, SUFF 6 Jun (CJC: M. Cooper). More widespread reports late Aug indicative of migrants, *intro*.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** territorial birds noted Farmingdale, Edgewood, Calverton, Gabreski Airport, Southold, and Hither Hills SP, SUFF; max 50 Freshkills 14 Aug (S. Curley, JRG); most notable was one Canarsie Beach P 31 Aug (P. Paul, ph.); *intro*.

**Seaside Sparrow:** 48 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** MPB 1 Jun (HL) & PlumbB 2 Jun (R. Manian), last nb birds.

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** 66 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Song Sparrow:** 235 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max count in six years of current effort.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr CHP 31 Aug (D. Horvath).

**Swamp Sparrow:** well reported in w parts of Region, but only 4 sites SUFF; *intro*.

**White-throated Sparrow:** four early June stragglers e of NYC (2 each in NASS and w SUFF) were more than 1 would ordinarily expect, but the situation in NYC was, again, quite astonishing to this writer: reports of 1-3 birds over-summering at more than a dozen sites, mostly neatly aligned nne to ssw down the center of Manhattan.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Muttontown Pres NASS 1-10 Jun (R. Proniewych, mob); Orr Pres, East Islip SUFF 2 Jun (LN); CP 19 Aug (J. Spindel, mob), also 24 Aug (D. Aronov, 29 Aug (ABu); Brooklyn Bridge P 22 Aug (H. Wolf); CP 29 Aug (RBA); all reps listed.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** f Sayville Maritime Museum SUFF 3 Jun (RBA); MBI 16 Jun (A. Gilbert),

**Bobolink:** 3 Southold SUFF 23 Jun (FD), the only rep suggestive of nesting; RMSP 28 Jun

(SSM), alt male e to w, unus date; are 8 Jul; 10 Caumsett SP, SUFF 24 Jul (K&SF); 127 CIC 25 Aug (SBI, P. Paul); 200 Freshkills P, RICH 31 Aug (JRG).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** restricted to Manorville-Calverton area except for several reports of one Freshkills, RICH; 2 Republic Airport, Farmingdale, SUFF 6 Jun (CJC: M. Cooper) & 3 St. Charles Cem, SUFF 5 Jul (PJL), *intro*.

**Orchard Oriole:** 7 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Baltimore Oriole:** BPT 20 Jun (DGo, SSI), interesting date/loc; 81 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); heavy flight 26 Aug; 7 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay (BF, DGo) & 35 RMSP (SSM et al.).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 605 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 62 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Common Grackle:** 398 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** 40 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Ovenbird:** 14 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 12 Camp Hero SP Mon 26 Jun (TS), good count of breeders.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr Dead Horse Pt, KING 28 Jul (HL); max 3 CP 29 Aug (DBa), large number; 6 reps SUFF.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 52<sup>nd</sup> St., Manhattan 14 Jul (AF); 6 SUFF reps, more than usual.

**Northern Waterthrush:** about a dozen Jun reps, mostly NYC; 12 RMSP 26 Aug (SSM); max 80 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (BF, DGo).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** f private residence East Meadow, NASS 19 Aug (S. Williams, ph.); m Franklin Pd Pres, SUFF 23 Aug (R. Taylor, ph.); CP 31 Aug (RBA); only reps.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 19 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), max in 6 yrs of this effort; max 8 APP 30 Aug (MN).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 300 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (BF, DGo).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** RP 4 Aug (DGo, SSI), only rep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** max 10 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (BF, DGo).

**Nashville Warbler:** max 2 Garviews Pt Pres, Glen Cove, NASS 30 Aug (MN), illustrative of this migrant's pattern of high frequency/low abundance.

**Connecticut Warbler:** PP 26 Aug (P. Paul), early and a hint at the large fall flight to come.

**Mourning Warbler:** 7 reports thru 5 Jun, all NYC except Muttontown Pres, NASS 2-5 Jun (PJL, SSM, et seq.).

**Kentucky Warbler:** no reps.

**Common Yellowthroat:** 241 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), including single-site max HSP (TD).

**Hooded Warbler:** West Hills CP, SUFF 10 Jun (BF); Muttontown Pres, NASS 2-14 Jun (P. Reisfeld et al.); 6 reps NYC parks 22-31 Aug.

**American Redstart:** 11 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 1200 No Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (BF, DGo), huge number; *intro*.

**Cape May Warbler:** max 15 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (BF, DGo), indicative of heavy flight this fall; *intro*.

**Cerulean Warbler:** APP 18 & 21 Aug; SPP 31 Aug (C. Cammarota); rare.

**Northern Parula:** Mashomack Pres, SUFF 20 Jun (TS), reportedly on territory for two weeks prior at this historical breeding site; Hallock SP Pres, Northville, SUFF 1 Jul, singing all day (MLL).

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 10 CP 31 Aug.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last nb 2 Jun; arr CP 24 Aug, then singles at five more NYC sites 26-31 Aug.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** last nb 6 Jun; arr CP 18 Aug, then very widely 26 Aug; max 14 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (DGo).

**Yellow Warbler:** 301 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); 35 BPT 1 Aug (DGo, SSI); 20 No. Channel Bridge, Jam Bay 26 Aug (BF, DGo); 13 RMSP 20 Aug (K&SF).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** after a few Jun stragglers in the NYC parks, once again there were no reports suggestive of breeding and no Jul reps at all; arr 14 Aug and widely rep after 20 Aug.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** widely rep thru 6 Jun, with several more thru mid-month; arr IHP 26 Aug (JDiC).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** a few nb thru 5 Jun; FP 30 Jun (K.Mirth), unus date; arr CP 16 Aug; widespread arr 26 Aug.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Laurel Ridge Setauket Woods Nature Pres, SUFF 31 Aug (N. Strycker).

**Pine Warbler:** 34 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); single-site max 15 Paumanok Trail—Jones Pond, Manorville, SUFF 14 Jun (H. Bohne, J. Levin).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Shagwong Pt, Mon, SUFF 9 Jun (TS); arr Frank Melville Mem P SUFF 20 Aug (J. Nizza); 5 more reps 26-31

Aug; Aug arrival is correlated with irruptions of other boreal breeding species.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** 1 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.).

**Prairie Warbler:** 13 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); single-site max 12 SMSP 22 Jun.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last nb MPB 4 Jun (HL); sb arr GwC 20 Aug (J. Bailey); widespread 26 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** many reps 2 Jun and a few to 4 Jun in NYC parks; arr CP 14 Aug (J. Ward); widespread reps including SUFF 27-31 Aug.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Piping Rock Club, Matinecock, NASS 15 Jun (B. Hammatt, unus date; arr CP 16 Aug (E. Leonardi); many reps 25-31 Aug w part of Region, none from SUFF.

**Summer Tanager:** GwC 1-3 Jun (mob, ph.); Owls Head P, KING 4 Jun (F. Rousseau, ph.); Uplands Farm Sanct, SUFF 9 Jun (L. F. Melliny); Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 5, 10, & 12 Jun (ACo); CIC 25 Aug (DGo, P. Paul, ph.), migrating; only reps.

**Scarlet Tanager:** 3 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); 9 Caumsett SP SUFF 4 Jun (K&SF), notable count.

**Northern Cardinal:** 164 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.), max.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** ca. 15 possible breeding sites, mostly on or near the North Shore of QUEE, NASS, and SUFF; also CRSP 5 & 17 Jun (VG) and two sites near North Sea, Southampton (FD); southbound migr arr 20 Aug HLSP then widespread 26-27 Aug and later.

**Blue Grosbeak:** continues to increase: on terr at multiple sites RICH; CVP & SCSP in KING; St. Charles Cem 5 Jul (PJL) in w SUFF; and at least four sites around the traditional central SUFF breeding areas.

**Indigo Bunting:** BPt 6 Jun (SSi), interesting date & loc; 10 CJC 6 Jun (PJL et al.); max 14 CVP 28 Jun (DGo, A. Honeywood); widespread arr 25-26 Aug along outer coast.

**Dickcissel:** arr BPt 8 Aug (SSi); widely reported 26-30 Aug, including at least 3 RMSP 30 Aug (SSM et al.) and 2 SCSP 31 Aug (M. Normandia).



Sooty Tern, Inwood Hill Park, *New York*, 4 Aug 2020, © Nathan O'Reilly.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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:

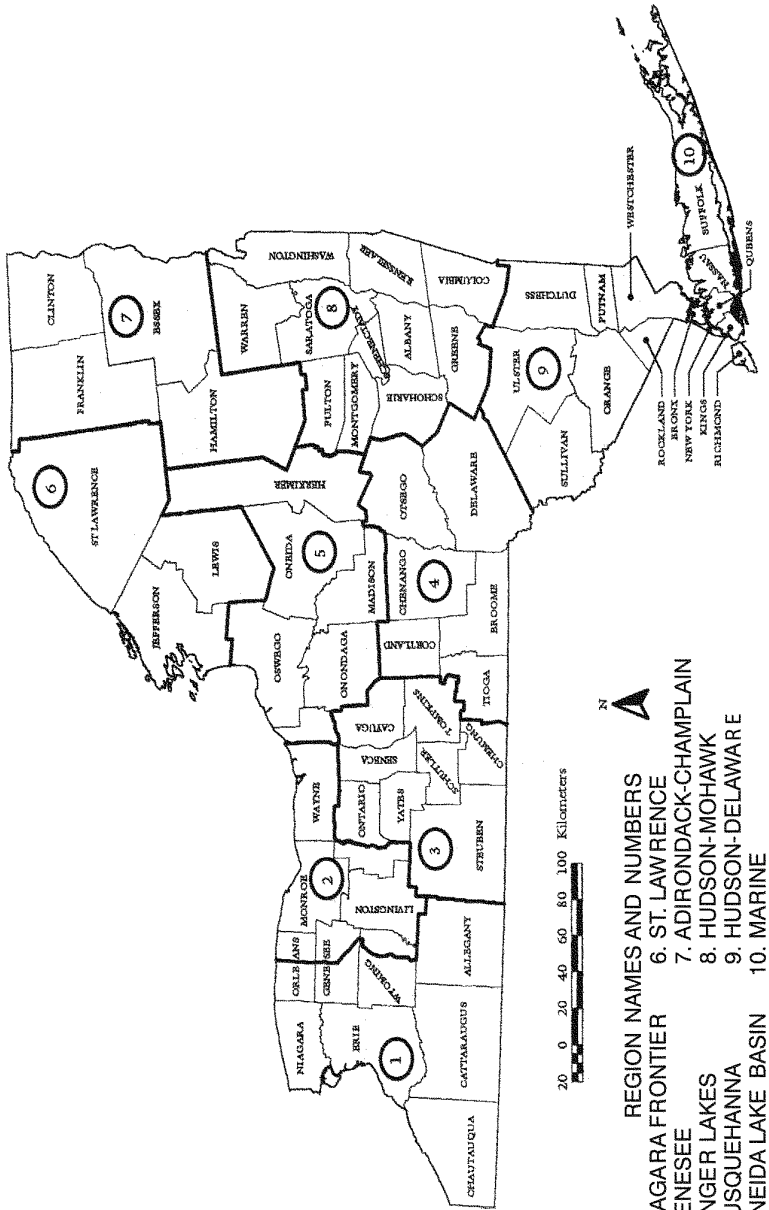
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

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  
 2. GENESEE  
 3. FINGER LAKES  
 4. SUSQUEHANNA  
 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN  
 6. ST. LAWRENCE  
 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN  
 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK  
 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE  
 10. MARINE

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