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EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT METHODS FOR DETERMINING SONG REPERTOIRE SIZE OF A GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*)

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Abstract—The Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) has an extensive song repertoire that impacts a male's reproductive attractiveness. Using field recordings of a single male Gray Catbird, repertoire size was estimated via two methods of computer analysis, which were compared and verified by direct observation. Processing by utilizing a moving threshold method was found to be more effective than a fixed threshold method in both determining a large number of phrase-types and maintaining high accuracy. However, direct observation revealed that much of the song remained unassigned to a phrase-type. After accounting for under-analysis of the data, song repertoire size was estimated to be approximately 970 phrase-types.

Song repertoire size is considered a driver of sexual selection in many species of birds (MacDougall-Shackleton 1997; Reid *et al.* 2004; Yasukawa *et al.* 1980), including North American mimids (family Mimidae), which boast some the largest song repertoires currently known (Wildenthal 1965). The songs of Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) can extend for up to ten minutes with an incredibly diverse series of phrases, incorporating extensive mimicry (Dolby *et al.* 2005). Song is an integral aspect of sexual selection and reproduction in Gray Catbirds as song production rate is correlated with paternal chick feeding effort (Dolby *et al.* 2005).

However, the exact size of their repertoire remains relatively unknown. Repertoire size estimates for other North American mimids are quite varied. Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) song repertoire size has been estimated to reach 203 songs (Derrickson 1987). Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) have song repertoires that have been found to reach to an estimated 2,327 song units (Kroodsma and Parker 1977). Considering the frequently large repertoire size of many mimids, the simple enumeration of song-types by direct observation is often infeasible. Recent advances in recording and computational technology have allowed for simple, rapid methods of estimating repertoire size. Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare the effectiveness of two computer-based methods in determining repertoire size: fixed threshold analysis and moving threshold analysis.

METHODS

This study took place on a single male Gray Catbird between 5 May and 4 June 2020 at the Tenaflly Nature Center, in Tenaflly, New Jersey (40.92468 N, 73.94488 W). The bird was determined to be a unique male during the process of measuring territory size. The territory of the breeding pair was mapped between 10 and 20 May using playback experiments. Recordings of other local Gray Catbirds, birds found within a twenty-mile radius of the study location, were systematically played back to the Gray Catbird observed to be singing. The limits of the territory were determined by playing recordings farther from the estimated center of the territory.

A LyxPro CMG-500 shotgun microphone was used for recording in conjunction with a Tascam DR-05X recorder.

For the purpose of this study, the following definitions will be used to describe vocalizations. They are expansions of the definitions used by Boughey and Thompson (1981) as well as Wildenthal (1965) in their study of mimids.

- a. Syllable: Any mark on a sonogram at a unique time and frequency;
- b. Phrase: A series of syllables lacking pauses of more than 20ms and separated from all other syllables by at least 20ms;
- c. Phrase-Type: A phrase with unique frequency-time characteristic; to be considered of the same phrase-type, the phrases must be within 500 Hz of each other and have durations within 20% of the shorter phrase;
- d. Group: A collection of multiple phrases generated during processing; ideally, representative of a single phrase-type

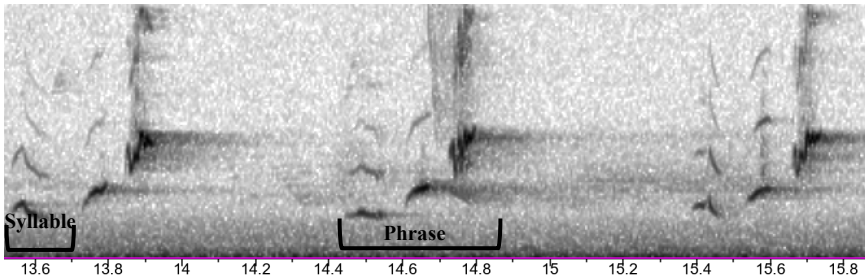


Figure 1: A spectrogram of a series of three phrases recorded on May 6th, 2020 marked with the song terminology used. Displayed in Raven Lite.

Following field recording, songs were analyzed using the R package WarbleR v.1.1.24 (Araya-Salas and Smith-Vidaurre 2017). Spectrograms were counted and labeled after automatic detection by WarbleR at threshold 3%. Adjustments were manually made as necessary to ensure that the phrases selected adhered to the definitions outlined above. Cross-correlation was then used to compare selections.

The result was a correlation matrix which had correlation values, ranging between 0 and 1, for any combination of two selected phrases.

To group the phrases, two different methods were applied: the fixed threshold method and the moving threshold method. The fixed threshold method first set a correlation factor threshold. For this experiment, I used threshold values of 0.75, 0.70, and 0.65, using one for each of the three times the data was processed. Then, for each phrase, a group with all pairs of phrases with a correlation factor greater than the threshold and adhered to the definition of phrase-type was formed. Next, the phrases within the group were cross-correlated with each other and those that failed to reach the designated threshold were removed. Groups were then compared against each other and duplicates were eliminated. As each phrase could belong to more than one group, groups containing the same phrase were merged and cross-correlated. If all phrases in the merged group passed the correlation factor threshold, the groups were merged; otherwise, the groups were again separated. This process was repeated until no more groups could be formed.

A secondary fixed threshold method (hereafter length-adjusted fixed threshold (LAFT)) was also applied. Preliminary results indicated that shorter phrases were more likely to be accurately grouped, even at higher thresholds. Therefore, a final fixed threshold analysis was conducted where phrases were divided into short—(less than 0.153s), medium—(between 0.153s and 0.336s), and long-length phrases (longer than 0.336s) and analyzed at threshold values of 0.75, 0.70, and 0.65 respectively.

By comparison, the moving threshold method first set the threshold to the highest correlation factor among all phrases which was 0.85. The threshold was decreased from 0.85 to 0.65 by decrements of 0.01. After each decrease, all pairs of phrases with a correlation factor above the threshold and adhered to the definition of phrase-type were found. Each pair of phrases was then compared against existing groups. If possible, it was merged with other groups; otherwise the pair formed their own group. Once added to a group, the phrase was removed from the general pool of phrases, eliminating any possibility of overlap between groups.

Ideally, in both methods, each group would consist of all occurrences of a particular phrase-type. To determine the accuracy of the generated groups from both methods, ten groups were sampled manually for each method. Seven groups were selected randomly and the remaining three groups were randomly selected from the five longest groups in terms of average length. Each group selected consisted of least three phrases. This was done to ensure random sampling while examining the effectiveness of the grouping of longer phrases.

Accuracy was then calculated by analyzing the phrases in each of the selected groups. Phrases were assessed to determine if the group was correctly constructed. Accuracy was simply the number of correctly matched phrases divided by the total number of phrases across the ten selected groups.

RESULTS

During the spring of 2020, more than 53 minutes of songs were recorded across 31 analyzable recordings between 6 May and 1 June. Some recordings were not analyzed due to elevated external noise or insufficient duration of catbird song. Following the autodetection of song, 4891 phrases were identified. These phrases were then merged if they were within 0.20 seconds of one another. In the end, I identified 2235 phrases from the individual. The individual and its probable mate occupied a territory of approximately 0.199 hectare.

Processing Accuracy

Each method resulted in a very different number of groups. The number of groups formed varied from only 40 groups to 413, with accuracy ranging from 0.509 to 0.750 (Table 1). Accuracy decreased as the threshold was decreased in the fixed threshold method and overall, the moving threshold method performed more accurately. The LAFT method has average accuracy. While many accuracy values were precisely 1, indicating that the group formed was completely accurate, accuracy tended to increase as phrase length increased (Figure 2).

Table 1: Number of groups formed by each method and accuracy of the groups

	Fixed Threshold			LAFT	Moving Threshold
Threshold	0.75	0.70	0.65	0.75-0.65	0.85 – 0.60
Groups	40	155	413	213	284
Accuracy	0.730	0.625	0.509	0.571	0.750

Repertoire Size

As the moving threshold method proved to be the most accurate method, the repertoire size was estimated from that particular method. The moving threshold method proposed 294 groups. However, many phrases were not grouped into any of the categories (Table 2).

With many phrases remaining un-grouped, the true repertoire size of the individual was estimated. It was highly unlikely that all the phrases that were not grouped were unique. To estimate the true number of phrase-types, it was assumed that the remaining phrases likely occur in groups with a similar number of phrases as produced by the moving threshold method. Therefore, this would group the remaining 1565 phrases into approximately 686 phrase-types for a predicted song repertoire of 970 phrase-types.

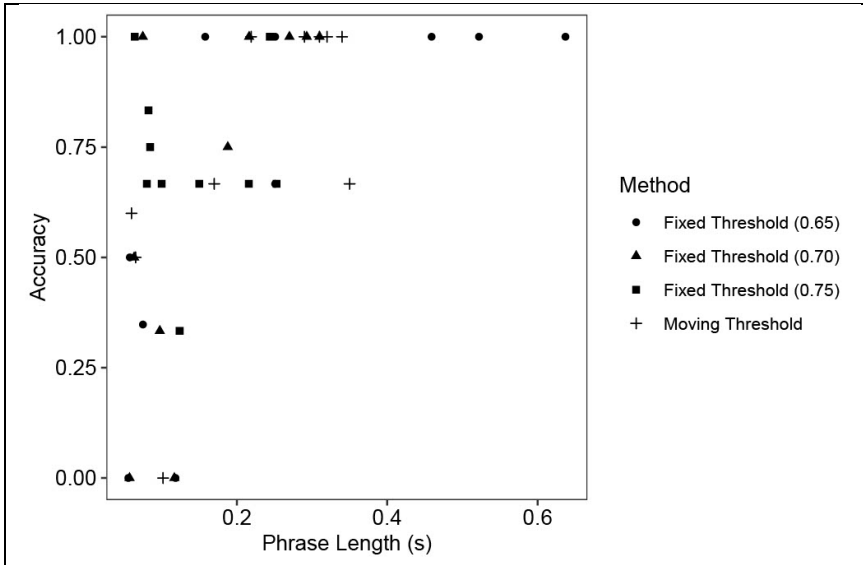


Figure 2: Accuracy of grouping plotted as a function of phrase length (n = 40).

Table 2: Proportion of total phrases grouped by each method.

	Grouped	Not Grouped	Proportion Grouped	Phrases per Group
Fixed Threshold (0.65)	805	1430	0.36	3.78
Fixed Threshold (0.70)	306	1929	0.14	3.21
Fixed Threshold (0.75)	110	2142	0.042	2.75
LAFT	676	1559	0.30	3.17
Moving Threshold	670	1565	0.30	2.28

DISCUSSION

As expected, higher thresholds led to higher accuracy within groups. However, it is important to distinguish between accuracy within groups and overall accuracy when estimating song repertoire size. Setting the threshold for determining phrase-types higher in the fixed threshold method had the unwanted consequence of greatly diminishing the number of groups formed and thereby underrepresenting the number of phrase-types present in the song. Although the fixed threshold analysis at the 0.75 threshold was relatively accurate, it grouped only 4.2% of the total phrases, greatly decreasing potential for practical use. The

LAF method was not particularly accurate (57%) while grouping approximately the same number of phrases as the moving threshold method. I found that the moving threshold method created a large number of groups while being more accurate than any of the different thresholds used in the fixed threshold method.

Nevertheless, I found major issues with relying on the moving threshold method for counting song repertoire. The average group size was far lower when compared to the fixed threshold method. I propose that such a discrepancy is likely due to the placement of the same phrase in multiple groups which was allowed in the fixed threshold method but not in the moving threshold method. Furthermore, only 29% of the total phrases recorded were grouped and a fixed threshold of 0.65 was not much more successful with just 36% of phrases grouped.

This problem is likely the result of many unsuccessful and missed groupings. An example is shown in Figure 1, where despite fulfilling every requirement for being considered to be of the same phrase-type, none of the different methods and thresholds grouped any of these three phrases together. This resulted from a low correlation factor of 0.61 for the first and second phrases. Furthermore, the first syllable of the third phrase was not detected by the WarbleR package making the grouping of the third phrase with the previous two impossible.

Some variability in accuracy also occurred. I propose that such variability is tied to phrase length. Figure 2 illustrates a positive correlation between phrase length and accuracy. I hypothesize that the trend could be due to fewer long phrases, decreasing the number of possible groupings as phrase length increases. At lower phrase lengths, differences between two phrases are also likely less pronounced and therefore more difficult for programs to accurately differentiate.

Overall, I conclude that while basic computer analysis of bird song has upside, there is still a need for direct oversight to ensure the accuracy of results. The methods used in this experiment were not capable of analyzing the song fully autonomously. Therefore, further research is necessary to confidently determine the precise repertoire size in Gray Catbirds as well as efficient methods of measuring repertoire size. Larger experimental populations may also offer the opportunity to explore the range of repertoires likely present in the wild.

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NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC., 74th ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 2, 2021

The 74th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held via Zoom on Saturday, October 2, 2021. (This year's annual meeting was hosted by the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society which provided a Zoom tour and presentation by the Kelly Adirondack Center before the Saturday morning delegates meeting, and a Friday evening Zoom program about the effect of climate change on Northeast montane birds by Jason Hill of the Vermont Center for Ecosystem Studies.)

President Shirley Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Instead of a roll call of club names, the Secretary confirmed that a quorum—10% of the possible number of delegates—was present. Greg Lawrence made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2020 annual meeting, which had been circulated previously. Jerry Thurn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Shirley Shaw

Shirley Shaw summarized her report which was presented in full on pages 8-10 in full meeting documents. She noted that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as NYSOA board president the last two years.

[To access the full meeting documents which will be referenced through these annual meeting minutes, visit: <https://nybirds.org/docs2021/>].

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

(10:05 AM) The full text of these three reports is available on pages 11-15 in the annual meeting documents. Mary Jane first highlighted the results of the 2020 Audit Committee report on page 15. The 2020 NYSOA Audit Committee report stated, "We have examined the financial statements of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., as of December 31, 2020, as provided to us by the Association's Treasurer, and in our opinion, these statements present fairly the financial condition of the Association on December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations for the year then ended." Members of the Audit Committee were Stephen Chang, Thomas Burke and Peter Capainolo. Mary Jane then summarized the Treasurer's Report highlighting the General Operating Fund Activity on pages 13-14. She noted that there was an approximately \$12K shortfall in budgeted income, with \$18,684.97 received income compared with \$30,810.00 budgeted income. However, on the expense side, actual expenses of \$23,420.42 were significantly less than the budgeted \$ 30,464.00 resulting in an excess of expense over income of \$4,885.45. This was attributed to various impacts from the COVID pandemic. We also published five issues of *The Kingbird* in 2020 in order to catch up instead of four per year which does impact expenses. *The Kingbird* comprised 70% of NYSOA expenses in 2020. Ongoing *Kingbird* costs will also be mitigated

by subscribers choosing the digital edition instead of paper. Andy Mason noted that there was nothing more to report from the Finance Committee.

DEC Report – Ashley Meyer (for Matt Palumbo)

(10:10 AM) Shirley noted that the full text of NYSDEC's report to NYSOA was listed as a separate document. This document is also available at <https://nybirds.org/docs2021/>.

Ashley reported on behalf of Matt Palumbo. The above report from Matt reviewed all the grant-funded projects underway in the Avian Unit including US Fish & Wildlife Service projects. Ashley offered some additional highlights and updates. The species listing status is still under review. To see which species are being considered for a change of status, review the submitted DEC report. The grassland bird strategy is being finalized for a five-year period covering how DEC will undertake and approve grassland management and restoration along with its partners. Partners include USDA and USFWS as well as Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ducks Unlimited, and Audubon New York. To request copies of the grassland bird strategy, contact Ashley Meyer who is the DEC coordinator for this work. NYSDEC is reviewing energy siting projects with nearly 70 projects submitted. The endangered and threatened species mitigation bank fund allows for large-scale renewable energy projects to pay a fee to offset unavoidable impacts to listed species. These are largely in grassland habitats. The hope is that the mitigation funding will help NYSDEC meet goals for grassland habitat work and mitigate impacts to the Golden Eagle. Nicole Campbell, another new avian biologist, will be working on these renewable energy projects. For follow up questions, email Ashley Meyer at ashley.meyer@dec.ny.gov. The single chat question asked why Rusty Blackbird is not a listed species in New York. Ashley asked for an email follow up so that she could look further into that question.

New York Breeding Bird Atlas – Kathryn Schneider

(10:18 AM) Kathryn Schneider, co-chair of the Atlas Steering Committee, substituted for Julie Hart along with Andy Mason to report on the NYSOA Atlas Fund. The full report is on pages 22-24. Andy Mason asked to report on the financial matters first. The Atlas 2020 Fund was established by NYSOA to accept and disburse funds for the Atlas that are outside of the funds that the Atlas receives from other governmental sources. As of the end of June 2020 quarter, there was about \$30K in the Fund. Kathy notes that she is a last-minute substitute due to Julie's illness. Julie did submit an extensive report found on pages 16-24. Kathy illustrated highlights of this report with a screen share of the data table on page 16, as shown below.

Highlights noted were a 54% increase in atlasers with 1,510 in 2019 and 2,310 in 2020; two new species confirmed breeding in NYS; and overall excellent participation by birders in New York. An online kickoff meeting was held in April with breakout rooms that were very popular, and this same technique was also used in the bi-monthly Atlas town halls. The outreach subcommittee set up themes

for the year to focus on coverage gaps such as nighttime species, cryptic species, and grassland species. The Atlas Insider has 2800 subscribers and comes out monthly between March and August. NYSOA members are encouraged to review these since there is great content on New York bird species and the Atlas project. A Big Atlas Weekend was held at the end of June in coordination with other ongoing breeding bird atlases in Maine, North Carolina, and Maryland-DC.

Metric	2021	2020	Increase
Atlasers	2,330	1,510	54%
Total person-hours	4,405,997 (503 yrs)	2,595,470 (296 yrs)	71%
Unique hours	186,293 (21 yrs)	108,766 (12 yrs)	71%
Complete checklists	248,289	104,746	137%
Total observations	4,348,987	1,800,000	142%
Species confirmed	217	215	1%

Over 1000 atlasers (435 in NY) participated in this weekend event and made 6169 confirmations (records of confirmed breeding). Each state organized challenges that focused efforts on Atlas goals. Winners received a free course from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Bird Academy. There was also an interstate competition to select an overall winner—the Maine BBA—that received a trophy. Everyone involved thought it was a fun and successful event and we hope to expand to other Atlas projects in 2022. See the Atlas website for details: www.ebird.org/atlasny. Regional coordinators are working on plans for 2022 for coverage gaps and training needs in their areas and developing block profiles to tempt birders to cover certain blocks. The sponsor a species project was very successful bringing in over \$30K in donations. Additional assistance with development and fund raising is still being sought. Two new groups are being formed. The Data Review Working Group will work in the winter to review data. Original observations will not be removed but breeding/behavior codes will be reinterpreted. A second group will be working on the final product whether it will be a book and/or a website and how to fund it in consultation with likely users of the Atlas data. Julie is available to answer questions by email as always at: Julie.Hart@dec.ny.gov. There is still a need for additional regional coordinators.

Delayed until later in the meeting, Bob Spahn added additional comments which are summarized here. In Bob’s observation, nearly all of the numbers in the BBA Summary Table presented are actually not directly relatable to the BBA due to the data input methodology in place. The final numbers will not be known until after the data are reviewed and corrected which will involve considerable effort. Bob urged that knowledgeable birders volunteer to help the BBA Records Review Committee currently being established.

Awards – Jerry Thurn

(10:30 AM) Shirley thanked Bill Ostrander for serving as the Awards Chairperson for several years. Jerry has now stepped into that role. Jerry has been reviewing the statewide rare bird alerts to be able to send out certificates of appreciation to property owners who have supported rare bird observers. Jerry reviewed the various awards that NYSOA presents and offered his email address for any questions (geraldthurn@gmail.com). Shirley noted that our award presentations were paused by our having virtual annual meetings and that we hope to resume awards in 2022.

Emanuel Levine Memorial Award – Shai Mitra

(10:35 AM) Details were offered on page 25 of the meeting documents. Shai noted that this award is given annually for the best article that year in *The Kingbird*. The award for 2020 is being given to NYSARC for their presentation of the 2017 report in *The Kingbird*.

***The Kingbird* Report – Shai Mitra**

(10:37 AM) Details were offered on page 25 of the meeting documents. Shirley noted Shai's work as editor of *The Kingbird*. Last year was a major milestone to initiate digital publication. This has been a great success with a bit of a learning curve with some members accidentally selecting digital, but these were worked out. Many people seem to enjoy getting this publication digitally, saving printing and mailing expenses for NYSOA. Credit was given to Carena Pooth for encouraging this move. We did publish five issues in 2020 and will do that again in 2021 to catch up with the backlog of the publication. Credit was given to Patricia Lindsay's ongoing work in many aspects of *The Kingbird* production. The regional editors were also thanked for their valuable work.

***New York Birders* Report – Joan Collins**

(10:43 am) Details were offered on pages 26-27. Joan reported that this past year, we published 60 pages across the quarterly issues with a focus on the Atlas featuring excellent content from Julie Hart. Andy Mason's content was also appreciated as were the articles by young birders. Profile pieces are popular as are the state and county listing reports. The annual winter finch forecast will be in the next issue. Book reviews are especially welcome as are reviews of birding apps or equipment. Thanks to Carena Pooth and Kathy Schneider for proof reading. Joan encouraged people to choose the digital option for the colored photos and especially the many weblinks. The paper version also lags by several weeks behind the digital version in distribution. The digital version also saves the NYSOA printing and mailing costs. Joan noted that this will be her seventh year as editor but then she will take a break by the April 2022 issue so a new editor is being sought.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn

(10:47 AM) Details are on page 28. Bob did an overview of the work of the bylaws

committee to consider potential changes, noting that none were urgent and some needed board discussion. He referred to page 28 for details. Bob highlighted the conflict of interest requirement maybe needing reduction from all special committee members to only special committee chairs. The other issue is whether the bylaws should reflect a faster way of making bylaw changes. Currently four months prior to a meeting, changes would be presented with a lag between annual meetings. The bylaws committee feels that bylaws should not be rapidly changed. The next issue is regarding virtual annual meetings which are currently allowed under NYS law for membership meetings until the end of 2021. Unclear is how this might affect the option for hybrid or Zoom delegate meetings in 2022 and beyond.

Field Trips Report – Greg Lawrence, Joan Collins

(11:00 AM) Greg reported on behalf of Mary Beth Warburton, saying that there are plans underway for a winter field trip in the Adirondacks. Julie Hart has agreed to come as our speaker for a gathering sometime in February. Joan noted that Julie and her husband are confirmed and said that Julie gave an excellent talk in 2020.

Checklists, County & State Listing – Carena Pooth

(11:04 AM) Details are on pages 29 and 30. The AOS 67th supplement came out in June. The main change is Mew Gull now split as Common Gull and Short-billed Gull. Passerines were reshuffled from shrikes to waxwings. Changes are already made on the online checklist. The NYSARC checklist added an asterisk for Trumpeter Swan breeding, spotted by Julie Hart. This was another record year with 132 County Listing participants. The compilation is on the website on the county listing page. The life list record for New York State which has sat at 446 for years was finally broken by Gail Benson with a total of 450.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

(11:10 AM) Details are on pages 31 and 32. The biggest change was transitioning NYSOA membership management from spreadsheet record keeping to an online web-based system that allows administrators to make changes online, with the big benefit of members being able to access their own profiles and make their own updates. Membership payments and donations are being handled by AffiniPay instead of PayPal. The goal next year is to get both *New York Birders* and *The Kingbird* digital editions online for downloading. Another goal is a NYSOA article library online for club newsletter editors to download shared content. Carena also noted the most popular items on the website are the field checklist, the CBC calendar, NYSARC pages, county and state listing pages, *The Kingbird* archives, and the “About Us” page. Thanks were given to Carena for all her work setting up Wild Apricot. Carena, in turn, thanked Pat Aitken and Joan Collins for their responsiveness and assistance throughout the project.

Conservation Report – Andy Mason

(11:11 AM) See the report on page 33. Shirley noted Andy's submitted report since he was no longer online, and also noted that Andy sent an email to member clubs asking them to get in touch with him about any local conservation concerns.

Marketing/Publicity Report – Brian Dugan

(11:11 AM) The report is on page 34. An order of 2500 postcards has been received. Contact Brian if you want a supply. An additional order for 1,000 business cards has also been received, as a scaled down version of the postcard. A screen share showed the NYSOA Zazzle items now being offered, linked from the www.nybirds.org website. Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife website (www.ournatureusa.com/) now lists NYSOA with our logo and is linked to our website. The same linkage is also on the NYSDEC website.

Membership – Pat Aitken

(11:16 AM) Report on page 35. As of September 21, we have 41 member organizations with a check still pending from Queens County Bird Club to bring us to 42 organizations. Some small decline in individual memberships are likely due to the transition to better membership tracking.

New York State Avian Records Committee – Willie D'Anna

(11:18 AM) The report is on page 36. Willie was not present. Shirley noted that two openings will be coming up on the committee next year.

New York State Young Birders' Club – Emily Van Gelder

(11:21 AM) The report is on pages 37-39. Emily gave an overview of the information presented in the report. Carena praised the club coordinators for their work.

Waterfowl Count – Bill Ostrander

(11:27 AM) The waterfowl count was held January 16-26, 2021. More than 353 volunteers counted nearly 400,000 birds. The 2022 dates will be January 15-23. Regional coordinators are needed for Regions 3 (Finger Lakes) and 9 (Lower Hudson Valley). Email Bill at browncreeper9@gmail.com. Data collection via Excel spreadsheets will be compiled regionally and then returned to Bill, as before.

Election of Officers and Directors

(11:30 AM) The slate can be found on page 40. On behalf of the nominating committee, Tim Baird presented the following slate of nominees for officers and directors:

Officers: (one year terms) President: Pat Aitken, Vice President: Andy Mason, Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan, Recording Secretary: Anne Swaim

Directors: (Terms ending in 2022) Sean Camillieri, Joan Collins
(Terms ending in 2023) Craig Braack, Mike Cooper, Benjamin Van Doren, Greg Lawrence
Brian Dugan offered a motion to approve the slate, seconded by Barbara Butler. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Shirley offered congratulations to all those elected.

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

Nominating Committee: (Term ending in 2022) Joan Collins (Chair), Anne Swaim, Bob Adamo

Auditing Committee: (Term ending in 2022) Stephen Chang (Chair), Thomas W. Burke, Pete Capainolo
Greg Lawrence offered a motion to approve the slate, seconded by Jerry Thurn. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

(11:36 AM) Shirley noted specifics for the 2022 meeting to be hosted by Onondaga Audubon, likely at hotel in Liverpool with intent to hold the meeting in person. Anne Swaim asked that future meetings not be held on mornings during prime migration. Pat Aitken agreed and said we should also plan for evening board meetings via Zoom six times a year for two hours on the third Thursday of every month. Our next regularly scheduled board meeting was requested to be held on Thursday, December 9. An email to the board will follow up on board meeting scheduling.

Adjournment

(11:41 AM) A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Adamo, seconded by Steve Melcher. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Swaim, Recording Secretary

Attendance: 2021 NYSOA Annual Meeting October 2, 2021

Thirty six delegates registered for the meeting; of those, 31 were present, 28% of possible delegates.

Future Annual Meetings

2022: Onondaga Audubon Society, 2023: Saw Mill River Audubon Society.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

More Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) Nesting in NYS Department of Transportation's Salt Barns

The North American Breeding Bird Survey shows an increasing trend for Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) in New York State (Pardieck *et al.* 2020). Additionally, eBird also shows an increase in the number of Common Ravens being reported in New York State (Fink *et al.* 2020). These resources in addition to the documented southward expansion of Common Raven in Ontario (Peck 2005), suggest the species is expanding its breeding range in New York State and nesting occurrences are likely to become more common on the Lake Plain (Lazazzero and Adams 2018). Lazazzero and Adams (2018) reported nesting sites during 2017 on or within several types of man-made structures in western New York, including a New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Salt Storage Barn in Sodus, Wayne County, NY.

There were no reports of Common Ravens using any NYSDOT facilities in 2018, 2019, or 2020. Then in the Spring of 2021, two new Common Raven nests were discovered at NYSDOT salt barns in Batavia, Genesee County and Newark, Wayne County (Figs. 1 & 2, p. 372). At both locations, the ravens built their nests in the roofing frames of the salt barn structures. The Batavia pair was observed actively building a nest on 29 March 2021. However, as of 14 April, all activity ceased for unknown reasons at this location. Four adults were observed in the area on 17 December 2021. Two of the birds perched inside the salt barn, while the two others remained outside.

On 29 March 2021 the Newark pair was on eggs. On 14 April 2021, lots of feces and rabbit fur were found on the salt barn floor under the nest. Feathers from a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) were also found under the nest. On 3 May 2021, three nestlings were observed in the nest. By 12 May, one of the three nestlings had fledged the nest and was seen flying amongst the roofing beams. A second nestling fledged on 13 May, and the last one fledged on 14 May.

These new nest locations support published accounts that Common Ravens are adaptable, use a diversity of nest substrates, and benefit from resources provided by human activities (Boarman and Heinrich 1999). Range expansion into more densely human populated areas, along the Lake Plain but also other parts of New York State, will likely lead to more opportunities for raven-human interactions, and possibly potential conflicts. But for now, NYSDOT's salt barns have proven to be suitable nesting locations for Common Ravens, with no unmanageable conflicts with the Department's maintenance activities. In fact, they provide a benefit in the form of pigeon deterrents.

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Further Observations of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Middletown, Orange County, NY

With great anticipation, in early April of 2021, I began watching for the arrival of the Yellow-crowned Night- Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) that have resided in a swamp at 580 Van Burenville Rd. from early spring to mid-summer for the past two years (Depew 2019, Depew 2020). In those years, I had first observed the male on 15 April 2019 and 19 April 2020. The female arrived later and was first seen on 22 April 2019, by fellow birders Scott Baldinger and Bill Fiero, and on 2 May 2020, by me.

As I awaited the herons' arrival during spring 2021, it is important to note that the winter of 2020-21 was snowy, brutally cold at times, and quite windy well into late spring. This seemed to be like the "old fashioned" winter weather that I grew up with, as a native of the region. As the arrival dates noted above came and went without the male's appearance, I wondered whether unfavorable wind conditions may have delayed his migration. I did not give up hope, however, and neither did other local birders who were anxiously awaiting the fifth occurrence of this species in Orange County, according to our Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club records.

The male Yellow-crowned Night-Heron finally appeared on 25 May 2021. I immediately reported the find on eBird's New York Breeding Bird Atlas portal and notified my fellow bird club members. I was elated! The bird was a welcome sight after a long, trying winter. I began to wonder what type of breeding season this would be since he arrived over a month later than in previous years. My past observations indicated that actual mating requires not only the presence of the female, but also several weeks of courtship and nest-building or repair. The nest from two years ago was still intact in spite of harsh winter weather. The male made his usual mating calls from a tree during the first week following his arrival. I visited this location as often as I could, watching for the arrival of the female. Meanwhile, I continued to observe the male as he fed on crayfish, in either the pond near the house, or in the swamp. This year, I observed the bird on 25 and 30 May and 3, 11, and 16 June. Other birders stopped by to observe it on 29 May and 3 and 8 June and recorded their observations in eBird. Despite this relatively thorough coverage, a second bird was never seen this year. The female never arrived, and I will never know what happened to her.

The male began to leave the swamp and pond more often during the second and third week of June. He was foraging and not calling any longer. During the last few times that I observed him, I noticed that his breeding plumage was not as showy. His normally long, yellow crown plumes became shorter, where in past seasons I had seen these plumes reach his shoulder. After 16 June he was not seen again by either me or the owner of the property. I searched through other Orange County eBird checklists to determine if I missed a later sighting but could find none.

I hope that the summer of 2022 will be a better one for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron breeding activity in Middletown, NY. I certainly would like to see a pair actually raise young. It is always possible that next year a different female might bond with the male and become its new mate.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to E. Hajas for her support and permission to continue my observations. Contributors: K. Miller, J. Cimorelli, J. Cavalari.

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PATCH BIRDING BEAVER LAKE NATURE CENTER

Joseph Brin
Baldwinsville, NY

Beaver Lake Nature Center is an Onondaga County Park located four miles west of Baldwinsville, NY. It encompasses 660 acres. One third is the lake itself. It also has wooded areas, an extensive bog, and some open areas. The varied habitats result in good birding year-round. There are seven main trails which cover nine miles so all habitats are accessible. One trail encircles the lake. Trails are open year-round and the area is mostly flat. There are many places along the lake trail to set up a scope to observe waterfowl.

eBird shows 221 species seen at the park. Thirty-two species of waterfowl, twenty-eight warblers and six owl species have been seen. Eighty species are known breeders including thirteen warblers. A specialty of Beaver Lake are the Saw-whet Owls which are seen on the Bog Trail in late winter to early spring. The bog area in particular has seen a rise in water level in the past two years resulting in some of the cedars, which the Saw-whets prefer to rest in during the day, being damaged. However, they have been observed this year. They are probably breeding but haven't been confirmed yet. Long-eared Owls have been seen there also. Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, and Great Horned Owl have been confirmed and are seen each year.

After I retired from teaching in Baldwinsville I started to bird more at Beaver Lake and got to know the naturalists. Subsequently I was asked if I would volunteer to do bird walks. I readily agreed and I now conduct morning bird walks Mondays and Tuesdays in April, May, and June to observe the spring migration. I was a music teacher and identifying birds by song came naturally to me. This is an advantage as I can identify unseen warblers to beginning birders on our walks, especially in wooded and brushy areas. Ground breeding warblers such as Hooded and Mourning are common here but hard to see. For a few years we had an inquisitive Ruffed Grouse which would greet anyone who went through his territory. One of my favorite pictures is "Rocky the Grouse" standing on the head of noted bird guide author Richard Crossley as he tried to take photos of him. (See photo p. 371).

In the years since I have been birding here changes in the birds mostly reflect what we see everywhere in the state. There is less activity in fall migration but still enough activity to make it a great destination for birding any time of year.

In addition to the great year-round birding, Beaver Lake Nature Center offers a wide array of other indoor and outdoor activities. Kayaks and canoes are available for rent for private individuals or organized tours. Cross country and snowshoe trails are well marked and equipment is available to those who don't have their own. School group walks and talks are held throughout the school year. Maple sugaring and salamander hunts are popular springtime activities. Wellness

programs are available to young and old participants. Yearly memberships are available with many programs offered, and day passes are available also.

I have now birded at Beaver Lake for almost 30 years and would be happy to guide anyone who would like to join me on a bird walk.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON, SUMMER 2021

Michael F. Cooper

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June of 2021 came in a bit drier than average through most of the state, but by July and August nearly everyone was seeing rainfall above—in some cases far above—normal levels. June was generally a bit cooler than average, but both July and August were hotter than normal across the board.

Rainfall, or lack thereof, has its effects on many of the locations that we rely on for bird finding. Low water levels at the right time can attract migrating shorebirds, while higher levels might be an aid to breeding ducks and other water birds. Montezuma NWR in Region 3 reported high counts for several expected species of waterfowl; for most of the neighboring Regions numbers seemed to be about average. Among the more unusual sightings, Snow Geese lingered into June and July in five Regions, a Eurasian Wigeon at Montezuma in Region 3 in late August was surprisingly early, and two Regions reported June Brant, birds bringing up the rear of northbound migration.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported from three locations in Region 3, and two locations from Region 10. I'm tempted to say "only" two Regions reported them this year vs. three in Summer 2020. Four different King Eiders summered in Region 10, all immature males. A female Common Goldeneye with four young provided a rare breeding record for Region 6. Common Mergansers are widespread breeders throughout much of our non-coastal areas, but a flock of 12 on Staten Island in Region 10 was surprising. They often don't show up downstate until the first freeze of winter. Trumpeter Swans seem to be, at minimum, holding their own, with reports coming from five Regions. Upper and Lower Lakes WMA in Region 6 seems to be a major stronghold.

Wild Turkey is apparently the only New York chicken doing well, but one report of a covey of 18 Ruffed Grouse in the town of Van Etten in Region 3 must have been a nice find. Pied-billed Grebes were present in eight Regions, about typical, but high counts in the Region 2 section of Montezuma were about half of what they were last year.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 on 29 August. One seems to pop up somewhere in the state every year or so and judging by the reactions of birders in other parts of the country, it's nice that they remain as interesting novelties and nothing more. Several upstate Regions mentioned

outbreaks of the moth formerly known as Gypsy. Both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos responded to the feast and were well represented. Common Nighthawks were mentioned in all 10 Regional reports, no doubt more a function of the timing of both spring and fall migrations than any gains as a breeder. The number of eBird reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds always seems surprisingly high to me, but I think people love to report them and homeowners are rightly proud of having them at the feeder. An adult male Rufous at a feeder on eastern Long Island in early August was the only oddball hummer this season.

Two different King Rails were found in Region 1, nice records of a scarce and difficult-to-see bird. Virginia Rails were reported from seven Regions, including a location on the barrier beach of Long Island, where not expected. A high count of 161 Common Gallinules at Montezuma in Region 2 seems like a decent number. Compare with last summer's high of 12 and a high of 296 in 2018. Water level and visibility no doubt have significant effects on numbers found. A Purple Gallinule was at the Jamaica Bay Refuge in Region 10 in early July. All ten Regions recorded Sandhill Crane this summer, a sentence that would have been absurd to write just a few years ago. A high count of 40 was made at Montezuma in Region 3.

The non-coastal Regions reported more or less typical shorebird movements, with late lingerers and early arrivals generally related to water level conditions at the local hotspots. A Black-necked Stilt at Iroquois NWR in Region 1 was surprisingly the only one found state-wide. A juvenile Western Sandpiper at Braddock Bay in Region 2 was a nice find. Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded from five Regions, Red-necked from six, both probably a bit higher than expected.

Upland Sandpipers were widely scattered, occurring in seven Regions, but nowhere were the reports accompanied by positive comments. Just a couple of confirmed breeding sites were mentioned. Piping Plover continue to hang on in Region 5, with two breeding pairs at Sandy Pond.

Birders always hope that hurricanes and tropical storms will transport all manner of exotic and ocean dwelling birds into their local bay or lake, but *Henri* in August 2021 had other ideas. While he delivered few bona fide rarities, *Henri* highlighted how little we know about the normal routes taken by some regularly occurring species. See Shai Mitra's account in the Region 10 report of flocks of 100-plus Hudsonian Godwits on Long Island and in nearby New England.

A couple of Iceland Gulls lingered in the western part of the state, with one in Region 1 on 1 June just making it into the report, and another at Braddock Bay into early July. Two Glaucous Gulls in Region 10 were noteworthy. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from six Regions, including a high of 185 at Robert Moses SP in Region 10 on 28 August. A Franklin's Gull at Braddock Bay in June was the best of the gulls.

About 13 Arctic Terns from the traditional Long Island sites was a good seasonal tally. A count of 500 Roseates in Plum Gut off the north fork of the island is indicative of the strong colony at Great Gull Island. Bridled Terns were reported twice at Hudson Canyon in the waters off Region 10, along with a nice collection

of tubenoses and other pelagic species. A couple of Brown Boobies were also detected from shore through August.

Only modest numbers of Brown Pelicans made it as far north as Long Island this summer but check the Region 10 report for an interesting observation of one flock's movements along the south shore and into New Jersey.

If there was one event that the Summer of 2021 should be remembered for, it would be the incursion of southern wading birds across much of the continent, including New York State. Although we have still not cashed in on the Limpkin Lunacy that seems to be occurring everywhere else, this summer saw an unprecedented irruption of Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills. Wood Storks were found in four Regions, including a first for summer in Region 3, an apparent first Regional record for Region 8 and one on Staten Island that succumbed to the dangers of the Amazon (Fulfilment Center).

Lest Wood Storks be allowed to grab the spotlight, a truly unprecedented incursion of Roseate Spoonbills brought birds to five Regions. In Region 4 there were three separate locations reporting spoonbills representing two or three birds, while in Region 10 there were definitely two different birds. One of these went to great lengths to straddle the line between Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The Region 10 editor mentions the "great frustration of conscientious county listers", leaving implied the heedless impetuosity of the rest of us who checked that sucker off ASAP. Interestingly, White Ibis did not seem to get in on the "northeast express"—none were reported from anywhere in the state.

I think it's interesting to speculate on other "southern" wading birds. Great Egrets were everywhere, and Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Herons and even Tricolored Heron put in appearances away from coastal areas. One at Ausable Point in Region 7 represented the first Regional record since 1989. Some of these are to be expected but is it possible that in a year like this, at least some of these birds originate from parts of the country or parts of the world where Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills also occur?

Raptor reports were probably about normal, with the exception of continued increases in Bald Eagle numbers and more and more Red-tailed Hawks nesting within the limits of New York City. Unusual records included Swallow-tailed Kites in four Regions and a Swainson's Hawk at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch on 22 August. A Snowy Owl remained in East Worcester in Region 8 through most of June.

Every Region recorded Red-headed Woodpeckers, including Region 7, where the record was the fifth for the century. In Region 6 a pair was observed enjoying the Gypsy Moth caterpillar feast.

Olive-sided Flycatchers generally got favorable mentions and they were reported from every Region. Both Acadian and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers also seemed to be widely present and in decent quantities. Two White-eyed Vireos at different locations in Region 1 were Regional rarities. Other passerines that seemed to be widespread and with encouraging numbers included Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, and Bank Swallow. Sedge Wrens seemed to be around In

surprisingly good numbers. They were found in nine Regions, with multiples in seven of the nine.

“Winter” finches lingered in small numbers, with Evening Grosbeak and Red Crossbill occurring in six Regions, Pine Siskin in eight. Most unusual was an Evening Grosbeak on Fire Island in Region 10 in mid-June.

Some of our grassland birds also seemed to be doing a little better statewide. Horned Larks and Grasshopper Sparrows received several positive comments and Clay-colored Sparrow is now more numerous and widespread than some of our “traditional” grassland birds, like Vesper Sparrow. Dickcissel also seems to be going through an eastward expansion, with four Regions reporting them. A max of seven was at Croton Point in Region 9 through most of the period. Bill Ostrander in Region 3 mentioned high counts for other sparrows—Chipping, Field, Savannah, and Song. Maybe some positives for a habitat that has been in decline for years.

Continuing the theme of a decent early passerine flight, several Regional editors had positive things to say about the August southbound flight. In Region 1, American Robins and Bobolinks made impressive showings, and in Region 6 Jeff Bolsinger wrote “the summer ended with the most active southbound songbird migration seen in several years.” Check his Regional account also for comments regarding the development of new solar farms and the conflict that more and more of us have between clean energy and the disturbance of valuable grasslands.

Although the Summer of 2021 did not bring any shocking rarities to New York State, there were a lot of interesting and seldom-seen birds for us to ogle. I think Bird of the Season should go to Roseate Spoonbill, not to any one individual, but to the half dozen or more who made themselves accessible to so many of us. What’s not to love about a tall, pink, tropical bird? Can our first New York Flamingo be far behind?

Thanks for reading and check out those Regional reports where all the interesting nuggets are found.

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Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird:
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relAug-2021. Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
Ithaca, New York. Aug 2021.

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June 2021 was warm and sunny, making it the fifth warmest June on record. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 71.3° F, 4.3° above normal, with 1.77" of precipitation, 1.6" below average. Though the temperatures in July were close to average the deluges of rain throughout the month made it the third wettest July on record. The mean temperature was 71.1°, 0.6° below average. Precipitation was 7.49", 4.26" above average. Summer heat and humidity turned on in August, making it the warmest August on record. The average temperature was 75.7°, 5.3° above normal. Rainfall was 3.68", 0.45" above normal.

The summer season's highlights likely benefited from increased field effort as birders participated in the second year of the New York Breeding Bird Atlas III project. As many explored new patches or simply increased their summertime birding to "complete" atlas blocks, we saw some interesting finds and some species with more reports than in typical years.

A roundup of the less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report reads like recent years. The landfill adjacent to Tillman Road WMA was again the only location where Upland Sandpiper was documented in breeding habitat. Beyond some late spring migrants and early fall migrants, a few Common Nighthawks were found in Buffalo and Jamestown, which have been the only summer locations in recent years. Sandhill Cranes were present at Iroquois NWR and vicinity, as usual in recent years but without any confirmed breeding that we are aware of. Single cranes were also reported from Dayton where they have been documented in summer before, as well as from Krull County Park and the Town of Chautauqua. Merlin families were documented in at least two locations, with likely more nesting locations present in the Region. Sedge Wren was well represented with reports from eight locations throughout the Region, including carrying nesting material at Knox Farm SP. Clay-colored Sparrows bred at their regular Krull County Park location again, with up to eight being reported there. A singing male was also reported for over a month at John White WMA, suggesting probable breeding activity. There were no Golden-winged Warbler reports in the breeding season again. Will any breeding be documented for this third atlas project? Prothonotary Warbler was documented at Tonawanda WMA and Iroquois NWR, as usual.

Many birders showed up at Iroquois NWR in June eager to see the **King Rail** that was found in late May at Kumpf Marsh. The rail's presence was initially

kept on the down low, but the rush was on after text alerts came out in early June. The rail was initially very vocal and sometimes visible in early June, then mostly a “heard only” occurrence after that. The last report was in early July. On 10 June, Karen Lee Lewis and Marilyn Feuerstein were watching and photographing a family of Virginia Rails at Tillman Road WMA when they were startled to see a much larger **King Rail** appear. Lewis managed to get a few photographs during the brief encounter and this rail was not observed again. It will be interesting to see if there are more occurrences in the years ahead, perhaps representing a northward push of a southern species. Or perhaps this species is present in low numbers most years and birders found them this year in accessible locations.

Tom Hessler photographed an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo on 9 June. Likely the same bird was found nearby again 20-21 June. A juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was photographed at a pond in Amherst on 21 August by Amanda Renzi. While waders are known to occasionally wander, it is interesting to note the presence of multiple birds in the breeding season, as well as another juvenile photographed nearby in Ontario in July. Black-crowned Night-Herons are regular in the vicinity of the Niagara River, with colonies at Motor Island and above Niagara Falls on the Ontario side. The Motor Island heronry was inspected in late June and few Black-crowns were present, which was consistent with the thought from NYSDEC staff that nesting was sparse there this year. I am unaware of how the colony above Niagara Falls fared. These locations should be checked in coming years to see if any Yellow-crowns are breeding.

Several species of spring migrating shorebirds trickled into early June including Black-bellied Plover, a flock of 32 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Least Sandpipers, flocks of up to 90 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, and a Greater Yellowlegs. Additionally, a **Black-necked Stilt** from late May continued 1-2 June at Iroquois NWR and Andy Guthrie and Jay McGowan found two Red-necked Phalaropes there on 4 June. Wilson’s Phalaropes were seen at Iroquois NWR on 1-3 June and in Somerset on 2 June, wrapping up an impressive spring showing for this species in the Region. The return “fall” flight of shorebirds included just one report of Whimbrel at Buffalo Harbor, three reports of Willets, and one Wilson’s Phalarope from Chautauqua Lake. Peter Yoerg heard the call of a nocturnally migrating Upland Sandpiper over his Buffalo home. A drawdown of West Wood Marsh at Tonawanda WMA resulted in favorable shorebird habitat that attracted decent numbers of fall migrants. This area produced several less-common species including up to two Stilt Sandpipers, up to four Baird’s Sandpipers, the Region’s only summer record of White-rumped Sandpiper, up to two Short-billed Dowitchers, and a nice count of 29 Wilson’s Snipe.

Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Olcott in mid-June was an unusually high count; there were several other June reports and then one in late August. Iceland Gulls lingered just long enough to make the summer season report with two sightings along Lake Ontario on 1 June. Caspian Terns did well in their fifth

consecutive year breeding in Buffalo Harbor as evidenced with a count of 372 on 15 July. Common Terns continue breeding in Buffalo Harbor and at a few spots in the Niagara River with monitoring by NYSDEC staff. Black Terns bred in the Iroquois NWR and adjacent WMAs, as usual, while a storm event on 17-18 August was likely responsible for putting some migrants down at Red House Lake at Allegany SP as documented by Kyle Brock.

There was the usual smattering of less common (in early summer) dabbling duck species, mostly at Batavia WWTP and Iroquois NWR and the adjacent WMAs. A Lesser Scaup summered at Crab Hollow SF in Allegany County, which led Karl Schmidt to wonder if it might be injured. There were relatively few summer reports for diving duck species. Michael Herrmann found a Trumpeter Swan in Buffalo on 19 June that marked an unusual sighting location and date. A few were reported around Iroquois NWR in early June, where they have bred in recent years, but it is uncertain if any bred there this year.

An American White Pelican was observed flying along the Lake Erie shoreline at Evangola SP on 27 June for the only report this summer. There were a handful of sightings of one or two Black Vultures around Lewiston, where regular year-round but still without other evidence of breeding. Two Black Vulture sightings in Erie County in June and one in Orleans County in August were unusual for both the location and time of year. Joel Strong photographed a Cattle Egret in Olcott on 5 June.

Olive-sided Flycatchers made a good showing in August with several reports throughout the Region, including some with two birds. Flocking American Robins and Bobolinks at Tonawanda WMA put on impressive early morning shows when they left their nightly roost in the marsh with up to 1,100 and 1,930 being reported, respectively. A Gray-cheeked Thrush photographed by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter in their Wilson yard set a Regional record for a late spring migrant. Cindy Vars found two Evening Grosbeaks, an immature and adult, in Allegany County. Two summer reports of Pine Siskins were made on 4 and 10 June. Reports of up to four Vesper Sparrows came from Sheridan, Chautauqua County and up to three in Orleans County. This species has become quite scarce in the Region during the breeding season. Grasshopper Sparrows made a nice summer showing throughout the Region with up to five reported from the landfill adjacent to Tillman Road WMA.

Two reports of Yellow-breasted Chat from Chautauqua County and a third from Iroquois NWR, all in early June, represented a higher than usual occurrence of this species for the Region in recent years. A fall migrant Golden-winged Warbler from Forestville, Chautauqua County on 29 August represented the only summer report for this species. The hybrid "Brewster's" Warbler was reported from Holland, Erie County on 25 June, possibly a local breeder. Tom Kerr banded a juvenile "Lawrence's" Warbler at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center on 6 July. He also banded a Tennessee Warbler at the same location on 22 July, which may represent a very early migrant or perhaps a rare local breeder. Prothonotary Warblers were reported from Iroquois NWR and nearby Tonawanda WMA,

known breeding locations for this species. Willie D’Anna and Betsy Potter photographed a very early Cape May warbler at their Wilson home on 2 August, which was followed by several early reports of this species in the Region. Three summer reports of Prairie Warbler were a nice showing with an impressive four reported from Glenwood, Erie County, on 7 July. Rounding out the breeding bird highlights were up to three Dickcissels at an overgrown field in Somerset, Niagara County. Two males were often seen countersinging from opposite sides of the road and photographs of a female carrying nesting material made for a nice breeding confirmation for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **MI** – Motor I, NR, ERIE; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach Nature Pres, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tiftt NP** – Tiftt Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: 9 WTSP 10 Jun; max 10, 9 LBSP 26 Jun, 11 Aug; max 10 PB 25 Jul.

Trumpeter Swan: 1, 2 INWR 3, 7 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 19 Jun (MH, KR), unusual location; only reports.

Wood Duck: max 111, 289, 113 TWMA 31 Jul, 8, 21 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: 1-4 INWR 1-20 Jun; 5 TWMA 30 Jul; max 22 BWWTP 28 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 4 INWR 5 Jun; ACNC 16 Jun; 2, 1 BWWTP 13 Jun, 3 Jul; max 27 BWWTP 28 Aug.

Gadwall: INWR 15 Jun; max 3, 2, 2 BWWTP 26 Jun, 3, 18 Jul.

American Wigeon: 2, 2 INWR 2 Jun, 30 Jul; 1, max 6 BWWTP 13 Jun, 30 Aug; BufH 10 Jul; BeSP 18 Jul.

American Black Duck: 2, max 3 INWR 7, 8 Jun, 1 Jul; 1, 1, BWWTP 13 Jun, 3 Jul; Buffalo NR 26 Jun; max 3 Mayville CHAU 18 Aug.

Northern Pintail: max 2 INWR 4 Jun; max 2 BWWTP 30 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 6, 12 INWR 4 Jun, 21 Aug; LBSP 16 Jun; 1, 12 Tiftt NP 7 Jul, 31 Aug; max 12 TWMA 30 Jul; 11 WTSP 19 Aug.
Redhead: 2 INWR 8 Jun; max 3, 2, 1 BWWTP 26 Jun, 3 Jul, 31 Jul – 30 Aug BufH 17 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: BWWTP 1-8 Jun, 4 Jul; only reports.
Greater Scaup: Cuba L ALLE 1 Jun (GC), late; BufH 21 Jul (SS).
Lesser Scaup: Crab Hollow SF ALLE 3 Jun – 8 Aug (KS); unusual summering location; possibly injured.
White-winged Scoter: 2 BeSP 6 Jun (GL), late.
Bufflehead: INWR 2 Jun; only report.
Common Merganser: 1+10 yg Elma ERIE 30 Jun; 10 DH 17 Jul; 24 BufH 18 Jul; 26 Olean CATT 16 Aug; max 41 Sturgeon Point ERIE 16 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: LBSP 6 Aug; only report.
Ruddy Duck: Bemus Pt ChauL 10 Jun; max 23, 25, 25 BWWTP 26 Jun, 18 Jul, 8 Aug.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 10 TWMA 16 Jun.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 278 eBird reports; decent showing.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 168 eBird reports.
Common Nighthawk: 2 INWR 4 Jun; last Forestville CHAU 8 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 24 Jun; 3, 1, 2 Jamestown CHAU 29 Jun, 4, 20 Jul; arr Orangeville WYOM 7 Aug; 2 Porter NIAG 17 Aug; max 3 BeSP, Lancaster ERIE 28 Aug; DH 30 Aug.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

KING RAIL: INWR 1 Jun – 3 Jul (TK, mob), continuing from late May; TRWMA 10 Jun (KLL ph!, MF); rare; *see intro*.
Virginia Rail: max 10 TRWMA 11 Jun (KLL); 2+5 yg ACNC 18 Jun; 6 Tiftt NP 26 Jun; 5 Tiftt NP 5 Jul; 4, 3 BMAC 20 Jul, 30 Aug.
Sora: max 2 Machias CATT 13 Jun; max 2 ACNC 13 Jun, 15 Jul; North Collins ERIE 22 Jul; Dayton CATT 14 Aug; 2 BMAC 26 Aug.
Common Gallinule: 8 INWR 4 Jun; max 20 Alexander GENE 5 Jul; 12 TWMA 28 Aug.
American Coot: max 9 INWR 15 Jun; West Seneca ERIE 15-31 Jul; ACNC 18 Jul.
Sandhill Crane: Dayton CATT 1, 18 Jun, 11 Jul, 8 Aug; 4 INWR 7 Jun; Krull CP 25 Jun

(JB, JF); max 10, 9 TWMA 31 Jul, 14 Aug; Chautauqua CHAU 22 Aug.
BLACK-NECKED STILT: INWR 1-2 Jun (mob), continuing from late May.
Black-bellied Plover: last 3 INWR 2 Jun; arr 4 BufH 29 Aug.
American Golden-Plover: arr 2 Newfane NIAG 21 Aug (JH).
Semipalmated Plover: last 32 INWR 4 Jun; arr WoBSP 3 Aug; max 27 TWMA 10 Aug.
Killdeer: max 46 Shelby ORLE 18 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: max 2 TRWMA 9 Jun, regular breeding location; NFC Buffalo ERIE 14 Aug (PY).
Whimbrel: BufH 14 Aug (JMi); only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 BufH 1 Jun; max 6 PB 6 Aug; 1, 4 BufH 11, 29 Aug; Barcelona CHAU 12 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2, 1, 1 TWMA 29 Jul, 2, 25 Aug.
Sanderling: arr 3 WoBSP 22 Jul; max 11 BufH 29 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1, max 4 TWMA 16, 26 Aug (JSt, PY); Chautauqua CHAU 27 Aug (BR); 3 BufH 30 Aug (JK).
Least Sandpiper: last INWR 4 Jun; arr 2 Amherst ERIE 30 Jun; max 73 TWMA 6 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: TWMA 16 Aug (JSt); only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Elba ORLE 20 Jul; max 28 TWMA 18 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 82 BWWTP 3 Jun; max 90, last 60 INWR 4, 8 Jun; arr Amherst ERIE 11 Jul; 20 TWMA 20 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr BufH 17 Jul; DH 8 Aug; 2, 1 TWMA 13, 25 Aug; Pomfret CHAU 16 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: max 26 TWMA 7 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Como Lake CP ERIE 6 Jun (SA ph!), late; arr INWR 4 Jul; max 9 CSWMA 20 Jul; 6, 6 TWMA 28 Jul, 8 Aug; 6 Amherst ERIE 27 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 INWR 10 Jul; max 70, 47 TWMA 30 Jul, 2 Aug.
Willet: arr 2 DH 14 Jul (GV); PB 6 Aug; 2 Barcelona CHAU 12 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: BWWTP 3 Jun (JSo ph!); Somerset NIAG 3, 7 Jun (JSt), late; arr Amherst ERIE 7 Jul; max 24 INWR 30 Jul.
Wilson's Phalarope: INWR 1-3 Jun (BM); Somerset NIAG 2 Jun (JSt); arr ChauL 18, 19 Aug (TL); following good numbers in spring migration.
Red-necked Phalarope: 2 INWR 4 Jun (AGu, JM), rare.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 4 BufH 3 Jul; DH 14 Jul; few reports.

Iceland Gull: last Krull CP, Wilson NIAG 1 Jun (JSt, WD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Barcelona CHAU 1 Jun (TL); max 4 Olcott NIAG 15 Jun (JSt); Somerset NIAG 19 Jun (JSt); WoBSP 28 Aug (SB).

Great Black-backed Gull: single digit counts along L Erie and NR.

Caspian Tern: 20, 38 INWR 1 Jun, 30 Jul; max 372 BufH 15 Jul, breeding colony.

Black Tern: BWWT 3 Jun; max 17 TWMA 12 Jun; 5 INWR 1 Jul; BeSP 9 Jul; 1, 7 AISP 18, 19 Aug (KB), unusual location.

Common Tern: max 300, 185 Buffalo NR 27 Jun, 18 Jul; AISP 18 Aug (KB), unusual location.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: Long Pt SP CHAU 4 Jun; only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1200 BufH 28 Aug.

American White Pelican: EvSP 27 Jun (MN), flyover.

American Bittern: max 3 INWR 3 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 7 Jun, 28 Aug; 2 Alexander GENE 5 Jul; Alder Bottom WMA CHAU 2 Aug.

Least Bittern: 1, 2 INWR 2 Jun, 14 Jul; TWMA 4 Jun, 28 Jul, 8, 28 Aug; 1, 2 ACNC 11 Jun, 18 Jul; TRWMA 11 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 20 Jun; max 3 Tiff NP 22 Jun, 2 Jul.

Great Blue Heron: 44 INWR 5 Jun; max 100 MI 25 Jun (MM) at heronry.

Great Egret: 46 INWR 2 Jun; 70 MI 25 Jun, at heronry; max 120 TWMA 14 Aug.

Cattle Egret: Olcott NIAG 5 Jun (JSt); only report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 10 MI 25 Jun, few nests at location this year.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: ad Buffalo ERIE 9, 20, 21 Jun (TH, AGa, SB); juv Amherst ERIE 21 Aug (AR); *intro*.

Black Vulture: 1, 2, 1, 1, 1 Lewiston NIAG 14, 16 Jun, 18, 27 Jul, 14 Aug, regular location year-round; Hamburg ERIE 17 Jun (SS, MC); Buffalo ERIE 23 Jun (KR), last two locations unexpected for season; Carlton ORLE 12 Aug (JSt), unusual location.

Osprey: max 6 Franklinville CATT 12 Jul; max 6, 6 BeSP 22 Jul, 7 Aug; widespread.

Bald Eagle: max 5 Bennett Beach ERIE 16 Jul.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 Krull CP, 2 Mayville CHAU 18 Jul; 2 Kiantone CHAU 19 Jul; 3 Como Lake CP ERIE, Tiff NP 31 Jul; 3 FNSP 20 Aug; 3 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 21 Aug; max 6 EvSP 22 Aug; 3 LESP 23 Aug.

Merlin: max 5 Amherst ERIE 7 Jun (CH); 4 Buffalo ERIE 13 Jun (PY); adults with young.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr WoBSP 18 Aug; TBNP, BeSP 20 Aug; PB 25 Aug; 2 HBWMA 26, 29 Aug; Crab Hollow SF ALLE 27 Aug; 2 Black Creek ALLE 29 Aug; good showing.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last RWNP 4 Jun; arr 2 WoBSP 14 Aug (SB); 7 other Aug reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 11 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 5 Jun (CB, JC); last East Amherst ERIE 8 Jun (MM), late migrant; several reported throughout reg in Jul; last Chestnut Ridge CP, 2 INWR 8 Aug.

White-eyed Vireo: East Aurora ERIE 19 Jul (JMi); Knox Farm SP ERIE 20 Aug (AGa); rare summer sightings.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr WoBSP 22 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 30 Alabama GENE 11 Jul.

Purple Martin: 40+102 yg BWWT 29 Jun (CM), successful nesting colony established; max 750 OOWMA 27 Aug (AH), apparent night roost.

Tree Swallow: 300 TWMA 2 Aug; max 500 BWWT 15 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 65 BuSP 18 Aug.

Bank Swallow: max 50 Shelby ORLE 3 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: 17 BeSP 10 Jul; 20 Buffalo NR ERIE 23 Jul; 14 Dayton CATT 26 Jul; max 60 Grand Island ERIE 12 Aug.

Barn Swallow: max 200 Barcelona CHAU 18 Aug.

Sedge Wren: INWR 10 Jun (CM); 2 Sheridan CHAU 11 Jun (GV); 2 Knox Farm SP ERIE 17-30 Jun, 20 Jul, 7 Aug (MN, mob); 2 Newfane NIAG 19 Jun (JSt); Gainesville WYOM 26 Jun – 10 Jul (GL); Dayton CATT 12 Jul (GV); Attica WYOM 19 Jul (CR); Pembroke GENE 21 Jul (CR); good showing.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 26 Aug; Forestville CHAU, Jamestown CHAU 31 Aug.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 21-22 Jun (WD, BP, ph!), record late.

Swainson's Thrush: last 22 NFCs Orchard Park ERIE 3 Jun (CB); New Hudson ALLE 3 Jun; 1, 2, 1 AISP 6 Jun, 17, 26 Jul; last two

possible breeding locations; arr NFC Orchard Park ERIE 15 Aug (CB).

American Robin: max 535, 1100 TWMA 31 Jul, 21 Aug (JSt), departing night roost in marsh.

Cedar Waxwing: max 110 LBSP 1 Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Andover ALLE 12 Aug (CV), reported as adult and immature.

Pine Siskin: Lockport NIAG 4 Jun; Ashford CATT 10 Jun; only reports.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 4, 1, 8 Krull CP 5 Jun, 10 Jul, 1 Aug, regular location; Yates ORLE 13 Jun; JWWMA 20 Jun (BH).

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Shelby ORLE 6 Jun; max 4, 1 Sheridan CHAU 17 Jun, 1 Jul; Yates ORLE 18 Jul, 8, 19 Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 3, 1 BufH 6 Jun, 22 Jul; max 5, 2 TRWMA 9 Jun, 22 Jul; Jamestown CHAU 8 Jul; Dunkirk CHAU 10 Jul; Rushford ALLE 12 Jul; 3 Perrysburg CATT 13 Jul; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 3 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: LBSP 11 Jun; 3 Alfred ALLE 20 Jun; 2, 1 HBWMA 30 Jun, 13 Aug; max 4 Alfred ALLE 2 Jul.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 2 Jun (KD, DB); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 3 Jun (GV); INWR 7 Jun (BC); more reports than usual in recent years.

Bobolink: 100 Caneadea ALLE 5 Jun; 30 JWWMA 10 Jul; 30 Ripley CHAU 23 Jul; max 660, 1930 TWMA 20, 28 Aug (JSt, MM), leaving night roost in marsh.

Orchard Oriole: max 4 Newstead ERIE 3 Jul; last Forestville CHAU 24 Aug.

Ovenbird: arr Como Lake CP ERIE 14 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 3 Wales ERIE 5 Jun; max 5 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 11 Jun; 4 Zoar Valley MUA CATT 28 Jun; 2 AISP 2 Jul; Leon CATT 3 Jul; Wales ERIE 4 Jul.

Northern Waterthrush: arr TBNP 1 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: Forestville CHAU 29 Aug (GV); only report.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Holland ERIE 25 Jun; only report.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: juv BMAC 6 Jul (TK), banded.

Black-and-white Warbler: Jamestown Audubon CHAU 3 Jul; Wellsville ALLE 12 Jul; arr WoBSP 14 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: max 3 TWMA 4 Jun (JMc); 1, 2 INWR 30 Jun, 26 Jul (CG, PM); regular locations.

Tennessee Warbler: arr BMAC 22 Jul (TK), banded, either early migrant or very rare in summer; WoBSP 14 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: reported from five Southern Tier locations in Jun; 3 BMAC 1 Jul, HBWMA 13, 31 Jul; arr Holland ERIE 18 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 4 Chaffee ERIE 3 Jul.

American Redstart: arr BufH 1 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 2 Aug (BP, WD, ph!), early.

Cerulean Warbler: 2, 4 Newstead ERIE 1 Jun, 10 Jul; 4, 1, 4 INWR 2 Jun, 4 Jul, 2 Aug; max 7 TWMA 20 Jun.

Northern Parula: last BuSP 3 Jun; 3, 1 AISP 5 Jun, 20 Jul; 2 Alfred ALLE 2 Jul; arr WoBSP 5 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE 14 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr WoBSP 14 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Amherst ERIE 2 Jun; arr 2 RWNP, WoBSP 28 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr AmSP 20 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr TBNP, Wilson NIAG 14 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 3 Ashford CATT 11 Jun; max 4 Glenwood ERIE 7 Jul; 2 Machias CATT 17 Jul.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 15 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 2 HBWMA 10 Jul (VR); arr 2 WoBSP, TBNP 14 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 15 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: max 14 HBWMA 10 Jul.

Dickcissel: 1-3 Somerset NIAG 16-30 Jun, 3, 6 Jul (JSt, mob), carrying nesting materials.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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A “sandwich” summer, with a cool, wet July between two very warm and drier months. As usual, birding observations are driven by a combination of factors—weather a primary driver in the origin and timing of fronts and storms and the locations of rain and drought events and periods; the ongoing Breeding Bird Atlas fieldwork focused in this season; and the varied effects of the continuing COVID “event”. Add to this the human factors involving the who and why relating to the observers, and we end up with the assignment of cause and effect around observations really highly speculative; but maybe still interesting or at least fun.

The season began with the third warmest June in 151 years of records. Temperatures averaged 70.8° F, 3.7° above normal. Records were set for a new high on the 29th and a new high low for the 27th and tied for the high low on the 28th. Eighteen days exceeded 80°, four days >90°, and there was a brief cooler break from 14-18 June. Precipitation totaled 1.73", 1.64" below normal, with 0.47" of that falling on the 19th. There were occasional showers and thunderstorms, but the heaviest rain and some wind damage occurred south of the Rochester area. Flip the switch from last July to a cool, wet month this year, with temperatures averaging 69.6°, 2.7° below normal. There was only one day above 90°, 11 days above 80°, and eight days below their averages. Temperatures were also variable, with only six days the longest stretch for periods either above or below average. Precipitation totaled 7.66", 3.56" above normal, making it the fifth wettest July on record. There were 20 days with rainfall, 11 of these heavy, another July record. The longest stretch without measurable rainfall was four days, a record short interval. The 3.03" on 17 July broke the old record of 2.04" set in 1873 and was the thirteenth wettest day in Rochester weather records. Damaging thunder storms occurred on the 20th, with the hardest hit areas west of Rochester seeing damage from high winds and hail (to tennis ball size in Lewiston, Region 1!). The month ended with a relatively quiet period from 22-29 July and a cold front pushing south to end that.

Back to a warm, humid month in August. Temperatures averaged 73.8°, 3.1° above normal, with warm muggy nights dominating and only two days in the latter half of the month even dipping below 65° at any time. There were no 90° days, but five days hit 89°, and all maxima were >70°. It was the seventh warmest August on record. Precipitation totaled 2.55", 0.76" below normal. Light rain fell on 14 days, but the only heavy rainfall was 0.74" on 1-2 August. The longest dry stretch was again four days, 3-6 August.

All three months produced species counts above their 10-year averages but below 2020 numbers. Increases in eBird lists submitted in June and July are likely due to NY BBA III fieldwork games at the end of June and work into July and to

increased monitoring of the barrier beach island at the mouth of Braddock Bay. August saw some drop due to only one day of banding during the first half of the month. As usual, nearly all expected species were reported, with misses in some of the later spring migrants often banded into June and some of the breeding species that require special effort to locate. There were some interesting rarities found each month, mostly waterbird-associated. The eBird downloads by month, with changes from 2020 in parentheses were: June – 51,421 (+5%), July – 41,541 (+15%), and August – 35,068 (-10%). The drop in August may relate to the weather, a slow start to fall migration, and a change in the type of Atlas birding.

Moving to more detail in families, we start with the waterfowl and the usual low numbers of species and individuals counted in summer. The major observations this summer were first in low counts in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County due to low water levels and heavy plant growth making observations more difficult early, and then locally very heavy rainfall inundating most of the area later. In contrast, near Lake Ontario we had species reported through the summer, some of which had bred in the lakeshore marshes in the past and many of which had only rarely been reported in this season in recent years. Most of these reports were associated with the “new” barrier beach island off the end of the east spit of Braddock Bay. In this area, only Mute Swan was reported in large numbers, but Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, and Ruddy Duck were all reported through June and July and most on through August. Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser also lingered into June, and the latter two were observed again in August, and Ring-necked Duck appeared briefly in July. The usual breeding waterfowl species were noted in typical locations. Continuing with some of the marsh species, Pied-billed Grebe numbers were still good in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) all season, and the usual few Red-necked Grebes passed through scattered through August. Common Gallinule and American Coot were poorly reported in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) but were seen in good numbers in the usually underbirded, nearby Guy Baldassarre Marsh. Virginia Rail and Sora were both noted in few reports. Sandhill Cranes were reported from the usual suspected breeding areas but only in small numbers and with no young noted.

Gypsy Moth outbreaks in some areas brought good numbers of cuckoo reports through the season. The usual Common Nighthawks were seen into early June, and single reports were added in late June and early August before the first fall migrants later in August. Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports were numerous, noted as high counts of lines in the eBird downloads, probably related to BBA activity. An interesting surprise was a passing **Eurasian Collared-Dove** seen by Dave Tetlow at Hamlin Beach on 29 August. It is a lingering mystery why the species has never prospered here as it has in spreading to many other parts of the country.

Moving on to the shorebirds, the timing and location of heavy rains left us with much of the NMWMA area we usually search with too much water and also

with many farm fields not yet harvested and plowed and disced, so the barrier beach island off the east spit of Braddock Bay and passing birds at other sites on the south shore of Lake Ontario saw the bulk of observation time and yielded most of the more unusual reports. Species counts were decent at 19, 20, and 26 for the three months, respectively, but peak counts were low all season other than a good 918 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 3 June, a day with many species reported. Late spring migrants continued well into June, with Least and White-rumped Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Lesser Yellowlegs, then also found later in the month as probable early fall migrants. A continuing rarity was **Marbled Godwit** at two locations. Upland Sandpiper continued unreported as breeding but with singles reported on 1 June and in mid-August. July shorebird arrivals continued much as expected, with Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Willet the most interesting, and returning plovers weak. Things picked up more in August, with a good count of 75 Whimbrel off the East Spit plus many elsewhere on 1 June; Hudsonian Godwit at Point Breeze; an immature **Western Sandpiper** well documented; at least five Willets; and several Wilson's Phalaropes. Still, low counts were the norm.

The gulls, terns, and allies brought us much the same story—some special records, good variety, low counts, and the barrier beach island the hotspot, and the rest of the regular Lake Ontario sites filling in with a few reports from the NMWMA. Spring migration ended with **Laughing** and **Franklin's Gulls** present through the first week along with up to 10-12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls present through 3 June and small numbers of that species seen essentially all season. A surprise was an Iceland Gull seen off and on 28 June-3 July. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low, but the species was present all season, so assignment of departure and arrival dates was not possible this year. Our expected tern species were all reported, though in unexceptional numbers, and Black Tern was especially low, with the maximum only five at the Guy Baldassarre Marsh in the NMWMA. Jaegers made a typical late August appearance, with a **Long-tailed Jaeger** well seen on 25 August and one not identified to species on 27 August, both off Hamlin Beach State Park.

Among the rest of the waterbirds, we start with both loons reported into early June, neither in July, and a few Common Loons back in August. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were disappointing, and there were no large counts for our herons or egrets. Part of the reason may be that the long-staying Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork just outside our Region had most birders focused there. But we had our good finds, with the Region's sixth **White-faced Ibis** on 29 June at Braddock Bay and the Region's sixth **Wood Stork** occurrence in one soaring with a group of Red-tailed Hawks over the Braddock Bay hawkwatch on 23 August.

This year there was again no organized late spring hawk watch into June, though interested observers did record good numbers of Broad-winged Hawk on 5 and 6 June. We have the now-usual stories of no Black Vulture and Northern Goshawk reports for the season and few reports for breeding Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks. There was an organized, volunteer hawk watch at

Braddock Bay in August, with 3107 total raptors counted, very close to the 2020 total—3271. Two nice surprises were the Region's seventh **Swallow-tailed Kite** photographed over the Town of Rush on 16 August by Clayton Kusse and a rare summer **Swainson's Hawk** passing the hawkwatch on 22 August seen by Jill Frier and Gerri Sweet. Among our three regular falcons, reports were a bit low in June and July but good in August. In June, there were two locations reported with nesting Merlins, and the website rfalconcam.com followed the progress of the downtown Rochester Peregrine Falcons—four eggs laid, two hatched in May, the male and female young were banded on 2 June, and the female was found dead on 30 June. One other less encouraging note for the Breeding Bird Atlas season was the low number of sites with Red-headed Woodpeckers reported, only eight and nine, respectively for June and July.

The passerines again provide a story of all truly expected species reported and interesting observations in the details. Among the species often banded in good numbers in early June, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, and Lincoln's Sparrow were missed and numbers for Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes and many of the late migrant warblers were very low. On the positive side, there were reports for **Sedge Wren** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** from possible breeding sites, with the wrens continuing into July, and scarcer species, Clay-colored Sparrow and Prothonotary and Prairie Warblers, all continuing all season. Additionally, we had more White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows than usual for summer, a Pine Siskin in Late July, **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at the barrier beach island in August, and a Northern Parula banded on 20 July. Unfortunately, the comments relating to low numbers, supported by few really good counts, also continued.

Overall, another very interesting summer season. Species reported each month were well above their 10-year averages: June – 202 (vs. 188.1), July – 180 (176.1), and August – 205 (198.0), and a total of 226 for the season. Rarities included: **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, **Western Sandpiper**, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, **Wood Stork**, **White-faced Ibis**, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, and **Swainson's Hawk** plus about ten other species that are scarce and of less than annual occurrence in this season. In terms of counts and the continuing trend to low numbers and peak counts, we do need to think about possible artificial causes, such as how we ask for data. The general request has been to make lists for as short a time and small a geographical area as one is willing, as they can always be aggregated to larger time periods or areas. With the Breeding Bird Atlas work in progress and using eBird as the input tool, this is further emphasized. Such an approach will lead to individual inputs of smaller numbers vs. submitting trip lists or day lists accumulating numbers on those larger scales.

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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; **CIWMA** – Conesus In WMA, LIVI; **DE** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester at Lake Ontario;

G – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **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; **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; **PtB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: last T Savannah, WAYN 5 Jun.

Mute Swan: 136 IB-S 26 Jun; max 151 IB-S 10 Jul; 145 IBP-W 18 Aug; monthly peak counts.

Trumpeter Swan: max 6 NMWMA (GBM) 11, 25 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 150 CIWMA 11 Aug (MGi), good count.

Blue-winged Teal: 1-6 BB-ES Jun; 1-4 IB-S 11-20 Jun; 1-3 BB-S Jul; max 78 BB-ES 20 Aug (MGi); 35 NMWMA (SCU) 14 Aug; interesting for dates & loc vs. historical.

Northern Shoveler: 1-4 BB-ES Jun; 1-2 BB-ES Jul; scarce at dates and loc recent past.

Gadwall: 1-2 BB-ES 10-30 Jun, thru Jul; scarce in summer.

American Wigeon: 1-2 BB-ES 11-22 Jun; 1-3 BB-ES 4-31 Jul; unusual for loc & dates.

Mallard: max 650 NMWMA (SCU) 14 Aug (TL), good count.

Northern Pintail: arr 1-2 BB-ES (sev obs) & 1 NMWMA (SCU) (TL) 14 Aug, early.

Green-winged Teal: 1-3 sev nr Lake Ontario loc Jun; 1-6 BB-ES Jul; max 45 BB-ES 28 Aug (JMcG); unusual loc for dates, usually scarce in summer.

Redhead: NMWMA (SCU) 14 Aug, sometimes breed.

Ring-necked Duck: BB-ES 5 Jul (AS, KWh), scarce in summer.

Lesser Scaup: last 2 BB-ES 4 Jun.

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

Bufflehead: Alder Beach, T Parma, MONR 14 Jun (JiM, LMa); arr 1 f 8-15 BB-ES Aug (11+ obs).

Common Merganser: max 30 HB 20 Aug (R&SSp), good count for date.

Red-breasted Merganser: Beechwood SP, WAYN 27 Jun (MMi); arr 4 HB 6 Aug (RMc).

Ruddy Duck: 1-4 IB-S 11-30 Jun; off Lowden Pt, G 22 Jun (MB); BB-ES 18 Jul (MGi, JiM, TBo, PMar); 2 BB-ES 24 Jul (RRy); 1-2 BB-ES 1-21 Aug; unusual for dates & loc.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 24 NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug, low high count.

Horned Grebe: arr HB 30 Aug (AGu, BriM, DSh), early.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 14 Aug (AGu), typical early arr; 2-6 HB 18-31 Aug (AGu, JiM), early.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: HB 29 Aug (DT), rare, *intro*.

Common Nighthawk: max 27 Grand View Hts, G 2 Jun (KGri); last Ellison P, T Penfield 8 Jun; T Bloomfield, ONTA 26 Jun (BCar), scarce in summer; Long Pnd, G 2 Aug; 11 T Rush, MONR 21 Aug, early fall max.

Chimney Swift: max 50 NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug (PMcN, PMar).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 514 eBird lines many loc Jul; 717 eBird lines many loc Aug; up from last year.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Common Gallinule: max 161 NMWMA (GBM) 15 Aug (BCar).

American Coot: max 6 NMWMA (GBM) 25 Jul, very low max.

Sandhill Crane: max 19 T Savannah, WAYN 3 Jun; only 3 NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug; Aug max, low.

Black-bellied Plover: last 1 ad alt Slater Creek, G 15 Jun (KD); arr BB-ES & HW 5 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: arr HB 29 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 24 Hemlock L 1 Jun; last 3 BB-ES 23 Jun (JKe); arr BB-ES 2 Jul (GL); max 25 NMWMA (GBM) 14 Aug (TL).

Killdeer: max 73 Redman Rd, H 25 Aug (AGu), low max.

Upland Sandpiper: Genesee, LIVI 3 Jun (LH); arr BB-ES 15 Aug (CW), only reps.

Whimbrel: arr BB-ES 3-14 Jul; SPt 11 Jul; 1-2 BB-ES 1-28 Aug, phs; max 75 BB-ES 1 Aug (AGu, BCar, JMcG, BriM, JaG, phs); HB 7, 15 Aug (AGu, DT); 2 SPt 13 Jul (JWi, ph); Beechwood SP, WAYN 27 Aug (JWo).

MARBLED GODWIT (R2): BB-ES 1 Jun (DBR); last Long Pnd, G 3 Jun (CGi, ph); 1; 2 BB-ES 13 Jul (MG, SG, AGae, NK).

Hudsonian Godwit: arr PtB 6 Aug (R&SSp), early.

Ruddy Turnstone: last BB-ES 3 Jun; arr 2 SPT 25 Jul (DSh), early.

Red Knot: last BB-ES 3 Jun (MG), only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 28 Jul; max 8 BB-ES 10 Aug.

Sanderling: 11 BB-ES 3 Jun (MG); last 1 BB-ES 9 Jun; arr SPT 8 Jul; max 20 BB-ES 31 Aug (BWa).

Dunlin: 10 & 13 BB-ES 1 Jun; 1-3 sev loc 1-30 Jun, mix of spring dep, fall arr, & lingering; scarce rest of season.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 40 SPT (BCar) & 1 TCEA 3 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 19 Jun; max 54 BB-ES 7 Jul (GL, JiM), low max.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last BB-ES 26 Jun (MGi), Reg record late; arr BB-ES 12 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1-3 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, T Leicester, LIVI 24 Jul; max 30 NMWMA (GBM) 14 Aug (TL).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 918 BB-ES 3 Jun (GL), high count; last BB-ES 27 Jun (MGi), late; arr 3 BB-ES 6 Jul; 80 BB-ES 21 Aug (MGi), good count.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: 1 imm BB-ES 27-31 Aug (AGu, JiM, LMa, mob, phs)

Short-billed Dowitcher: last 6 BB-ES 3 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 27 Jun (MGi); max 22 BB-ES 18 Aug (MG).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr BB-ES 12 Jul, only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 BB-ES 16 Jul (JiM).

Solitary Sandpiper: last BB-ES 1 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 1 Jul (RB, GL, JiM, LMa).

Lesser Yellowlegs: last BB-ES 10 Jun; arr BB-ES 21 Jun (MGi), early; max 25 BB-ES 20 Aug, low max.

Willet: arr BB-ES 11-14 Jul (GL, MGi, mob), early; PtB 6 Aug (MGi, PMar, CMo, ph); BB-ES 9-20 Aug (mob); IB 9 Aug (ES); 2 BB-ES 10 Aug (MGi); good showing.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Genesee Valley Greenway, Chandler Rd, LIVI 6 Jun (JKi); arr BB-ES & NMWMA (SCU) 2 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: last BB-ES 1 Jun (NR); arr 1-3 BB-ES 5-14 Aug (mob, phs).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: arr HB 25 Aug (DT).

jaeger sp: HB 27 Aug (AGu).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 44 BB-ES 22 Jun, low max.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 1st sum BB-ES 2-7 Jun (8 obs, ph).

FRANKLIN'S GULL (R2): BB-ES 2, 7 Jun (LMa, NU, phs).

Iceland Gull: BB-ES 28-30 Jun (MG, MGi, CGo, JGo, SP) 1, 3 Jul (GL, 8 oth obs), rare at dates.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1-4 BB-ES 1-26 Jun; max 10-12 BB-ES 1-3 Jun (sev obs); Alder Beach, T Parma, MONR 14 Jun (JiM, LMa); 1-2 BB-RS 1, 6, 18 Jul; 1 ad BB-ES 29 Aug (MGi, NU, ph); good numbers for summer.

Caspian Tern: max 120 BB-ES 8 Aug (BHA).

Black Tern: max 5 NMWMA (GBM) 4 Jul (D&EB), very low max.

Common Tern: max 48 HB 14 Aug.

Forster's Tern: arr BB-ES 13 Aug.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: last HB 1 Jun.

Common Loon: max 5 BB-ES 8 Jun; 10 rep, 1-4 ind HB 7-31 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1000 Blind Sodus Bay, WAYN 12 Aug (JuA).

WOOD STORK: BB-HW 23 Aug (JFri, GS), soaring with Red-tailed Hawks, 6th Reg record.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: 1 ad BB-ES 29 Jun (JiM, PMi), ph, 6th Reg record.

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

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Rotzel Rd, T Rush, MONR 16 Aug (CKu), 7th Reg record.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: 139 eBird lines Jun; 149 eBird lines Jul; 232 eBird lines Aug; max 19 BB-HW 10 Aug; 347 lines in eBird many loc Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 5 ind 5 loc Jun; Graham Rd, T Canaseraga, LIVI 7 Jul (SH), only Jul rep; total 10 ind 6 loc Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: 61 BB-HW 5 Jun; 72 HB 6 Jun; max 94 BB 11 Aug (DT); total 100 BB-HW Aug.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: BB-HW 22 Aug (JFri, GS).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 502 BB-HW 10 Aug; total 2453 BB-HW Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 23 rep, 12 ind 8 loc 2-27 Jun; 23 rep, 16 ind 9 loc 6-31 Jul; 29 rep, ~11 ind 7 loc Aug; good showing for this Reg.

American Kestrel: total ~52 ind 44 loc Jun; ~134 ind many loc Jul; ~64+ ind 43+ loc Aug.

Merlin: nesting pr Casey P, T Ontario, WAYN 24-28 Jun (JWi); nesting pr 19th Ward Rochester 19 Jun (LBra); total 10 ind 8 4-28 Jun; ~14 ind 10 loc 2-31 Jul; ~18 ind 15 loc 3-31 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: total ~7 ind 6 loc Jun; ~18 ind 13 loc 5-27 Jul; total 17+ ind 15 loc 4-31 Aug; 2 hatched May, 2 banded 2 Jun, 1 found dead 30 Jun, Rochester, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Sandra L. Frankel NP 12 Aug (PD, MG); CIWMA 23 Aug (MA); Beechwoods SP, WAYN 29-30 Aug (TL, MG, JWi, JWo).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max b 6 BBBO 1 Jun; total b 18 BBBO 1-5 Jun; LSP-Dishmill Crk 9 Jun; last LSP-Lee's Landing 19 Jun (BCar), late; arr BB-ES 15 Aug (7 obs); total b 5 BBBO 21-30 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Wilbert Tree Farm, Webster 19 Jun (RSp), interesting loc.

“Traill’s” Flycatcher: max b 10 BBBO 2 Jun; total b 29 BBBO 1-7 Jun; total b 8 BBBO 6, 18-30 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 2 BB-ES 28 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 24 Finger Lakes Trail, ONTA 10 Jun (BHo); total b 17 BBBO 20-31 Aug.

Purple Martin: max 70 CR 239 quarry, T Sodus, WAYN 21 Aug, low max.

Tree Swallow: max 325 NMWMA (GBM) 25 Jul, low max.

Bank Swallow: max 300 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 25 Aug, low max.

Cliff Swallow: max 23 Black Crk Access, MONR, low max.

swallow sp.: 500 NMWMA (SCU) 17 Jul; 1000 NMWMA (VDSR) 23 Aug (JGar).

Winter Wren: total ~14 ind 7 loc Jul, good number; no reports Aug.

SEDGE WREN (R2): Zurich Bog, WAYN 1-10 Jun (EK, 13+ oth obs, aud recs); 1-2 Fisher Rd, ROCH 19-30 Jun, 1-14 Jul (BriM, mob, phs & aud recs); 1-2 Ballantyne Rd, T Chili, MONR 19-30 Jun, 1-18 Jul (BriM, 4 oth obs, aud recs); now rare in Reg.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1b BBBO 2 Jun, unusual date for loc.

Gray-checked Thrush: last BB-ES & 1b BBBO 3 Jun. **Swainson’s Thrush:** max 23 N Rush, MONR 2 Jun (NK), flight calls; total b 8 BBBO 1-4 Jun; last N Rush, MONR 8 Jun (NK), flight calls; arr Ellison P, T Penfield 12 Aug (JiM).

Hermit Thrush: arr Beech SP, WAYN 30 Aug (JWi), early.

American Robin: 495 lines eBird Jul.

Gray Catbird: total b 28 BBBO Jun; 1183 eBird lines Jul; total b 107 BBBO 6, 20-31 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 240 HB 25 Aug (DT), low max.

Pine Siskin: Lake Rd, Webster 22, 31 Jul (PMab), only Jul reps; T Canadice, ONTA 4 Aug; Ellison P, T Penfield 12, 18 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Cook Rd, Hamlin 2-13 Jun (9 obs), 1-10 Jul (4 obs); Conesus-Sparto TLR, LIVI 10-16 Jul (LC, EL, JCo, 5 oth obs).

White-throated Sparrow: Nunda, LIVI 27-29 Jun (DSm); Hojack Trail & Big Field, T Webster 6, 10, 11 Jul (AGar, JiM); Nations Rd IBA, LIVI 10 Jul (RCi); Four Mile Crk Pres, T Webster (JiM); rare in summer.

White-crowned Sparrow: BB-ES 29 Jun (JiM); Grandview Heights, G 12-29 Jul, 3-7 Aug (KGri); unusual for dates & locs.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R2): 1b BBBO 5 Jun; Greenway Trail, T Scottsville, MONR 14-25 Jun (NK, mob, phs & aud recs); now rare in Reg.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R2): 1 juv f 15-31 Aug (CW, mob, phs).

Bobolink: max 100 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 25 Aug (JMcG), good count.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 18 Geneseo Airfield 5 Aug (JKi), good count.

Baltimore Oriole: total b 6 BBBO 20, 22 Aug.

Northern Waterthrush: arr BB-ES 14 Aug (JeB, CW); total b 16 BBBO 6, 20-27 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr BB-ES 8 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-3 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru Jul (mob); BB-ES 10 Aug (GL).

Tennessee Warbler: last Beechwood SP, WAYN 3 Jun; arr Ellison P, T Penfield 12 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr Lake Rd, Webster 18 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: last 1b BBBO 4 Jun; arr 1 BBBO 28 Aug.

Common Yellowthroat: total b 7 BBBO 1-5 Jun; 521 eBird lines Jul; total b 21 BBBO 6, 20-31 Aug.

American Redstart: total b 22 BBBO 1-5 Jun; max 21 Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 5 Jul, low max; total b 16 BBBO 6, 20-28 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1-2 BB-ES 15 Aug.

Northern Parula: last Norway Rd, T Kendall, ORLE 14 Jun (KGa, BCar); 1b BBBO 20 Jul; unusual locs for dates; arr BB-ES 21 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: last 3b BBBO 5 Jun; TCEA 25 Jun (MW), unusual loc for date; total b 51 BBBO 6, 20-31 Aug, good number b.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1b BBBO 2 Jun; arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1-2 BB-ES 15 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: 30 MP 10 June (DHo) & BB-ES 27 Jul (MGi); total b 126 BBBO Jul; 563 lines in eBird Jul; max 45 BB-ES 10 Aug (MB), low max; total b 7 BBBO 6, 22-27 Aug, low number b.

Blackpoll Warbler: total b 17 1-7 Jun; last M-Owl Woods 5 Jun; arr BB-ES & Mt Albion Cemetery 29 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr BB-ES 31 Jul (AB).

Prairie Warbler: White Rd, T Conesus, LIVI 9 Jun (SMu); Lehigh Valley Trail, ONTA 10, 11 Jul (NK, MPa, BH); Turkey Hill Rd, T Conesus LIVI 12 Jul (AH); Conesus-Sparta TLR, LIVI 13 Jul (LHow); BB-ES 14 Aug (JeB, CW); Lake Rd, Webster 20, 22 Aug (AGar).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last 1b BBBO 5 Jun; arr M-Owl Woods 15 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: 5b BBBO 2 Jun; last 1b BBBO 7 Jun; arr Webster Village 19 Aug.

Northern Cardinal: 626 eBird lines Jul.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Every month in Summer 2021 was wetter than normal. June and August were warmer than normal. July was cooler. The average low temperature in June was 56.1° F, 2.7° above normal. The average high was 78.6°, 2.9° above normal. Total rainfall in June was 4.42", 0.44" more than normal. July's average low was 57.7°, 0.2° below normal. The average high was 78.5°, 1.4° below normal. Rainfall that month totaled 6.32", 2.42" more than normal. In August, the average low temperature was 60.6°, 4.3° above normal, and the average high was 80.8°, 2.3° above normal. Total rainfall was 6.24", 2.47" more than normal.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) hosted high numbers of Mallards in late July. Also there in mid-August was a high count of Blue-winged Teal. Elsewhere in the Region was a high count of Hooded Mergansers in Van Etten in early June and a high count of Red-breasted Mergansers on Seneca Lake in late July. Scarce species included small numbers of Northern Shovelers in three locations and Ruddy Ducks in two locations. A Greater Scaup was at Stewart Park in mid-June, a Black Scoter was on Seneca Lake in mid-July, and a Common Goldeneye was at Myers Point in late July. Rarities were **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** and **Eurasian Wigeon**. A small flock of the Whistling-Ducks was at Cayuga Lake State Park in mid-June. Two more were at Montezuma NWR in late July and early August. Another was at Myers Point in mid-August. The Eurasian Wigeon was at Montezuma NWR in late August.

A high count of Ruffed Grouse in Van Etten included a large covey. Three sightings of Horned Grebe may have been of the same bird. The first was at the Waneta Lamoka Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on 2 July. Four days later, a Horned Grebe was at Myers Point. Five days after that, one was at Long Point State Park. A Red-necked Grebe was on Seneca Lake for a week in mid-July.

A growing infestation of Gypsy Moths in the Region was likely responsible for cuckoos being much in evidence. Observers submitted high counts for Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Hi Tor WMA and in Van Etten. The only Eastern Whip-poor-will report came from the Town of Caroline in early June.

Sandhill Cranes peaked at Montezuma NWR with a high count at the end of July. A high count of Killdeer was in Dryden in late August and of Long-billed Dowitcher at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Late spring departures were Semipalmated Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs at Montezuma NWR. Observers reported the early fall arrival of Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellowlegs. The only report of Upland Sandpiper was of a displaying bird in Seneca Falls in early July. Reports of Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Forster's Tern all came from Tompkins County.

The Region had several interesting reports of long-legged waders. These included high counts of Least Bitterns and Great Egrets at Montezuma NWR and Green Herons at a wetland in Dryden. A **Wood Stork** at Montezuma NWR from mid-July through mid-August was the Region's first summer record. A Little Blue Heron made three separate appearances at Montezuma NWR between late July and late August. Individual Cattle Egrets briefly showed up in the Town of Canandaigua in early June, in the City of Canandaigua in late June, at Montezuma NWR at the end of July and beginning of August, and one in Dryden also in the beginning of August. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Taughannock Falls State Park in the beginning of July and reappeared at Cass Park in Ithaca two weeks later. Finally, the Region's first **Roseate Spoonbill** appeared at Montezuma NWR in mid-July and stayed through the end of the season.

Two Black Vultures were in the Ithaca-Dryden area for most of the season. The only other report came from Benton in Yates County. At the compost piles in Dryden, Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks produced high counts. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** in Yates County the last half of August was the Region's fourth record.

Sapsucker Woods produced a high count of Pileated Woodpeckers. At Allan H Treman State Marine Park, a family of Merlins accounted for a high count and at Taughannock Falls State Park, lingering fledgling Peregrine Falcons contributed to a high count for that species. Red-headed Woodpeckers were at five locations in three counties.

Two flycatcher high counts were Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Danby State Forest and Eastern Phoebe at Hi Tor WMA. Montezuma NWR produced a high count of Warbling Vireos. A field in the Town of Fayette hosted a high count of Horned Larks. The Boiceville Nature Walk allowed observers to find a high count of Tufted Titmice.

Usually very scarce, Sedge Wrens were found at four locations in three counties. Counts of 16 Veeries at two locations were the season's highest counts, but were, nonetheless, low compared to other years. A Swainson's Thrush in Van Etten was a late spring migrant. Cedar Waxwings, always abundant in late summer, managed a high count at Montezuma NWR.

Some "winter" finches lingered into summer. A Pine Siskin was in Erwin in early July. An Evening Grosbeak lingered late into early June at a Van Etten feeding station. A high count of Red Crossbills was in Danby in early June and the last one was reported from Hammond Hill State Forest in mid-July. High counts of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches came from Van Etten and Beebe Lake, respectively.

Observers turned in high counts for several species of sparrows: Eastern Towhees at Sampson State Park, Chipping Sparrows at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, Field Sparrows at Bare Hill Natural Area, Savannah Sparrows in Fayette, and Song Sparrows at Montezuma NWR. Another high count to mention here, also at Montezuma, is a huge number of Red-winged Blackbirds. Back to sparrows, the only report of Clay-colored Sparrow came from Lodi in mid-June.

Warbler high counts included Chestnut-sided Warblers in Arnot Forest, Black-throated Blue Warblers in Shindagin Hollow State Forest, and Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve in early June; and Tennessee Warblers and Northern Parulas in Danby State Forest and Bay-breasted Warblers in Sapsucker Woods in late August. A Wilson's Warbler arrived early at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Finally, a high count of Dickcissels were in Phelps with reports of the species coming from there mid-June through mid-August.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BL – Beebe L, TOMP; **DSF** – Danby State Forest, TOMP; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **Tith** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 7

Cayuga L SP 11 Jun (mob, ph), high; 1-2 MNWR 29 Jul-8 Aug (mob, ph); MyPt 15 Aug (mob, ph).

Blue-winged Teal: max 50 MNWR 21 Aug (mob), high.

Northern Shoveler: 2 Seneca Harbor Park 12 Jun; North Montezuma WMA 17 Jun; MNWR 24 Jun; 1-9 MNWR 21 Jul thru.

Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR 28 Aug thru (mob).

Mallard: max 2000 MNWR 29 Jul (JMc), high.

Greater Scaup: StP 11 Jun (JMc!).

Black Scoter: SenL SENE 10-18 Jul (mob).

Common Goldeneye: MyPt 20-22 Jul (mob, ph).

Hooded Merganser: max 24 TVE 5 Jun (JoCo, MPe!), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 SenL SENE 20-24 Jul (TLe!), high.

Ruddy Duck: max 5 Tileyard Pds ONTA 4 Jul (TLe, SW); 2 MNWR 4 Jul (RoM); MNWR 25 Jul (mob).

Ruffed Grouse: max 18 TVE 16 Jun (JoCo, MPe!), high.

Horned Grebe: Waneta Lamoka WMA SCHU 2 Jul (JoCo, ph); MyPt 6 Jul (JMc, ph); Long Pt SP 11 Jul (OBC, ZVZ, ph).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 SenL SENE 11-18 Jul (mob, ph).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 6 Hi Tor WMA YATE 2 Jun (BiHo!), high; 6 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo!), high.

Common Nighthawk: last Tlth 24 Jun; arr MyPt 15 Aug; max 21 Catharine Creek WMA 16 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: TCar 3 Jun (SPo!).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sandhill Crane: max 40 MNWR 31 Jul (CGo, JGo!), high.

Black-bellied Plover: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 10 Aug; max 7 MNWR 2 Jun.

Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 14 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 4 Jul; max 50 MNWR 11 Aug.

Killdeer: max 280 TDry 29 Aug (THe, SO), high.

Upland Sandpiper: T Seneca Falls SENE 1 Jul (RSt).

Whimbrel: 2 City Pier ONTA 2 Jun; StP 10 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 15 MNWR 1 Jun; last MNWR 4 Jun; arr MNWR 8 Jul (JJ), early.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 3 MNWR 4 Aug; max 21 MNWR 11 Aug.

Sanderling: arr MNWR 1 Aug.

Dunlin: max 2 MNWR 2 Jun; last Sullivanville Dam CHER 6 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 29 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: last 34 MNWR 14 Jun; arr MNWR 29 Jun; max 400 MNWR 19 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr TDry 18 Jul; max 2 MNWR 4 Aug; 2 MNWR 11 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 4 MNWR 7 Jul; max 34 MNWR 4 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 3 MNWR 18 Jun (JeCo), late; arr MNWR 27 Jun (KGa), early; max 200 MNWR 4 Aug; 200 MNWR 11 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last MNWR 14 Jun (JoMi), late; arr 3 MNWR 16 Jul; max 31 MNWR 17 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 6 MNWR 29 Jul; max 15 MNWR 12 Aug (SJ, RRei), high.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 24 Jun; max 11 Locke Rd Marsh TOMP 11 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 4 MNWR 10 Jun (KCo), late; arr MNWR 19 Jun (MM), early; max 200 MNWR 4 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 22 Jun; max 100 MNWR 7 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 4 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 29 Jul; max 3 MNWR 21 Aug.

Laughing Gull: 2 MyPt 19-21 Aug; MR 23 Aug; StP 26 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Hog Hole TOMP 19 Jun (KE); StP 14 Jul (THe).

Forster's Tern: 5 MyPt 19 Aug (mob, ph).

LOONS – PARAKEET

WOOD STORK: MNWR 20 Jul-17 Aug (mob, ph).

Least Bittern: max 8 MNWR 12 Jul (MK!), high.

Great Egret: max 287 MNWR 7 Aug (Dda), high.

Little Blue Heron: MNWR 28 Jul (JAp!); MNWR 11 Aug (mob, ph); MNWR 29 Aug (BCa, JMc, ph; MM, ph).

Cattle Egret: T Canandaigua ONTA 3 Jun (MarBr, ph); City Pier ONTA 29 Jun (KGa, ph); MNWR 30 Jul-2 Aug (mob, ph); SRCP 1 Aug (mob, ph).

Green Heron: max 66 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 31 Aug (ABC), high.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Taughannock Falls SP 1-3 Jul (mob, ph); Cass P TOMP 18-22 Jul (mob, ph).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: MNWR 11 Jul thru.

Black Vulture: 2 T1th 5 Jun; 1-2 SRCP 15 Jun-2 Aug; Fidlers Pd 6 Aug; Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 8 Aug; MR 15 Aug; T Benton YATE 26 Aug.

Turkey Vulture: max 142 SRCP 20 Jul (JMc!), high.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: T Benton and T Jerusalem YATE 15-31 Aug (mob, ph).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 5 SRCP 1 Aug (JGar), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-2 Trumansburg 22 Jun-26 Jul; 1-2 T Seneca Falls SENE 28-21 Aug; Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 1 Jun; T Potter YATE 1-19 Jun; MyPt 10-12 Jun; Ludlowville 28 Aug.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 7 SW 2 Jul (GK), high.

Merlin: max 6 Allan H Treman State Marine P TOMP 27 Jun (KMcGo!), high.

Peregrine Falcon: 5 Taughannock Falls SP 23 Jun (PHe, MWin!), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr SW 19 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Dryden L TOMP 6 Jun; arr T1th 6 Aug; max 3 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Eastern Phoebe: max 20 Hi Tor WMA YATE 10 Jul (TSh), high.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Goetchicus Wetland Preserve TOMP 26 Aug; max 2 Willard WMA SENE 28 Aug; 2 BL 30 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: max 15 MNWR 10 Jun (LCB, StBe), high.

Horned Lark: max 50 T Fayette SENE 31 Aug (TLe), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 20 Boiceville Road Nature Walk TOMP 23 Jun (PMarr), high.

Sedge Wren: T Farmington ONTA 29 Jun-13 Jul; T Ovid SENE 30 Jun-1 Jul; MNWR 4-6 Aug; 1-3 T Reading SCHU 8-16 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr T1th 28 Aug.

Veery: max 16 Cliffside State Forest SCHU 6 Jun; 16 Michigan Hollow TOMP 2 Jul, low.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun; MR 1 Jun; T Enfield TOMP 1 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: max 4 Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun; 4 MR 31 Aug; last TVE 8 Jun (JoCo), late; arr T Dryden 13 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 MNWR 28 Aug (mob), high.

Evening Grosbeak: last TVE 4 Jun (JoCo, MPe), late.

Purple Finch: max 16 TVE 5 Aug (JoCo), high.

Red Crossbill: max 25 T Danby 9 Jun (WE), high; last Hammond Hill State Forest 13 Jul (CWo).

Pine Siskin: last T Erwin STEU 9 Jul.

American Goldfinch: max 200 BL 23 Aug (SRa), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 16 Sampson SP 30 Jul (DBem, TBe), high.

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 31 Aug (SBI, BW), high.

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Lodi SENE 17 Jun (mob).

Field Sparrow: max 22 Bare Hill Natural Area YATE 21 Jun (EC), high.

Savannah Sparrow: max 60 T Fayette SENE 16 Aug (TLe), high.

Song Sparrow: max 68 MNWR 23 Jul, high.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000 MNWR 14 Aug (mob), high.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1-2 LPBP 10-19 Jun; last LPBP 1 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 9 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 19 Jun; last Ringwood House TOMP 15 Aug.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Jennings Pd TOMP 14 Jul (DTo!).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: TCar 12 Jul (TA, ph).

Tennessee Warbler: arr SenL SP 15 Aug; max 7 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Connecticut Warbler: arr MR 30 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 15 Aug; max 7 T Hector SCHU 28 Aug.

Northern Parula: arr Cornell University 22 Aug (IS, STa, AVi); Palmer Woods TOMP 22 Aug (CL), early; max 2 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun (JMc, rec; KRo), late; arr MR 16 Aug; max 4 SW 28 Aug (MHa), high.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 30 Arnot Forest TOMP 5 Jun (SBI, BW!), high.

Blackpoll Warbler: last TVE 9 Jun; TDry 29 Jun-1 Jul (MPi, rec); arr BL 28 Aug; TCar 28 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 18
Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 3 Jun
(PMarr, PMc), high.
Prairie Warbler: max 7 LPBP 7 & 16 Jun
(MaGi), high.

Wilson's Warbler: last StP 3 Jun; arr MNWR
16 Aug (DK, ph), early.
Dickcissel: 1-4 T Phelps ONTA 13 Jun-12
Aug (TLc, ph; mob), high.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2021 was a warmer than average regarding temperature and somewhat drier than normal. July was just one degree warmer than the long-term norm but had about six inches more rainfall than average. August was also warmer than normal and had two inches more rainfall than average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Nine birds, including seven juveniles, were seen and photographed there. This was the fifth 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.

There were three pairs of Sandhill Cranes with colts in Chenango County observed this season. Mike DeWispelaere reported, "In the county there is a pair with a colt at Bliven Pond, a pair with 2 colts at North Norwich and the pair with the colt here (Round Pond, Pharsalia Woods State Forest)." Catherine Murphy and Alex Trifunovic have also documented Sandhill Cranes in the county. 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 low.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was a Baird's Sandpiper seen in the Region in late August. Also, a Willet was seen on 11 August in the Susquehanna River in Johnson City in Broome County. Then on 20 August a Red-necked Phalarope was photographed at Dorchester Park which borders the Whitney Point Reservoir. This was after Tropical Storm *Fred* had moved through and the water level was higher, creating more habitat along the shore in the grassy areas.

There were 130 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 77 reports in the 2020 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.

A **Roseate Spoonbill** was reported and photographed by Landa Palmer on a small pond in Delaware County on 7 July. Then Susan Thorne reported another on 11 July at Chenango Valley State Park. Many observers were able to see and photograph this exotic looking bird as it foraged along the Chenango River. It was a bit of a surreal sight. Adding to the mystery of this appearance was that another Roseate Spoonbill was seen at the same time at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. There are no previous reports of Roseate Spoonbills in the Region in eBird.

Both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes were recorded singing in the Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area on 10 July by David Nicosia. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed breeding for the Swainson's Thrush. 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. Plus, the recordings of these species' songs are amazing to hear.

Similar to last season there were only a few reports of Pine Siskins. However, there were 50 reports of Red Crossbills contrasting with 21 reports last year.

In total, 29 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which included a Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warblers. This number of species is about average for the Region. In addition, a "Lawrence's" Warbler (hybrid) was reported and photographed from both Cortland and Otsego Counties.

In summary, 189 species (last year 182) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations for the Region. When summarizing the number of reports in the Region, if there are a reasonable number of reports, I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers. There were 74,661 observations (which is about 85% 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.

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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; **CornellLn** – Cornell Lane, T Harford, CORT; **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; **PHWMA** – Pharsalia WMA, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **TomakRd** – Tomak Rd, T Candor, TIOG; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO.
C, CF, DD, FL, FY, N, NB, P – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: 3 Deposit DELA 12 Jun, only report.
Trumpeter Swan: Bpd 14-31 Aug, mob, ph.
Lesser Scaup: Plymouth Res CHEN 12 Jun-26 Jul, ph.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 104 reports throughout Region.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 127 reports throughout Region.
Common Nighthawk: max 16 Vestal BROO 21 Aug; 14 WHP 31 Aug; 20 other scattered rep in late Aug, numbers seem low.
Chimney Swift: max 51 WHP 14 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 923 lines in eBird, though not as many reports as last year.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Common Gallinule: max 9 SHM 27 Jul, 2 ad, 7 juv, ph, (AT), *intro*.
Sandhill Crane: max 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 4 Jun, 3 ad, 1 juv, ph; SHM 5 Aug, 2 ad, 2 juv, ph; 3 Bliven Pd CHEN 18 Jul, 2 ad, 1 juv, ph, (MD), *intro*.
Baird's Sandpiper: CornellLn 29 Aug, only report.
Least Sandpiper: max 18 CornellLn 28 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: MHL 21-26 Aug, only report.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 22 Chenango R CHEN 6 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 CornellLn 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr ULCP 8 Aug.
Willet: WHP 11 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr ULCP 12 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: DorP 20 Aug, ph, mob.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 DorP 31 Aug.
Laughing Gull: 2 DorP 19-31 Aug, ph, mob.
Caspian Tern: max 8 DorP 21 Aug.
Black Tern: 6 Chenango L CHEN 19 Aug, ph, after tropical storm Fred came through.
Common Tern: 2 Tully Lake CORT 15 Aug; DorP 30 Aug, ph.

LOONS – PARAKEET

American Bittern: Hartwick OTSE 15 Aug, only report.
Least Bittern: Bpd 30 Jun; MHL 8 Aug.
Great Egret: max 7 SusRB 17 Aug; 130 reports thru Region, more reports this year than last.
Cattle Egret: Barker Hill Bridge BROO 2 Aug, only report.
ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Hamden DELA 7 Jul, ph, (LP); Chenango Valley SP BROO 11 JUL, ph, mob, *intro*, (ST).
Black Vulture: 3 scattered reports in June.
Osprey: 2 SusRB 21 Jun, NB.
Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Blakesley Nurse Hollow Rd CHEN 9 Jul, ph, FL; 62 scattered reports.
Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Lime Hollow CORT 11 Jun, FL.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Moon Hill Rd CHEN 12 Jun, FL.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Springfield Center OTSE 12 Jun, only report.
American Kestrel: max 14 TomakRd 18 Aug.

Merlin: max 5 Milford OTSE 12 Jul, 2 ad, 3 juv, audio recording, FY.

Peregrine Falcon: 7 reports of downtown resident Binghamton pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: Galpin Rd TIOG 1 Jun; TomakRd 20 Aug; MHL 27 Aug, only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: Jam Pd CHEN 29 Jun, audio recording.

Horned Lark: max 2 Caldwell Hill Rd BROO 13 Jun, C.

Purple Martin: 6 scattered reports, same number as last year.

Brown Creeper: max 5 Triangle SF BROO 28 Jun, audio recording, FY.

Winter Wren: max 5 Kinny Rd CHEN 16 Jun, FL; 5 T Taylor FLT CORT 4 Jul, audio recording, FY.

Marsh Wren: most reports from BPd, MHL, and SHM; 3 Summit L Pres OTSE 18 Jun, audio recording, N.

Swainson's Thrush: max 6 PHWMA 10 Jul, audio recordings.

Hermite Thrush: max 12 PHWMA 10 Jul, audio recordings.

Red Crossbill: max 15 PHWMA 1 Jun; 50 reports most from state forests in CHEN and CORT, last year 21 reports.

Pine Siskin: max 4 MHL 17 & 20 Aug; 3 other scattered reports.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Owego TIOG 2 & 4 Jun, ph; MHL 1 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: T Barton TIOG 5 Jun; West Creek Rd TIOG 8 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Elklor Rd TIOG 27 Jun; TomakRd 1 Jul.

Bobolink: max 120 W Terry Clove Rd DELA 21 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: 8 scattered reports in Jun, most of singing males.

Ovenbird: max 48 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 12 Jun, DD.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 6 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 20 Jun, FL.

Northern Waterthrush: max 4 Jam Pd CHEN 20 Jun, CF.

Golden-winged Warbler: TomakRd 15 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: (hybrid): Chlorinator Rd OTSE 19 Jun, ph; LHNC 13 Jul, ph.

Mourning Warbler: max 10 Cuyler Hill SF CORT 29 Jun, CF.

Hooded Warbler: max 4 Taylor Valley SF CORT 4 Jul, P.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Warren Rd DELA 4-5 Jun, ph, P.

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Summer 2021° F was warmer and wetter than average. June’s average maximum of 83.7° was a whopping 6.4° above normal, with eight days above 90° versus only two in a typical year. Overnights allowed little cooling and at 61.4° were 4.7° above normal, and the month finished as the third warmest June ever. Rainfall of 6.4" was 2.9" over the expected 3.5". July was also much wetter than usual but about average in temperature with no extended heat waves. August, however, was a record-setter with the average maximum temperature of 84.7° being 4.4° above normal. The prior record for the month had stood since 1937. Overnights were sweltering with an average of 66.2°, nearly 6° over the typical number. Five days were above 90° and the month finished as sixth wettest at 6.6" of rain, nearly 3" more than expected. Many will remember the summer for its frequent ‘rainouts’

PHOTO GALLERY, SUMMER 2021

The Kingbird 2021 December; 71 (4)



Hudsonian Godwits, Orient Point, *Suffolk*, 23 Aug 2021, © Jay Rand. See Region 10 Summer Season Report, pp. 404-418.



Roseate Spoonbill, Poughkeepsie, *Dutchess*, here 25 Jul 2021, © Susan Iannucci.



Wood Stork, Montezuma NWR, *Seneca*, here 12 Aug 2021, © Wade and Melissa Rowley.



Wood Stork, Ghent, *Columbia*, here 5 Aug 2021, © Carena Pooth.



Roseate Spoonbill, Cold Spring Harbor, *Nassau*, here 30 Jul 2021, © Keith Michael.



Dickcissels (top) and Grasshopper Sparrows (bottom), Croton Point Park, *Westchester*, here 24 Aug 2021, © Robert Lewis.



Rufous Hummingbird, East Quogue, *Suffolk*, 5 Aug 2021, © Eileen Schwinn.



King Rail, Iroquois NWR, Kumpf Marsh, *Genesee*, here 1 Jun 2021, © Becky Harbison.



Swallow-tailed Kite, Yatesville, *Yates*, here 27 Aug 2021, © Donna Schulman.



Common Tern, Captree State Park, *Suffolk*, © Indira Thirkannad. This dark-billed, dark-legged, long-winged individual resembles several birds documented on Long Island in recent years, suspected as the Siberian-breeding subspecies *Sterna hirundo longipennis*. An article reviewing these records is in preparation—Editor.



Long-tailed Jaeger, Jacob Riis Park, *Queens*, 23 Aug 2021, © Doug Gochfeld.



Richard Crossley and “Rocky,” Beaver Lake Nature Center, *Onondaga*, 3 Dec 2013, © Joseph Brin. See Patch Birding piece, pp. 335-336.



Figure 1. Common Raven nests at two New York State Department of Transportation salt storage barns in western NYS: Batavia, *Genesee* (left), April 2021, photo courtesy of MaryEllen Papin; and Newark, *Wayne* (right), May 2021, photo courtesy of Sarah Lazazzero. Arrows indicate the approximate locations of the nest sites. See Notes and Observations, pp. 332-333.



Figure 2. Common Raven nests at two New York State Department of Transportation salt storage barns in western NYS: Batavia, *Genesee* (left), April 2021, photo courtesy of MaryEllen Papin; and Newark, *Wayne* (right), May 2021, photo courtesy of Sarah Lazazzero. See Notes and Observations, pp. 332-333.

of outdoor activities dependent on fair weather, the season finishing at nearly double the usual amount of precipitation.

Summer in the Region is typically slow for waterfowl until dabbling ducks make their return. Sandy Pond started receiving birds in August and a count of 65 Blue-winged Teal was the highlight of an otherwise unexciting season. Mark Burns observed an impressive flight of 42 Common Nighthawk on 23 August in the North Bay area on Oneida Lake's northeast shoreline. His checklist notes the flight began at 7:00 pm, lasted about 30 minutes, and was composed of singles and small groups heading east around the lake's wide east end (rather than crossing the water). Meanwhile, Gregg Dashnau found a singing Whip-poor-will at Three Rivers on the 27th, presumably a migrating bird, though the timing of the species through our area in fall is poorly known. The bird vocalizing also seems curious for fall since Common Nighthawks generally do not. The area hosted a singing Whip during June from 2011-2013 and Dashnau observed a pair together there on 3 June 2012. Since Whip-poor-will is usually considered an early to mid-May migrant for the area in spring, a possible breeding attempt or at least interest in the habitat was suggested by their presence in June. The species' secretive nature prevented anything from being confirmed.

Low water levels on Sandy Pond continued from spring and Matt Brown made frequent trips to the channel area and Carl Island shoal, finding an excellent count of 52 north-bound Black-bellied Plover there on 1 June. Two pairs of **Piping Plover** nested successfully and hatched seven young, most of which reached at least test-flying, but only two are thought to have survived to migrate. Other highlights included a **Marbled Godwit** continuing from the previous period, Whimbrel, Willet, Red Knot, and four Stilt Sandpiper, an excellent count for the Region. Another was seen at Oswego Harbor by Gregg Dashnau, an unusual location for the species. Ditch Bank Road produced a Sanderling on 19 August, always rare away from big water. The Sky High Turf Farm hosted a Buff-breasted Sandpiper between 15-18 August. Back at Sandy Pond, 23 Short-billed Dowitcher on 18 August was a good number for our area. Seldom seen away from Montezuma, Wilson's Phalarope was found at Onondaga Lake by Drew Weber on 14 August, while Red-necked showed the same day at Sandy. Two Lesser Yellowlegs were seen in Hamilton on 22 June by Gary Meyers. Yellowlegs in mid-June are interesting as they are ambiguous in terms of assigning them to direction of migration—presumably too late for north-bound breeders but also early for south-bound. Failed breeders not trying again and thus leaving the breeding grounds are a possibility, these being fall migrants of a sort. Non-breeding immatures may also wander and summer as they see fit. Brown found a **Laughing Gull** at Sandy on 4 June. As the season wore on the Carl Island shoal gradually became vegetated enough to provide hiding places for shorebirds, an unusual scenario. Wet weather was also taking its toll with the exposed sand shrinking but never fully disappearing.

On Otisco Lake, Tobias Beach photographed a **Swallow-tailed Kite** on 21 August. This is a first Regional record for the summer season and Onondaga

county, fifth for the Region overall, the prior sightings all from Derby Hill in May. There were few other raptor highlights save for a Short-eared Owl at Deer Creek on 30 August. For the first time in many years, Acadian Flycatcher was not found at the usual Whiskey Hollow spot this summer. Several new locations were found by birders, however, including Gray Road south of Oswego, Hannibal, Skaneateles, Labrador Hollow, and the former Sithe Energy preserve in Scriba. Some of these represent traditional habitat for the species in our area—hemlock ravines with no understory—while others may be typical of nesting habitat farther south in the core breeding range. Dave Nash reported a singing bird at Hamlin Marsh in Clay on 17 June. Did any of these birds nest? Sedge Wren was found at a new location near Fulton and also returned to the big fields of Three Rivers WMA. Its choice of habitat makes it difficult to confirm breeding.

Though possibly an occasional breeder in the northeastern part of the Region, Evening Grosbeak is rarely reported in summer. Adam Panek had one visiting his feeders near Brewerton on 2 June. Red Crossbill continued in the Morgan Hill area while Pine Siskin was reported only from Dolgeville. Given the lack of nesting-season reports, what is its current status as a breeder in our area? Clay-colored Sparrow was reported from Pulaski on 4 June by Lynn Braband, the bird singing and seen in a small spruce. Matt Wallace added another sighting near Canastota on 5 June, while Gary Meyers found one near Erieville on 24 August. Mickey Scilingo found a **Nelson's Sparrow** while birding the Oswego County trail in West Monroe on 2 June.

Warbler highlights included a Louisiana Waterthrush pair producing four young on Matt Brown's property near Pulaski. The species is at the edge of its range and scarce in Oswego County. A late Prothonotary Warbler was found at Oneida Shores Park on 2 June, possibly headed for the traditional area near Toad Harbor. Two others were found in unusual locations: one near Oswego present for at least two weeks starting on 3 June, and another photographed on a light pole in the parking lot of Beaver Lake Nature Center on 13 June. Ken Burdick again surveyed areas of the Seneca River in Cayuga and southwestern Onondaga County, finding Prothonotaries near Cross Lake. Golden-winged Warblers were reported from a power line cut near Mexico, the front field at Great Bear, and in the Erieville area on two dates in August.

Count maximums in the synopsis section of this report rely on data from eBird, which in turn come from checklists of varying effort/distance submitted by observers. Consequently, large counts often reflect greater distances covered and other factors requiring careful analysis to compare with other counts. This effect is most strongly shown among species that are common and exceptionally vociferous such as Red-eyed Vireo. Simply driving with car windows down in good breeding areas can accumulate huge numbers and present challenges to analysts after the fact.

This season a total of 223 species and two hybrids was reported, which is 13 above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: **Piping Plover**, Whimbrel, **Marbled Godwit**, Red Knot, **Willet**,

Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, **Laughing Gull**, Black Vulture, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Clay-colored Sparrow, **Nelson's Sparrow**.

Summer 2021 produced 94,538 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were contributed by 650 people.

CONTRIBUTORS

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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, MADI; **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 Ri, Indian Pt, 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; **OLP** – Onondaga Lake 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 P, formerly Sithe Energy, Scriba; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skau** – 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: OneiL 13 Jun; only rep.
Canada Goose: max 300 OLP 15 Jul; flocks widespread thru.
Mute Swan: 15 SP 1 Jun; max 28 FH 17 Jun; a few sightings Seneca Ri, mostly absent from E part of Reg.
Trumpeter Swan: pairs GSC, FH; Volney with 2 young; sev other reps.
Wood Duck: max 70 Ladd Rd, Brew 31 Aug; widespread.
Blue-winged Teal: SP 4 Jun; 2 GSC 16 Jun; 3 DC 14 Jul; max 65 SP 20 Aug.
Northern Shoveler: SP 10 Jul; arr SP 30 Aug; only reps.
Gadwall: 4 SP 18-19 Aug; only reps.
American Wigeon: GSC 18 Jun; only rep.
Mallard: max 300 OnonL 7 Aug; flocks widespread.
American Black Duck: WMonroe 2 Jun; SP 3 Jun; max 5 SP 26 Aug & SVB 29 Aug.
Northern Pintail: 4 SP 24 Aug; only rep.
Green-winged Teal: 2 SP 30 Jun; SP 14 Jul; max 11 SP 14 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: UM 1 Jun; 1-2 Bville 2-5 Jul; only reps.
Greater Scaup: SP 2-4 Jun; Fult 4, 10 Jul; OneiL 26 Aug, early; only reps.
Lesser Scaup: OneiL 29 Aug; only rep.
Hooded Merganser: max 9 Poland 8 Jun; small nums typ locs.
Common Merganser: max 15 OnonL 4 Jun; small groups typ locs.
Red-breasted Merganser: 1-2 Phx 1 Jun thru; 4 SP 3 Jun; sev other reps.
Ring-necked Pheasant: small nums var loc but few reps.
Ruffed Grouse: max 6 Hastings 7-16 Jul.
Wild Turkey: max 32 Cazenovia 29 Aug.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 OnonL 23 Jul.
Rock Pigeon: flocks widespread.
Mourning Dove: max 71 ESyr 16 Jul; widespread resident.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles/pairs thru; max 4 WMonroe 6 Jun.
Black-billed Cuckoo: singles/pairs thru; max 4 Pulaski 8 Jun.

Common Nighthawk: 7 TR 1 Jun; last 2 Oswego 4 Jun; Syr 1 Aug; arr Manlius 10 Aug; max 42 Onei lakeshore 23 Aug (Mbu), exc num.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: TR 27 Aug (GDa), presumably a migrant; only rep.
Chimney Swift: max 30 OnonL 14 Aug; small groups typ locs thru.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 12 Williamstown 25 Jun, 25 Jul.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 6 UM 1 Jun.
Sora: max 2 Central Sq 24 Jul; singles 4 other locs.
Common Gallinule: 11 WMonroe 6 Jun; 9 OnonL 13 Aug; max 18 HI 25 Jul.
American Coot: 1-7 OnonL var dates Jun/Jul; only reps.
Sandhill Crane: WMonroe 6 Jun; NicksL 6 Jun; 2 Const 15 Jun; 2 TR/Bville 23 Jun – 28 Jul; Vienna 17 Jul; Kirksville 31 Jul; only reps.
Black-bellied Plover: max 52 SP 1 Jun (MBr), good num; last 2 SP 7 Jun; arr SP 4 Aug.
American Golden-Plover: arr OnonL 25 Aug; only rep.
Semipalmated Plover: 30 SP 1 Jun; last 3 SP 16 Jun; arr 2 SP 8 Jul; max 38 SP 1 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER (R5): 2 pairs nest SP, 7 chicks fledge (or close) but only 2 thought to survive.
Killdeer: max 63 Mexico 23 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Syr Airport 23 Jun (MBu); Deerfield 24 Jun; only reps.
Whimbrel: arr FH & SP 14 July; 2 SP 19 Jul; SP 21 Jul, 18, 22 Aug; only reps.
MARBLED GODWIT (R5): SP 2, 7 Jun (MBr, ph), cont from prev period.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 14 SP 2 Jun; last 8 SP 3 Jun; arr 3 SP 1 Aug.
Red Knot: last SP 1 Jun; arr & max 6 SP 15 Aug thru (MBr, mob); 1-2 OSP 24-28 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 SP 21 Aug; max 4 SP 26 Aug (MBr); OswH 29 Aug (GDa), unusual loc.
Sanderling: last SP 7 Jun; arr 9 SP 16 Jul; max 36 SP 28 Aug; 8 OnonL 17 Aug; DB 19 Aug; 3 FH 29 Aug.

Dunlin: last 4 SP 7 Jun; max 12 SP 1-3 Jun.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 3 SP 15 Aug; max 4 SP 27-30 Aug; other reps SHTF, FH, OSP.
Least Sandpiper: 26 SP 1 Jun; last MSI 6 Jun; arr 4 SP 2 Jul; max 45 DB 21 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 4 SP 7 Jun; arr 2 Marcellus 31 Jul; max 10 SP 27 Aug.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1-2 SHTF 15-18 Aug; only reps.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 SP 1 Aug; max 19 SHTF 18 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 176 SP 3 Jun (MBr), good num; 22 FH 8 Jun; last 8 SP 16 Jun; arr 2 SP 9 Jul; flocks SP thru.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 SP 8 Jul; max 23 SP 18-19 Aug (MBr), exc num.
American Woodcock: max 6 TR 1 Jun.
Wilson's Snipe: max 4 Fabius 23 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 12 OnonL 16 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Cato 5 Jul; max 10 DB 19 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last SP 2 Jun; 2 MSI 22 Jun (GMe), north or south bound?; arr SP 30 Jun, presumably southbound; max 29 SP 14 Aug; *intro*.
Willet: SP 1-3 Jun (MBr, DWh); SP 11, 12, 14 Aug; 2 SP 16 Aug (MBr).
Greater Yellowlegs: last 2 OnonL 1 Jun; arr SP 1 Jul; max 42 SP 14 Aug.
Wilson's Phalarope: OnonL 14 Aug (DWe) & 17 Aug (FLe).
Red-necked Phalarope: SP 14 Aug (MBr).
Bonaparte's Gull: last SP 7 Jun; arr 2 SP 28 Jun; max 35 OneiL 15 Aug.
LAUGHING GULL (R5): SP 4 Jun (MBr).
Ring-billed Gull: max 740 OswH 19 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 120 SP 15 Aug.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: no reports.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 SVB 11 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 137 OnonL 7 Aug, good num for loc.
Black Tern: SP 12-14 Jul, 11 Aug; OnonL 18 Aug; nesting status in Reg uncertain.
Common Tern: 90 SP 15 Aug; max 209 OSP 17 Aug.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: small groups on ADK lakes.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1100 OnonL 21 Aug.
American Bittern: 1-2 var typ locs.
Least Bittern: few reps typ locs; max 9 Ladd Rd Brew 31 Aug, good num.

Great Blue Heron: max 135 GSC 4 Jun; reps widespread incl breeding colonies typ locs.
Great Egret: GSC 4, 6 Jun; arr ESyr 10 Jul; max 12 DeWitt Marsh 14 Aug.
Green Heron: small groups widespread; max 16 OSP 31 Aug, good num.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 6 OnonL 30 Jul (JFr, ph), good num, likely nest in area; singles SP, Fville, Syr, Fulton, Bville, Pulaski.
Black Vulture: Newport 25 Jul (JRe); only rep.
Turkey Vulture: widespread; max 70 DB 17 Aug.
Osprey: pairs widespread typ locs; max 7 Brew 25 Jul & SP 2 Aug.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Otisco L 21 Aug (TBe, ph), 1st county & summer rec, 5th for Reg.
Northern Harrier: singles/pairs typ locs; max 4 Deerfield 12 Jun.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: few reps of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: singles/pairs; max 4 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Northern Goshawk: juv Alder Crk 16 Aug; only rep.
Bald Eagle: widespread reps; max 19 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Red-shouldered Hawk: few reps singles; max 4 Const; 29 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: widespread reps typ locs; max 19 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Red-tailed Hawk: common & widespread; max 127 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Eastern Screech-Owl: singles/pairs typ locs.
Great Horned Owl: widespread resident.
Barred Owl: widespread resident.
Short-eared Owl: DC 30 Aug (MBr); only rep.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reports.
Belted Kingfisher: pairs widespread; max 9 Bville 29 Jul.
Red-headed Woodpecker: pairs at established locs Ont & Onei lakeshores; 1-2 DC 20-21 Jul, 8, 17 Aug, new loc; Marsh Mill Rd MAD1 18-19 Aug, new loc.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles/pairs var locs; max 4 four locs, Jun.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Black River Forest 1 Aug (JKr).
Downy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Hairy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Northern Flicker: common & widespread throughout Reg; max 11 RRP 21 Aug.
Pileated Woodpecker: widespread resident.

American Kestrel: singles/pairs Jun, family groups Aug.
Merlin: singles/pairs scattered about Reg.
Peregrine Falcon: pairs nest Syr, Jamesville, Utica, Little Falls; 1-2 OswH var dates; several other reps singles.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 8 Munnsville 23 Jul.

Eastern Kingbird: max 12 Rome 5 Aug.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last DeWitt & Salisbury 4 Jun; arr Marsh Mill Rd 18-19 Aug; Little Falls 20 Aug.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 8 FH 2 July.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 DB 4 June; arr Hastings 15 Aug; 6 other reps.

Acadian Flycatcher: 1-2 Oswego, SNC; also Hannibal, LH, Skaneateles, Sithe, all new locs; 3 SNC 23 Jun; 1 CM 17 Jun, unusual loc; no reps WH, first time in many years, *intro*.

Alder Flycatcher: max 7 Lacona 4 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: max 9 Ladd Rd Brew 8 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 5 Beaver Ri HERK 11 Jun & OLP 7 Jun.

Eastern Phoebe: max 8 Tully 1 Aug & Munnsville 31 Jul.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 OSP 31 Aug.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Forestport 27 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Salisbury 7 Jun; RRP 21 Aug; Erieville 24 Aug; OSP 31 Aug; only reps.

Warbling Vireo: max 9 HI 2 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 20 var locs/dates; abundant & vociferous, high counts depend on effort/distance, *intro*.

Blue Jay: common & widespread throughout Reg; max 150 DH 3 Jun, still migrating.

American Crow: widespread resident.

Fish Crow: reps mostly from known locs and mostly ONON; max 5 Rte 31 Clay 16 Aug, new loc.

Common Raven: many reps typ locs, small nums/family groups; max 12 Boonville 13 July.

Horned Lark: max 12 SHTF 21 Aug; few reps otherwise.

Purple Martin: max 20 Const 15 Jun.

Tree Swallow: max 200 SP 12 Jul.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 12 OnonL 10 Jul.

Bank Swallow: 35 Elbridge 15 Jul; 36 SP 12 Jul; 50 Cato 25 Jul; 70 Bville 30 July; max 80 Fulton 11 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 6 Cicero 14 Jul; few reps, small nums typ locs.

Barn Swallow: max 60 SP 19 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: widespread resident; max 24 GLSP 25 Jun.

Tufted Titmouse: widespread resident except N HERK & ONEI; max 15 Syr 26 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: small groups typ locs; max 14 Salisbury 11 Jul.

White-breasted Nuthatch: widespread resident.

Brown Creeper: small nums typ locs; max 4 var locs/dates.

House Wren: max 21 Bridgewater 24 Jul.

Winter Wren: max 10 N HERK 14 Jun.

Sedge Wren: Fulton 11 Jun, 23 Jul, new loc (RWh, BP)); 1-2 TR 9, 15, 25 Jul (GDa, JBr, RKi, DWe), poss nesting.

Marsh Wren: 12 Ladd Rd Brew 2 Jun; max 14 OLP 10 Jul.

Carolina Wren: small nums typ locs, mostly ONON; max 5 TSullivan MADI 26 Aug.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 4 OLP 5 Jul.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Bald Mt 13 Aug; small groups typ locs.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two locs N HERK 12 Jun, prob nesting; Williamstown 12 Jun; only reps.

Eastern Bluebird: widespread reps; max 14 Clinton 31 Aug.

Veery: max 15 LH 20 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.

Swainson's Thrush: few reps of 1-3, mostly N part of Reg, Jun/Jul.

Hermit Thrush: max 7 Old Forge 4 Jul; counts depend on distance/effort.

Wood Thrush: max 11 Canastota 8 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.

American Robin: common and widespread throughout Reg; max 75 OSP 31 Aug.

Gray Catbird: max 20 Kirkland 3 Jun & 1 Aug; counts depend on distance/effort.

Brown Thrasher: max 5 GLSP 24 Jun & Salisbury 30 Jun & Pulaski 11 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON.

European Starling: max 3000 DC 31 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 120 North Bay 28 Aug.

House Sparrow: flocks widespread resident in urban/suburban environs.

American Pipit: SHTF 15-22 Aug; only rep.

Evening Grosbeak: Brew 2 Jun (APa); only rep.

House Finch: widespread resident; max 15 Syr 26 Jun & Cazenovia 3 Jul.

Purple Finch: typ locs; max 8 Little Falls 1 Aug.
Red Crossbill: 1-2 Little Moose L 27, 29 Jun; max 48 Morgan Hill SF 11 Jun but likely present thru, traditional loc.
Pine Siskin: Dolgeville 14-16 Jun; only rep.
American Goldfinch: common and widespread throughout Reg; max 60 OLP 17, 25 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 13 Skaneateles 19 Jun.
Chipping Sparrow: max 30 Clay 22 Aug.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Pulaski 4 Jun, unusual loc (LBr); Canastota 5 Jun (MWa); Erieville 24 Aug (GMe); only reps.
Field Sparrow: max 20 Lacona 22 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: 1-2 rep 6 places Jun/Jul; scarce.
Savannah Sparrow: max 12 Lacona 22 Jun.
Grasshopper Sparrow: singles/pairs typ locs; few reps.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R5): WMonroe 2 Jun (MSc).
Song Sparrow: max 50 GLSP 25 Jun, count depends on distance/effort.
Lincoln's Sparrow: singles 5 locs N HERK 11-14 Jun; only reps.
Swamp Sparrow: max 25 Cicero 25 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: max 7 N HERK 12 June.
White-crowned Sparrow: last 2 Canastota 1 Jun; only rep.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 9 Iliion 27 Jun.
Bobolink: max 400 TR 27 Aug.
Eastern Meadowlark: max 14 Fult Airport 4 Jul.
Orchard Oriole: few reps typ locs; scarce; no reps DB.
Baltimore Oriole: max 12 Syr 26 Jun.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 2423 DC 31 Aug & 2000+ DB 28 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 250 LoopR 28 Aug.
Rusty Blackbird: no reps.
Common Grackle: max 600 DC 31 Aug.
Ovenbird: max 16 Lacona 4 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.
Louisiana Waterthrush: singles/pair typ locs; pair w 4 young, Pulaski 15 Jun (MBr), new loc.
Northern Waterthrush: max 7 BLNC 25 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: Mexico 1 Jun; 1-2 GB 2 Jun – 16 Jul; Erieville 3, 31 Aug; only reps.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 5 WMonroe 28 Jul.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Mexico 1 Jun, poss paired with GWWA at same loc.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 McKeever 27 Jun.
Prothonotary Warbler: OSP 2 Jun, unusual loc (DWe); 4 HI 2 Jun (PNo); Oswego 3-19 Jun, unusual loc; 1-3 Seneca River & southwest corner Cross Lake, 3 locs 7, 24 Jun, 15 Jul (KBu); BLNC 13 Jun, on lamp post in parking lot (SKe, ph), unusual loc.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Lakeport 18 Aug; max 2 Fabius 21 Aug; 5 other locs late Aug.
Nashville Warbler: max 7 N HERK 12 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: max 7 Lacona 4 Jun; reps typ places but only 2 at WH.
Common Yellowthroat: max 24 GLSP 25 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: max 12 GB 17 Jun.
American Redstart: max 18 Fult 7 Jul; counts depend on distance/effort.
Cape May Warbler: arr Hastings 15 Aug; 5 other locs late Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: max 11 HI 2 Jun; 1-3 Hannibal, SNC, PPT, several other locs early in season; scarce.
Northern Parula: N HERK nesters var locs Jun/Jul; arr Hastings 29 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: max 5 MH 11 Jun & N HERK 24 Jul & OSP 31 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Lakeport 18 Aug; 4 SSSP 29 Aug & FH 30 Aug; max 5 Sithe 29 Aug, good num.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 12 N HERK 5 Jul.
Yellow Warbler: common in Reg; max 20 Rome 4 Jun but counts depend on distance/effort; poor mig nums mid-late Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 26 Lacona 4 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: last SNC 16 Jun, late; arr Erieville 24 Aug; 2 other locs late Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 9 New Berlin 27 Jun.
Palm Warbler: 3 N HERK 12 Jun; only rep.
Pine Warbler: max 8 Forestport 27 Jun.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 N HERK 11 Jul.
Prairie Warbler: GLSP 1-12 Jun, likely nester; 2 Hamilton 2 Jun; GB 24 Jun; Salisbury 15 Aug; only reps.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 4 N HERK 29 Jun, 3 Jul & Parish 20 Jun.
Canada Warbler: max 4 N HERK 29 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: arr GB 23 Aug; 2 OSP
31 Aug; only reps.
Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Pratts Falls 9 Jun.
Northern Cardinal: widespread resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 13 Cazenovia
25 Jun, 7 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: max 11 Kirkland 19 Jul.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Summer was mostly warm, with mean monthly temperatures in Watertown exceeding long-term averages by 4.3° F for both June and August, but July's mean temperature was 1.8° below normal. Precipitation was the weather story of the summer, as a six-month dry spell ended abruptly with the start of frequent, heavy rain in late June, although it wasn't enough to keep June from being the sixth consecutive month with below normal precipitation. July and August were very wet, with 7.4" and 6.5" of rain, respectively, more than double the mean for the former month and nearly so for the latter month. By the end of the summer standing water was evident in many places that looked parched at the start of the season.

Summer sightings of Snow Goose and Brant have increased in recent years, so three reports of Snow Goose in late June and July and a single Brant on the St. Lawrence River on 11 June weren't terribly surprising. Trumpeter Swans continue to increase throughout the Region but especially at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, where multiple nests were documented this year and last, and for the second year in a row double-digit counts of apparently non-breeding adults were routine. Through the first two years of Atlas 2020 Trumpeter Swan nesting has been confirmed in ten blocks in Region 6, up from two in Atlas 2000. Jane Hores photographed a female Common Goldeneye with four chicks off Murray Isle on the St. Lawrence River, immediately east of Picton Island where goldeneye broods were seen in 2020 and several prior years. Goldeneye are not known to nest anywhere else in Region 6. One each male Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck were on Perch Lake 19 July, but access restrictions prevented observers from regularly checking this site so it is not known whether these ducks were present for the entire season or represent nesting attempts.

A large outbreak of *Lymantria dispar*, the moth formerly known as Gypsy Moth but now waiting for a new common name, was apparent in oak woodlands on Fort Drum and in scattered patches of mostly oak woods elsewhere. Likely in response to this outbreak, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were unusually abundant throughout Region 6, and Black-billed Cuckoo numbers were high as well. On Fort Drum Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed eating *Lymantria* caterpillars

on several territories. Also noteworthy was that one pair of these Red-headed Woodpeckers still had a nestling on the late date of 30 August.

On 10 June Sandy Pudulka photographed a Sandhill Crane incubating eggs at Lakeview WMA, and pairs with colts were seen near the Lisbon Swamp on 12 July and at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA on 17 July. Family groups were at Perch River WMA in late July and Wilson Hill WMA in late August, but it is unclear where these cranes nested. Cranes have been suspected to nest in each of these locations for several years, but nesting has rarely been documented. A group of eight American Coots at Wilson Hill WMA in August was a high Regional count for summer, and single coots were also at Lakeview WMA and Perch River WMA.

Shorebird habitat on Lake Ontario was scarce because of high water levels, and nine Sanderling at Lakeview WMA was one of the few shorebird reports from the lake shore. Water was also high along the St. Lawrence River, including the stretch between the Iroquois Dam and Moses-Saunders Dam, where management typically results in low water and extensive mudflats by late August. The only location where shorebirds were reliably seen was the Stone Mills Pool at Perch River WMA, which was mostly dry, and where a variety of shorebirds were observed, highlights including a Stilt Sandpiper and at least two Baird's Sandpipers present through the last half of August.

On 10 June Connie Bond saw a Cattle Egret on Point Peninsula, the first summer sighting in many years. Great Egrets colonized the Murphy Islands on the St. Lawrence River during 2020, with at least nine nests this year, for the only known nesting site in Region 6. A large Black-crowned Night-Heron colony and growing numbers of Great Blue Herons also nest on the Murphy Islands, along with many Double-crested Cormorants despite cormorant nests having been removed last year. Unfortunately, I received no colonial waterbird count data this year.

Grassland birds continue to hold on in Jefferson County despite many threats. Nesting was confirmed for Upland Sandpiper in two atlas blocks at Fort Drum, and additional sightings came from Ashland Flats WMA and two sites in Clayton, about typical for recent years. Somewhat surprising was an adult Upland Sandpiper Bernie Carr found in Canton on 11 July, a rare breeding season find for St. Lawrence County. On 4 June Greg Dashnau found one Henslow's Sparrow in a field at Chaumont Barrens that had hosted multiple individuals for several years, but shortly after his visit The Nature Conservancy posted this area off-limits. Despite the presence of four singing males this field was looking too grown up for Henslow's Sparrow in 2020, so a decline to one male this year wouldn't be surprising. As usual, most Henslow's Sparrow reports came from Dog Hill Road at Perch River WMA, where up to five were present, and the only other report was from Fort Drum. About 15 Sedge Wrens were reported from ten locations, more than were expected early in the summer when most fields were extremely dry. Although a few small solar farms have been around for a year or two, development of new solar projects accelerated rapidly this summer, and although

clean energy development is certainly needed, these projects are concerning to local birders as many seem to be planned for some of the best remaining grassland bird habitat in Region 6.

Both crossbills were present again this summer, although breeding has yet to be confirmed in Region 6 for Atlas 2020. Most of the 18 Red Crossbill reports came from the northwest Adirondacks in St. Lawrence County, although Mandi Roggie recorded the season's maximum count of eight in the western Adirondack transition, and there was one report from the edge of the Tug Hill in Jefferson County. All four of the summer's White-winged Crossbill reports came during a ten-day period beginning 15 July, three reports from Massawepie Mire including a season-high four individuals on 23 July, and two calling birds heard flying over Fort Drum on 22 July. The season's only Pine Siskin was at a Norwood feeder on 18 June.

Many fewer birders seemed to visit the northwest Adirondacks this year than in 2020, at least based on eBird checklists, and some boreal species were not well documented. Spruce Grouse and Boreal Chickadee were entirely missed this season, and the latter seems to have disappeared from several locations where it was regular until recently. Probably the most thoroughly birded area in the northwest Adirondacks was around Wanakena. Bernie Carr, who birded the trails south of Wanakena regularly, found a number of interesting birds, chief among them a family group of Rusty Blackbirds on 22 June, a species that had become increasingly scarce as a breeder.

Among the few rarities this season was a **Prothonotary Warbler** Steve Kelling found in Cape Vincent on 21 Jun, the second Regional report this year. Jeremy Collison found the season's only Louisiana Waterthrush near the Oswegatchie River in Rossie on 2 June and a Hooded Warbler in Redfield, one of very few Lewis County records but not too surprising given the proximity of this bird to the well-documented distribution in Oswego County. Northern Parula, historically restricted as a breeder to the Adirondacks and Tug Hill, was noted in seven valley locations, further evidence that this species is expanding its summer range. Nearly two-thirds of the season's 40 Golden-winged Warbler reports were from St. Lawrence County, where only three of 28 Blue-winged Warbler reports came from. It certainly appears that the expansion of Blue-winged Warblers north of about Gouverneur is proceeding very slowly, somewhat surprising given that this species has outnumbered Golden-winged Warblers in much of Jefferson County for nearly a decade. Cerulean Warblers are typically very difficult to find after July, so a male singing on a Dekalb territory 22 August was unexpected.

The summer ended with the most active southbound songbird migration seen in several years. Bay-breasted Warblers were particularly abundant, with at least 60 seen on Fort Drum during the latter half of August, including 33 on 30 August. Tennessee and Cape May Warblers also came through in relatively high numbers. Perhaps the most notable migrant of the season was an early Gray-cheeked Thrush photographed by Haynes Miller on Murray Island on 15 August. Most of the

Region's Gray-checked Thrush detections are of nocturnal migrants heard overhead in September.

For the season I received reports of 208 species, slightly more than one species above the most recent 10-year average. There were no real standout rarities, and the few rare birds were only seen by one observer, so it is difficult to pick a clear bird of the season. That Sandhill Cranes were finally documented nesting in several locations where breeding has been suspected for years was among the season's high points. Among the disappointments was the relatively low level of participation in the Breeding Bird Atlas, and through two seasons only two blocks in Region 6 have been completed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks; **AFWMA** – Ashland Flats WMA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **CBr** – Chaumont Barrens Pres; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El Dorado Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LEWI** – Lewis County; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard's Landing Trail, T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert Wehle SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: SLR T Oswegatchie 29 Jun (ET); T Massena 8 Jul (JH); T Hounsfield 19 Jul (SA)
Brant: SLR T Oswegatchie 11 Jun (ET) late, only rep.
Mute Swan: max 14 SLR T Hammond 31 Aug.
Trumpeter Swan: max 19 ULLWMA 9 Jun; 2 T Dekalb 13 Jun & 2 French Creek WMA 28

Jun only reps away from well known PRWMA, ULLWMA & WHWMA breeding sites.

Wood Duck: max 55 LWMA 10 Jun (SP).

Blue-winged Teal: max 159 WP 28 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: AFWMA 4 Jun only rep before 10 Aug; max 2 WHWMA 28 Aug.

Gadwall: max 4 WHWMA 31 Jul & 15 Aug.

American Wigeon: ULLWMA 3 Jun & 2 PRWMA 18 Jul only reps before Aug; max 10 WHWMA 23 Aug.

Mallard: max 315 WHWMA 1 Aug.

American Black Duck: max 20 PRWMA 30 Jul.
Northern Pintail: WHWMA 1 Aug thru; RLT 15 Aug; only reps.

Green-winged Teal: max 153 WP 28 Aug.
Redhead: 3 WHWMA 15 Aug only rep.
Ring-necked Duck: max 38 ULLWMA 10 Aug incl 6 broods.
Lesser Scaup: ad m Perch L 19 Jul (JB, IM) only rep.
Common Goldeneye: f w 4 juv Murray I 9 Jun (J Hores) rare breeder SLR.
Hooded Merganser: max 15 WHWMA 28 Aug.
Common Merganser: max 27 RLT 28 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CV 19 Jun to 4 Jul; T Alexandria 15 Jul.
Ruddy Duck: ad m Perch L 19 Jul (JB, IM) only rep.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 49 ULLWMA 10 Aug.
Mourning Dove: max 81 T Henderson 23 Jul.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reps of at least 34 ind from 30 locations, high; max 3 FD 9 Jun.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 80+ reps, good year.
Common Nighthawk: presumed northbound migrants BPWMA & T Canton 4 Jun, L Ozonia 6 Jun after which StPt 12 Jun & T Lowville 6 Jul only reps away from known FD nesting area until southbound migration; max 17 T Antwerp 18 Aug.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: max 20 CBr 3 Jun.
Chimney Swift: max 34 T Croghan 18 Jul.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 6 T Hermon 7 Aug.
Sora: max 3 T Hermon 24 Jun.
Common Gallinule: max 18 PRWMA 20 Aug.
American Coot: max 8 WHWMA 21-23 Aug; reps LWMA & PRWMA; more than usual for summer.
Sandhill Crane: nest with eggs LWMA 10 Jun (S. Podulka); pr w colt T Lisbon 12 Jul (JBo); pr w 2 colts ULLWMA 17 Jul (A. Ross); fam grps PRWMA 31 Jul, T Lisbon 13 Aug & WHWMA 16-28 Aug (mob).
Black-bellied Plover: max 2 PRWMA 17 Aug.
American Golden-Plover: WHWMA 20 Aug only rep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 30 PRWMA 24 Aug.

Killdeer: max 45 RLT 24 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: multiple reps T Clayton 2-20 Jun; T Canton 11 Jul (B. Carr) rare rep away from W JEFF; AFWMA 16 Jun; breeding confirmed 2 blocks FD 29 Jun & 3 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: PRWMA 18 Aug thru.
Sanderling: max 9 LWMA 22 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: 1-2/day PRWMA 17 Aug thru; only reps.
Least Sandpiper: last northbound migrants 10 LWMA 6 Jun; southbound migrants arr ED 17 Jul; max 80 PRWMA 21 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 8 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 27 RLT 28 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 2 WHWMA 17 Jul.
American Woodcock: 5 peenting and displaying same FD field 29 Jul high for so late.
Wilson's Snipe: max 17 PRWMA 20 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 16 RLT 8 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr AFWMA 7 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 64 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 15 PRWMA 31 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 4 LWMA 6 Jul.
Great Black-backed Gull: 8 reps 1-2 from 6 sites SLR & L Ontario.
Caspian Tern: no nest counts provided.
Black Tern: Sucker L T Fine 17 Aug obvious migrant, only rep away from PRWMA, ULLWMA, WHWMA where nest.
Common Tern: 593 nests SLR lowest in 10 yrs but productivity highest same period.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 12 ad Chippewa Bay 18 Jul.
Double-crested Cormorant: no nest counts provided.
Least Bittern: reps from 15 locations more than usual.
Great Egret: at least 9 nests at recently colonized Murphy Islands; max 23 WHWMA 13 Aug.
Cattle Egret: Lisa Drive CV 10 Jun (C. Bond).
Green Heron: max 24 ULLWMA 7 Aug.
Turkey Vulture: max 32 T Canton 1 Jul.
Osprey: nesting confirmed in 61 atlas blocks through 2nd year Atlas 2020 compared to 30 blocks Atlas 2000; increase continues.
Northern Harrier: 110 reps from 35+ sites.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 22 reps.

Cooper's Hawk: 24 reps.
Northern Goshawk: T Potsdam 3 Jun (T. Langen).
Bald Eagle: nest confirmed 15 atlas blocks thru two years compared to 9 Atlas 2000.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 18 reports.
Eastern Screech-Owl: juv T Antwerp 23 Jul; 4 reps elsewhere JEFF & STLA.
Red-headed Woodpecker: failed nest CV Jun (N. Leone) only rep away from FD; max 15 FD 22 Jul; nestling still in FD nest 31 Aug (late).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: reps from 30 sites none N of central STLA.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 15 reps from 5 sites SE STLA.
American Kestrel: max 6 T Canton 9 Jul & CV 30 Aug.
Merlin: 80+ reps from 46 sites; increasing everywhere.
Peregrine Falcon: T Rutland 15 Jun; 1-2/day PRWMA 31 Jul thru; T Alexandria 4 Aug; only sites away from known or suspected nesting areas along SLR or in T Watertown.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 31 reps from 12 ADK sites during nesting season; migrants T Croghan 20 Aug & T Brownville 24 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last migrant outside ADK FD 16 Jun; max 4 MM 13 Jun low; fall migrants arr Murray I 17 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: last spring migrant Blake Sanctuary T Watertown 9 Jun; 2 Cranberry L 15 Jun & LPd 29 Jun only reps from likely nesting locations; fall arr T Croghan 19 Aug.
Canada Jay: max 3 MM multiple dates.
Horned Lark: no reps.
Purple Martin: max 20 Wilson Hill I 16 Jul.
Tree Swallow: max 100 PRWMA 27 Aug, numbers low in many areas.
Bank Swallow: max 40 LWMA 4 Jun but no reps from Sparrowhawk Point where many more likely present.
Cliff Swallow: max reported 12 RMSF 4 Jun & RLT 28 Aug in section SLR where hundreds typically nest.
Barn Swallow: max 127 PRWMA 31 Jul.
Boreal Chickadee: no reps; apparently disappeared from several previously reliable locations SE STLA.
Sedge Wren: 2 LWMA thru 3 Jul (mob); different locations T Clayton 9 & 16 Jun (C. Sayers, M. Wickens); different locations T Canton 6 Jul & 17-25 Jul (T. Langen, JBo); 2 PRWMA 8 Jul & 3 same location 19 Jul (S.

Mix, I. Mazzocchi, JBo); 2 T Hermon 11-26 Jul (JB); 2 near Hickory L SF 13 Jul (JBo); new arr FD 21 Jul & 2 Aug (JBo).
Carolina Wren: reps from 20 sites; more than in several years.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 3 LBSF 5 Jul; reps from 6 additional sites.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 3 MM 23 Jul (D. & S. Ceravolo); 10 reps T Fine unclear how many ind.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Murray I 15 Aug (H. Miller, photos!) early.
Swainson's Thrush: migrants arr RRT 29 Aug.
Northern Mockingbird: 8 reports all W JEFF.
Red Crossbill: 18 reps mostly SE STLA thru; exceptions incl 5 Winona Experimental Forest 5 Jun & max 8 T Croghan 16 Jun.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 MM 15 Jul; 2 FD 22 Jul; max 4 MM 23 Jul; last MM 24 Jul.
Pine Siskin: T Norwood 18 Jun only rep.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 13 FD 12 Jul; reps from 4 additional sites NW JEFF.
Vesper Sparrow: max 39 FD 3 Jul.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 21 FD 3 Jul; reps from 7 sites away from FD all W JEFF.
Henslow's Sparrow: FD 1 Jun to 28 Jul (JBo); CBr 4 Jun (G. Dashnau) just before site was posted off-limits; 1-5/day PRWMA 16 Jun thru (mob); only reps.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 12 MM 23 Jul.
Dark-eyed Junco: Red L 26 Jul only Jun-Jul rep outside ADK or Tug Hill; FD 25 Aug presumed early migrant.
Orchard Oriole: T Hounsfield 5 Jun; CV 7 & 29 Jun; LWMA 10 & 13 Jun; T Henderson 19 Jun; only reps.
Rusty Blackbird: Janick's Landing Trail T Fine 16-30 Jun incl fam grp 22 Jun (B. Carr); Cranberry Lake Biological Station 26 Jun (N. Gabry); Dead Creek Flow T Fine 20 Jul (B. Carr); only reps.
Louisiana Waterthrush: T Rossie 2 Jun (J. Collison) only rep.
Golden-winged Warbler: at least 66 ind from about 40 sites of which 25 sites STLA.
Blue-winged Warbler: 28 reports of 65+ ind, all but 3 reps JEFF.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 13 reps of 18 ind.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: FD 29 Jul only rep.
Prothonotary Warbler: CV 27 Jun (SK) only rep.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Murray I 17 Aug; max 18 FD 23 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: Line Brook SF 12 Jun (J. Collison) among few LEWI records although adjacent to known breeding range in Oswego County; 4 reps nearby S JEFF.

Cape May Warbler: 2 arr Murray I 7 Aug early; max 18 FD 30 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 7 LBSF 5 Jul (BB); singing male at traditional T Dekalb nesting site 22 Aug (JB) late.

Northern Parula: LBSF 1 Jun; 2 ICNC 7 Jun; singing m Murray I & PRWMA 19 Jul; different loc FD 28 Jul & 4 Aug & T West Turin 8 Aug; more than usual away from ADK & Tug Hill where common; *intro*.

Magnolia Warbler: several reports 1-2 CBr 15 Jun to 18 Jul; singing m PRWMA 19 Jul;

only reps away from ADK & Tug Hill before Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 arr FD 18 Aug where 60 tallied by end month incl max 33 FD 30 Aug (JBo) high.

Blackpoll Warbler: last spring migrant T Rodman 10 Jun; southbound migrants arr CBr 19 Aug.

Palm Warbler: max 30 MM 23 Jul; additional nesting reps from Cranberry Lake Biological Station & Low's Ridge Upper Dam trail; migrants arr WHWMA 21 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: max 28 FD 12 Jun; up to 6/day CBr and at least 5 nearby loc; RWSP 25 Jun & 1 Jul only rep away from traditional nesting areas.

Wilson's Warbler: arr ED 25 Aug.



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In general, the eastern portion of the Champlain Valley and Region 7 were drier than the rest of the Region with only 2-3" of rain in June. The balance of the Region, the western half of Clinton and Essex Counties, most of Franklin County, and the northern half of Hamilton County got 3-4". The southern half of Franklin County and a small area of Hamilton County received 4-6". Overall, June was warmer than the average with the Champlain Valley and areas along the border with Canada enduring temperatures 3-5° F above normal. However, areas south and west of those were cooler, but still 1-3° higher than normal.

While July was the warmest month on record worldwide, it was significantly cooler than normal in Region 7. The entire Region averaged 1-3° lower than average. The exception was the central section of Hamilton County which hovered within a degree either way of normal. Precipitation for July in most areas was substantial. The lowest, 3-5", fell in Clinton County. Franklin County received 5-7" while the entire southern half of Region 7 including the High Peaks area got 9-11".

August saw the return of warmer than normal temperatures to Region 7. Almost all of the Region was 3-5° above normal for the month. Only the western

portion of Franklin County, the northern half of Hamilton County, and a sliver of Essex County averaged 1-3° warmer than normal. Rainfall averages for Region 7 increased from northeast to southwest. Most of the Champlain Valley received 3-4". A band arcing northwest to southeast from western Clinton County through northern Essex County got 4-5" on average, while the High Peaks Region got 5-6". Most of Hamilton County got 6-7" though there were small sections that endured 7-8" or more.

On 1 June the level of Lake Champlain stood at 96.1'. At that level the Chazy Riverlands and Laurin's Pool provided a minimum of acceptable habitat for migrating shorebirds. The best find there was an American Golden-Plover. From the early June level of just above 96', the lake continued the steady, linear decline begun in May to about 94.9' in early July. There it bottomed out and fluctuated only a few inches for a week to ten days. Heavy rains from 18-23 July resulted in a sharp increase of 0.8' to 95.5'. Significant but intermittent rainfall from the last week in July to mid-August kept the lake at a remarkably steady 95.3' to 95.5'. Levels for the last half of the month dipped, rose, and dipped again in a narrow range of 95.2' to 94.7'. At these levels Laurin's Pool was dry, taken over by thigh-high vegetation and used in part for an ATV track. As a result most fall shorebird reports for Region 7 came from Essex County's Hoisington Brook Outlet and Noblewood Park. In the ten years since the all-time record flood level of nearly 103.3' in 2011, Lake Champlain has reached flood stage of 100' only three times and then not by much. This lack of seasonal flooding appears to have significantly changed the nature of Laurin's Pool and, to a lesser extent, of the Chazy Riverlands in general. The results of the current atlas project should be useful in addressing this issue.

Once again **Sandhill Crane** bred successfully at the Tupper Lake site. Previously rare in summer, **Baird's Sandpiper** was recorded at two separate sites to continue its yearly appearance since 2013. A **Western Sandpiper** at Hoisington Beach Outlet was only the second eBird record in summer for Region 7. A check of pre-eBird records turned up six additional summer sightings since 1980. The July appearance of **Western Willet** was the first known record specifically for this subspecies and only the third summer record for either Willet.

Perhaps the most puzzling event of Summer involved the staggering drop in annual Bonaparte's Gulls numbers. Historically, beginning in late July into early August, the Adirondack's Lake Champlain region begins its steady trickle of arriving Bonaparte's Gulls as they begin staging along the rich deltas and sandbars that form at the major river mouths such as the Boquet and Ausable Rivers. Little Gull is typically annual here every summer in low numbers as they associate with the Bonaparte's Gulls. When birds aren't staging on the sandy deltas they are out foraging in the middle of the lake and it's not unusual to see several hundred birds with multiple large feeding flocks. The first arrivals are always full-hooded adults, followed by juveniles a couple of weeks later. Numbers usually reach their maximum in August or early September and it's not unusual to find upwards of three hundred to four hundred individuals.

Bonaparte's Gulls were alarmingly absent this season, representing an historic low. At Noblewood Park for example, the maximum recorded number of Bonaparte's Gulls this season was 19 individuals, with otherwise single digit encounters during a time in which low hundreds have been regularly recorded annually as far back as the year 2001. Routine trips to other known staging areas from mid to late August consistently turned up zero individuals, which is astonishing considering that Bonaparte's Gulls are often the dominant gull species along Lake Champlain in eBird checklists throughout August and September.

The June sighting of a **Great Cormorant** was the first summer record for Region 7. The single report of a **Snowy Egret** this season followed the two separate sightings of this species this spring. Until then Snowy Egret hadn't been seen since 2015. The **Tricolored Heron** found at Ausable Point was only the fourth for the Region and the first since 1989. Very rare for Region 7, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** reported in June was only the fifth record since the turn of the century. Known to have bred in Clinton County, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was photographed and an audio recording was collected of the bird that lingered at Willsboro for three days in June. In each of the last two years **Grasshopper Sparrow** has been found on Whallons Bay Rd. This is perhaps cause for some encouragement after the extirpation of the colony (up to 17 individuals) from the flight line of the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, when it was closed and the mowing protocol was changed by the Clinton County Airport.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

4BI – Four Brothers Islands; **AFR** – Altona Flat Rock; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **ARd** – Atwood Rd; **AT** – Altona; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach; **BLT** – Boreal Life Trail; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **BRv** – Boquet Ri; **BS** – Big Slide; **Cad** – Cadyville; **CBL** – Chazy Boat Launch; **CbR** – Chubb Ri; **CH** – Cumberland

Head; **ChR** – Chapman Rd; **Chu** – Churubusco; **CMR** – Coon Mt Reserve; **CMt** – Cascade Mt; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRF** – Cedar Ri Flow; **CRT** – Cold Ri Horse Trail; **CZ** – Chazy; **DHL** – Deep Hole Leanto; **DRd** – Davern Rd; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **ED** – Ellenberg Depot; **Es** – Essex; **EWH** – Edgar Wadhams Homestead; **FCo** – Franklin Co; **FCR** – Fred Carey Rd; **FLk** – Fern L; **FoR** – Forest Rd; **GL** – Gilman L; **GSt** – Gray St; **HB** – Hoisington Beach/Brook; **Inl** – Inlet; **JD** – John Dillon P; **KB** – Kings Bay; **KR** – Kildare Rd; **LBR** – Lower Boquet Ri; **LCl** – Lake Clear; **LCR** – Little Chazy Ri; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LL** – Long L; **LLk** – Lows L; **LMt** – Lyon Mt; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LSL** – Lower Saranac L; **Mal** – Malone; **MF** – Madawaska Flow; **Min** – Minerva; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MPk** – Macomb Reservation SP; **New** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OB** – Oseetah Bay; **OH** – Owls Head; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd; **OR** – Osgood Ri; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Paradox L; **POM** – Poke-O-Moonshine; **PP** – Powley Pd; **PPI** – Powley Place; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Put** – Putnam; **RL** – Raquette L; **RMt** – Round Mt; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SCK** – Scotion Creek; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLk** – Schroon L; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **Spec** – Speculator; **SRCA** – St. Regis Canoe Area; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TRd** – Tahawus Rd; **VV** – Vermontville; **WB** – Whallons Bay; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WI** – Willsboro; **Wit** – Witherbee; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WTB** – Wilmington Town Beach; **XAB** – former-Plattsburgh Air Force Base.
Co-CF, -CS, -FL, -FY, -NY, -ON -UN – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Wood Duck: LBR 12 Jun (SR), Co-FL.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 DRd 4 Jul (JR); 8 CBL 15 Aug (AB), Co-FL.
Northern Shoveler: CR 2 Aug (BK).
Gadwall: 2 FCo 10 Jul (NR).
Northern Pintail: 3 CP 30 Aug (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 5 CP 14 Aug (CV).
Ring-necked Duck: 6 PS 24 Jun (AM, MFi), Co-FL.
Greater Scaup: 4 AM 29 Jul (SR).
Bufflehead: WP 20 Jul (JB, BMc).
Common Goldeneye: 23 AM 1 Aug (mo).
Hooded Merganser: CbR 12 Jun (MF), Co-FL.
Common Merganser: 5 CH 16 Aug (SJ, BK), Co-FL.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 NP 29 Jul (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: WI 19 Jun (DHR).
Ruffed Grouse: 4 WB 16 Aug (M&GC), Co-FL.
Wild Turkey: 7 ARd 2 Jul (ABd), Co-FL.
Pied-billed Grebe: 6 CBL 15 Aug (AB), Co-FL.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: WM 2 Jun (RB).
Black-billed Cuckoo: WP 12 Jul (SR), Co-CF.
Common Nighthawk: 25 Peru 17 Aug (KC).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: PD 24 Aug (DHR).
Chimney Swift: 45 SL 9 Jul (CV), Co-CF.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 CH 18 Aug (BK).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: 4 SP 21 Jun (JT), Co-FL.
Common Gallinule: WM 16 Jun (SRo); FCR 7 Jul (SR).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 3 OB 12 Jun (MG), Co-FL.
Black-bellied Plover: 4 CR 2 Jun (BK).
American Golden-Plover: CR 2 Jun (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 BBB 4 Aug (SR).
Killdeer: 3 TI 5 Jul (GC), Co-FL.
Ruddy Turnstone: NP 1 Aug (PM, TS, BB, BF).
Stilt Sandpiper: CR 26 Aug (S&MR); HB 26 Aug (MI).
Sanderling: NP 21 Jul (DHR); 7 NP 11 Aug (DHR).
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (R7): HB 14 Aug thru (SR); WD 26 Aug (S&MR); BBB 28 Aug (SR); NP 31 Aug (SR, RB).
Least Sandpiper: 2 CR 2 Jun (BK); 27 NP 13 Jun (GC).
Pectoral Sandpiper: NP 11 Aug (DHR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6 CR 2 Jun (BK); NP 21 Jul (DHR).
WESTERN SANDPIPER: HB 12 Jul (DHR, ph).

Short-billed Dowitcher: NP 13 Jul (GC); KB 26 Aug (S&MR); HB 29 Aug (RB, mob); NP 31 Aug (S&MR).
American Woodcock: 6 OH 17 Aug (JHo).
Wilson's Snipe: 4 CRF 8 Jun (GL).
Spotted Sandpiper: 3 NP 23 Jun (GC), Co-FL.
Solitary Sandpiper: PtR 6 Jul (BFi), early.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 KB 10 Jul (SR); 21 KB 26 Aug (S&MR).
“Western” WILLET (R7): HB 13 Jul (DHR).
Greater Yellowlegs: NP 13 Jul (GC).
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 NP 20 Jul (JB); max 33 AP 5 Aug (SR); historic low; *intro*.
Ring-billed Gull: 2,500 4BI 20 Jun (DHR).
Herring Gull: 4 LSL 1 Jun (SB), Co-ON; 250 4BI 20 Jun (DHR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 125 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL.
Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: NP 11 Aug (DHR).
Caspian Tern: 125 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL.
Black Tern: AP 1 Aug (PM, TS, BB, BF).
Common Tern: 2 AP 20 Jul (CS).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: 2 GL 21 Jun (BD), Co-CN.
Double-crested Cormorant: 1,500 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL; 5000 4BI 6 Aug (DHR).
GREAT CORMORANT (R7): WP 9 Jun (DHR).
American Bittern: 6 SC 4 Jul (J&PC), Co-FL.
Least Bittern: WM 2 Jun (RB); WM 10 Aug (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 23 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FY.
Great Egret: 7 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-CN.
SNOWY EGRET (R7): SRCA 6 Jun (TW).
TRICOLORED HERON (R7): AP 30 Jun-1 Jul (BFu, SR).
Green Heron: 5 EWH 28 Jul (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 31 4BI 6 Aug (DHR), Co-FL.
Black Vulture: AM 21 Jun (BK).
Turkey Vulture: 26 WTB 31 Aug (DQ).
Osprey: 3 AP 11 Jul (GR).
Northern Harrier: 2 AM 22 Aug (SBe).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: LCI 10 Aug (SMc).
Cooper's Hawk: BRR 23 Aug (G&MC).
Bald Eagle: 4 OH June 12 (JTr), Co-NY.
Red-shouldered Hawk: CMR 4 Jun (DHR).
Broad-winged Hawk: 3 PS 4 Aug (PR), Co-FL.
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 WPt 31 Jul (OS).

Eastern Screech-Owl: CZ 5 Jun (GR), Co-ON.
Great Horned Owl: LL 4 Jun (JaG).
Barred Owl: 2 Wit 11 Jul (SR).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: KR 11 Jul (GB).
Belted Kingfisher: BRv 12 Jun (SR), Co-FL.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R7): Peru 18 Jun (CS).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: PH 30 Jun (SR). Co-CF.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 FLk 7 Jul (DN), Co-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 4 OPR 19 Jul (GB).
Northern Flicker: 5 BB 20 Aug (WW).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 WM 16 Jun (SR).
American Kestrel: Chu 10 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Merlin: 2 RL 30 Jul (BL), Co-FY.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 POM 23 Jun (LM), Co-ON.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: LCTM 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Eastern Kingbird: LBR 12 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 PS 13 Jun (mo).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 6 PH 8 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 5 MF 30 Jul (BFo), Co-FY.
Alder Flycatcher: 3 For 2 Jun (SR).
Willow Flycatcher: 3 AM 23 Jun (GC).
Least Flycatcher: 3 AFR 3 Jul (DHR).
Eastern Phoebe: 5 AM 10 Aug (OS).
Yellow-throated Vireo: BRv 12 Jun (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: 5 PH 8 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 CP 30 Aug (SR).
Warbling Vireo: 3 LCR 15 Jul (SR), Co-FY.
Red-eyed Vireo: 15 CRT 12 Jun (G&MC).
Canada Jay: 4 BB 1 Jul (SG), Co-FL.
Fish Crow: SLk 3 Jun (EG).
Common Raven: 4 RL 18 Jun (GL), Co-FL.
Purple Martin: 2 AM 24 Jul (GH).
Tree Swallow: 120 NP 1 Aug (TS).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 12 TI 27 Jun (EB), Co-ON.
Bank Swallow: 5 Mal 2 Jul (ED), Co-UN.
Cliff Swallow: 2 CP 21 Jun (SR), Co-ON; 44 WP 27 Jul (DHR).
Barn Swallow: 13 CP 21 Jun (SR), Co-NY; 76 CP 12 Aug (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 3 CMt 12 Jul (EDr), Co-FY.
Tufted Titmouse: PC 29 Jun (SR), Co-CF.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 BLT 14 Jun (JGg), Co-FL.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 3 DHL 15 Jun (G&MC), Co-FL.
Brown Creeper: CRT 12 Jun (G&MC), Co-FL.
House Wren: 2 MM 4 Jul (SR), Co-NY.
Winter Wren: 4 Spec 4 Jul (MS), Co-FY.
Sedge Wren: Peru 18 Jun (CS); WI 18 Jul-2 Aug (JCo, mo).
Marsh Wren: 8 Sck 10 Jul (SR), Co-FY.
Carolina Wren: CH 1 Jun-31 Aug (NO).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 3 CP 11 Aug (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 5 CbR 15 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Wmt 15 Jul (GB), Co-FL.
Veery: 3 MPk 1 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Bicknell's Thrush: Lmt 12 Jun (JG); 28 Wmt 1 Jul (JC); Wmt 15 Jul (GB), Co-FL.
Swainson's Thrush: PS 24 Jun (AM, MFe), Co-CF.
Hermit Thrush: BB 5 Jul (SR), Co-NY.
Wood Thrush: 4 BRR 12 Aug (G&MC), Co-FL.
Gray Catbird: AM 5 Aug (SR), Co-FL.
Brown Thrasher: 3 CP 23 Jun (SR).
Northern Mockingbird: XAB 3 Jul (CV).
Cedar Waxwing: CP 24 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 PL 2 Jul (EG), Co-FL.
Purple Finch: 14 GSt 9 Jul (WW); 2 AP 13 Aug (JB), Co-FL.
Red Crossbill: 20 Inl 10 Jun (EM).
Red Crossbill type 10: OB 26 Aug (MMA).
White-winged Crossbill: 18 OR 5 Jun (JS).
American Goldfinch: 3 HB 31 Aug (SR), Co-NY.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 5 AT 19 Jun (BC).
Chipping Sparrow: 6 FoR 10 Jun (SR).
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R7): WI 10-12 Jun (DHR), ph.
Savannah Sparrow: 10 Peru 10 Jul (JCo).
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7): 1-3 WBR 18 Jun-5 Jul (DHR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: 7 BB 24 Jun (SD), Co-CF.
Swamp Sparrow: New 13 Jun (DG), Co-CF.
White-throated Sparrow: 6 BB 22 Aug (JB), Co-FL.

Dark-eyed Junco: 5 Wmt 21 Jul (BMc), Co-FL.
Bobolink: CP 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF; 50 CR 15 Aug (AB).
Eastern Meadowlark: 2 WP 1 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Orchard Oriole: 2 CP 21 Jun (SR).
Baltimore Oriole: ED 2 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 NP 22 Jun (OS).
Rusty Blackbird: 6 PP 16 Jun (CK), Co-FL.
Ovenbird: 2 EAW 3 Jul (GL), Co-FY.
Louisiana Waterthrush: Put 2 Jun (G&MC), Co-CF.
Northern Waterthrush: 4 OPR 9 Jul (JB).
Golden-winged Warbler: WRS 11 Jun (SR); 2 FtC 20 Aug (AB), Co-CF.
Blue-winged Warbler: WRS 11 Jun (SR).
Black-and-white Warbler: 2 Min 29 Jul (DS), Co-FL.
Tennessee Warbler: 6 SL 31 Aug (JP).
Nashville Warbler: 4 BB 11 Jul (JB), Co-CF.
Mourning Warbler: 4 LCI 13 Jun (SMC).
Common Yellowthroat: BB 22 Jun (AM), Co-CF.
American Redstart: LCTM 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Cape May Warbler: Wmt 2 Jun (JG); 12 LCI 27 Aug (SMc).
Northern Parula: 6 OH 14 Jul (AB).
Magnolia Warbler: BB 5 Jul (SR), Co-CF.
Bay-breasted Warbler: BB 11 Aug (JB).
Blackburnian Warbler: 40 Rmt 7 Jul (HK).
Yellow Warbler: 10 AM 11 Jul (JR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: PPI 4 Jul (MF), Co-CF.
Blackpoll Warbler: 2 BS 26 Aug (MI).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 6 Cad 26 Jun (AM).
Palm Warbler: 5 BB 24 Jun (SD), Co-FL.
Pine Warbler: 3 NP 23 Jun (GC), Co-FY.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 9 LLk 16 Jul (G&MC), Co-FY.
Prairie Warbler: CP 21 Jun (SR); CP 10 Aug (RB).
Black-throated Green Warbler: 30 Rmt 7 Jul (HK).
Canada Warbler: 2 MF 30 Jul (BFo), Co-FL.
Wilson's Warbler: MF 17 Jun (JC).
Scarlet Tanager: 2 WM 4 Jul (JS).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4 Es 30 Jun (SR).
Indigo Bunting: 4 Min 7 Jul (JA), Co-FL.

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	68.2°	68.4°	-0.2°	67.9°	35.6°	+2.9°
Jul	67.8°	73.1°	-5.3°	67.7°	30.6°	-2.0°
Aug	70.9°	71.4°	-0.5°	70.8°	67.8°	+3.0°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	2.70"	4.05"	-1.35"	5.65"	4.06"	+1.93"
Jul	8.96"	4.55"	+4.41"	8.05"	4.26"	+3.79"
Aug	3.43"	3.09"	-0.33"	3.81"	3.48"	+0.33"

June 2021 featured normal temperatures and dry conditions in the southern half of the Region, with a warmer and wetter period to the north. The warmest temperatures of the season occurred at the end of the month with three days at or above 90° F at Albany. July was unusually colder and wetter than normal, so much so that the mean temperature was lower than the month of June. Twice as much rain fell compared to normal, with 25 days featuring measurable precipitation at Albany. August was the warmest of the three summer months. Precipitation amounts for August were close to the long-term average.

Normally, the sighting of a **Wood Stork** in our area would easily garner ‘Bird of the Season’ honors, but that bird, observed 5-7 August in Ghent, Columbia County and originally found by Larry Steele, must take a backseat to the **Roseate Spoonbill** photographed by Laura Heil along New Swamp Rd. in Kingsbury, Washington County on 24 July. Part of the amazing northward dispersal of this species in 2021, to my knowledge this represents the first Regional record. Higher than normal numbers of others ‘waders’, including Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret, were also noted during the summer and into autumn of this year, so it will be interesting to see if excellent breeding success, or other factors, were behind this extraordinary movement.

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed on 6 June at the Surrender March Trail near Schuylerville, Saratoga County. This is the same location, and date, where a singing bird was observed last year in this dense, swampy habitat. A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen and photographed in a rural agricultural area near Carlisle, Schoharie County on 8 June. At Saratoga National Historical Park, a Yellow-breasted Chat was a one-day wonder, perhaps, on 1 June. Another was observed near Whitehall in Washington County on 16 June. It was photographed, and audio recordings were made.

Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed to be more common this summer, especially the latter. Bob Yunick observed in his Summer 2021 Field Notes:

“A gypsy moth infestation occurred locally in parts of Schenectady, Saratoga and Warren counties. The West Hill area (Rotterdam, Schenectady County) was hit extensively. While checking nest boxes there on 6/10, I heard 5 Blk-b Cuckoos, more than I’ve ever encountered anywhere/time in my lifetime.”

Bicknell’s Thrush were reported from two mountain tops in the Catskills of Greene County, specifically Hunter and Plateau Mountains. A Sedge Wren was initially heard, then tracked down and observed visually in a wet hayfield in the Fort Edward Grasslands in Washington County on 26 June.

A singing Acadian Flycatcher was noted in Rensselaerville State Forest, Albany County, on 8 June. This observation continues the general site-fidelity for this species since at least 2013 (eBird reports in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021). Bill Cook passed along this information concerning Acadian Flycatcher as reported to *The Warbler*, the monthly publication of the Alan Devoe Bird Club:

“Mike Nicosia has documented breeding confirmation for ACADIAN FLYCATCHER near the Alandar Mountain area in Copake Falls. This southern species was first discovered in Columbia County on May 29, 1998, from the observation deck at the Lewis A. Swyer Preserve at Mill Creek in Stuyvesant. The species was not observed in Columbia County again until 2011, after that not again until 2018 but has been found here every year since 2018. Alandar Mountain is not far from the possible breeding site in northeastern Dutchess County during the 2000-05 Atlas project, but Mike’s is the first Atlas record for Columbia County. Acadian Flycatchers like to breed in hemlock forests and Copake Falls has a considerable and apparently acceptable amount of that habitat.”

Some June-July observations of singing Olive-sided Flycatchers in the vicinity of Amy’s Park, north of Bolton in Warren County, suggest that breeding birds of that species may be present in the area. The habitat there certainly seems appropriate.

A Snowy Owl was present through at least the middle of June at a large farm property in East Worcester, Schoharie County. It appeared to be vigorous and in good health from observer reports. Along the Mohawk River (Erie Canal) in the Canajoharie, Schoharie County area, an American White Pelican spent a few days exploring the water at the end of August. There was also a report of two American White Pelicans seen at a pond in Copake, Columbia County on 11 June. Two adult Sandhill Cranes with two colts alongside were observed in a farm field adjacent to an isolated vly near Broadalbin, Fulton County for several weeks in July, apparently a local breeding success for the species. A flock of ten Black Terns was observed at Nassau Lake in Rensselaer County on 23 August, knocked down by rainy weather but continuing to feed after the precipitation ended.

Shorebird season was one of the poorest in recent memory as water levels remained well above normal for most of July and August, depriving this already mudflat-challenged Region of many of the available stopover sites used by southbound migrants. The middle two weeks in August had a few good days, and

Cohoes Flats (Albany County) and vicinity produced Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitchers. A Sanderling was discovered foraging in the muddy edge at Stillwater Riverfront Park, Saratoga County, by the ‘Thursday Morning Group’ on 26 August. Two persons aboard separate boats reported a Red-necked Phalarope on Lake George, Warren County on 24 August, about an hour (and eight miles) apart, so it is unclear if this was the same bird or two.

Wading birds were certainly present in good diversity and higher than usual numbers this summer. In addition to the previously mentioned Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork, Little Blue Heron was reported at Champlain Canal Lock 2 (Saratoga County) from 9-28 August, as well as at Watervliet Reservoir (Albany County) on 10 August, and Staats Island Road in Schodack, Rensselaer County on 24 August. Black-crowned Night-Herons (migrants) were reported at Champlain Canal Lock 2 and Cohoes Flats on 18 August. Twenty-one Great Egrets were present at Wrights Loop in Saratoga County on 18-19 August.

Hooded Warbler was observed at Bozenkill Preserve near Altamont, Albany County on 29 June, apparently a new location for that species. Cerulean Warbler continues to hang on at Schodack Island State Park in Rensselaer County, with a few observations throughout June. There were two breeding season reports of Nashville Warbler, one from the boggy wetlands of northwestern Fulton County in the southernmost portion of the Adirondack State Park, the other from Dyken Pond on the Rensselaer Plateau.

There was one breeding season observation of Horned Lark, at the Schenectady County Airport on 20 June. Grasshopper Sparrow seemed to fairly flourish this summer, with multiple reports from a variety of shortgrass habitats in eight different counties throughout the Region. Clay-colored Sparrow continue their breeding season presence in the Washington County grasslands and near Hessville in Montgomery County. Saratoga County Airport in Milton and Schenectady County Airport in Glenville both continue to host Vesper Sparrow, but there were a few new locations reporting the species, primarily in Montgomery, Saratoga, and Columbia Counties.

209 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cocksackie 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

Snow Goose: Yankee Hill Lock MONT 6 Jul, only report.

Canada Goose: max 215 Bethlehem ALBA 6 Jun.

Mute Swan: max 6 Coeymans Landing ALBA 19 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 68 BCR 14 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 12 CF 17 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 2 Huyck Pres ALBA 8 Aug; 2 Queensbury WARR 27 Aug.

American Wigeon: Stanton Pd ALBA 24 Aug, only report.

Mallard: max 189 The Crossings ALBA 24 Aug.

American Black Duck: max 50 The Crossings ALBA 9 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 11 BMB 27 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 13 Hour Pd WARR 10 Jul.

Hooded Merganser: 30 Surrender March Trail SARA 6 Jun; 11 Valatie COLU 4 Jun; 9 Jabe Pd WARR 10 Jun; 8 VFNHP 15 Jun.

Common Merganser: max 35 Nassau L RENS 1 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: Stratford FULT 24 Jul, only report.

Ruddy Duck: BCR 4 Jul; still present (presumably same bird) 25 Aug, only report.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 Broadalbin FULT 5 Jul.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 Hague WARR 31 Aug.

Wild Turkey: max 26 Putnam WASH 26 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: 5 Stratford FULT 5 Jul; 2 Little York Rd Wetland SCHO 6 Jun; Catskill View Pres COLU 23 Jul; VFNHP 26 Jul.

Rock Pigeon: max 150 Hoosick RENS 24 Aug.

Mourning Dove: max 55 Argyle WASH 26 Jun.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 4 Warren County Bikeway, Queensbury WARR 4 Jun; 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 8 Jun.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 10 Jun.

Common Nighthawk: max 206 Ghent COLU 18 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: 4 Coeymans Hollow ALBA 17 Jun.

Chimney Swift: max 200 Catskill GREE 22 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 8 Poestenkill RENS 23 Jul.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 7 Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.

Sora: Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 13 Jun; Carlisle SCHO 17 Jun; Argyle WASH 26 Jun; VFNHP 13 Jul.

Common Gallinule: max 9 Carlisle SCHO 20 Jul.

American Coot: 3 Round L SARA 22 Aug; VFNHP 21 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Broadalbin FULT 3-20 Jul; 4 Charlton SARA 25 Aug, likely same birds previously reported in Fulton County.

Black-bellied Plover: CF 9-10 Aug; CF 17 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 6 CF 17 Aug.

Killdeer: max 27 Schenectady Co Arpt SCH 27 Jul.

Sanderling: Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 26 Aug.

Dunlin: 8 CF 14 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 20 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 26 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 25 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 13 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 25 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 2 CF 17 Aug.
American Woodcock: max 3 Grafton RENS 1 Jul.
Wilson's Snipe: max 5 Ft Plain MONT 23 Jun.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 7 Normanskill Farm ALBA 1 Jun; 7 Stockport Flats COLU 20 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 10 Wrights Loop SARA 13 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 13 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 Wrights Loop SARA 13 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: L George WARR 24 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: Saratoga L SARA 1 Jun; Gull Bay WASH 23 Aug; L George WARR 24 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: max 750 CF 24 Jul.
Herring Gull: max 51 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 13 Jul.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: CF 10 Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 L George WARR 24 Jun.
Caspian Tern: max 11 Henry Hudson P ALBA 8 Aug; 11 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 20 Aug.
Black Tern: max 10 Nassau L RENS 23 Aug.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 13 Garnet L WARR 11 Jul.
WOOD STORK: German Church Rd, Ghent COLU 4-7 Aug, *NYSARC, intro* (LS).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 100 TR 2 Jul.
American White Pelican: 2 Center Hill Rd pd, Copake COLU 11 Jun; Mohawk River btwn Amsterdam and Canajoharie MONT 28-30 Aug.
American Bittern: max 2 Knox Wetland ALBA 12 Jun.
Least Bittern: 3 Knox Wetland ALBA 28 Jun, incl juv; 3 Clemons Marsh WASH 26 Jul; 2 VFNHP 26 Jul; 2 Argyle WASH 26 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: max 21 Ancram (heronry) COLU 4 Jul.
Great Egret: max 21 Wrights Loop SARA 12 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: 2 Champlain Canal lock 2 SARA 9-30 Aug; Watervliet Res ALBA 10 Aug; Scodack RENS 24 Aug.
Green Heron: max 7 VFNHP 31 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 15 Aug; Ghent COLU 3 Jun; CF 18 Aug, juv; Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 18 Aug.
ROSEATE SPOONBILL: New Swamp Rd WASH 24 Jul, photographed, *NYSARC, intro* (LH).
Black Vulture: max 18 Stanton Pd ALBA 25 Jul.
Turkey Vulture: max 73 Copake COLU 25 Aug.
Osprey: max 4 mult loc.
Northern Harrier: max 3 Sprakers MONT 19 Aug.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 mult loc.
Cooper's Hawk: max 4 mult loc.
Bald Eagle: max 8 Cheviot P COLU 26 JUL.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Nassau L COLU 10 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 20 Greenport Cons Area COLU 31 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 4 mult loc.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 3 Niskayuna SCHE 1 Jul.
Great Horned Owl: max 2 mult loc.
Snowy Owl: East Worcester SCHO 3-28 Jun.
Barred Owl: max 4 Kinns Rd P SARA 9 Jun.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Gloversville FULT 27 Jun; E Nassau RENS 9 Jul; Jackson WASH 15 Jul; Mayfield FULT 24 Jul.
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 mult loc.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Athens GREE 24 Jul, only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 mult loc.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 Altamont ALBA, 4 nests with juv.
Downy Woodpecker: max 7 mult loc.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 mult loc.
Northern Flicker: max 9 APBP 18 Jul.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 5 Nassau L RENS 25 Aug.
American Kestrel: max 12 Sprakers MONT 3 Aug.
Merlin: max 5 Washington P ALBA 5 Jul.
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Hudson COLU 26 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 9 SNHP 1 Jun.
Eastern Kingbird: max 9 mult loc.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: breeding season reports from six locations in Warren County.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 13 Mildred Denton Sanc SARA 9 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 Plateau Mt GREE 5 Jun.
Acadian Flycatcher: Rensselaerville SF ALBA 8 Jun; 4 Taconic SP COLU 6 Jul, only reports.
Alder Flycatcher: max 5 mult loc.
Willow Flycatcher: max 12 Argyle WASH 26 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 7 Boice Family P SARA 19 Jun.
Eastern Phoebe: max 9 mult loc.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 8 SNHP 24 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 7 Moreau L SP SARA 22 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 2 Schaghticoke RENS 28 Aug; 2 Greenport Cons Area COLU 31 Aug.
Warbling Vireo: max 14 VFNHP 2 Jun.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 64 Rens Forest Tr, Petersburg RENS 6 Jun.
Blue Jay: max 40 Niskayuna SCHE 29 Aug.
American Crow: max 250 Troy RENS 21 Aug.
Fish Crow: max 40 Coxsackie GREE 4 Aug.
Common Raven: max 10 Stony Creek WARR 4 Jul.
Horned Lark: max 2 Schenectady Co Arpt SCHE 20 Jun.
Purple Martin: max 38 Saratoga L SARA 2 Jun.
Tree Swallow: max 2300 Ghent COLU 18 Aug.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 Round L SARA 6 Jul.
Bank Swallow: max 50 Kinderhook gravel pit COLU 12 Jun.
Cliff Swallow: max 18 Alcove Res spillway ALBA 10 Jun.
Barn Swallow: max 75 Canajoharie MONT 14 Aug.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 18 SNHP 1 Jun.
Tufted Titmouse: max 14 Boice Family P SARA 19 Jun.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 13 Hague WARR 4 Aug.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Hemlock Trail SARA 30 Jul.
Brown Creeper: max 5 mult loc.
House Wren: max 19, incl 13 nestlings Schodack RENS 9 Jun.
Winter Wren: max 14 Plateau Mt GREE 19 Jun.
Sedge Wren: Argyle WASH 26 Jun, only report.

Marsh Wren: max 24 Clemons Marsh WASH 26 Jul.
Carolina Wren: max 8 Loughberry L SARA 11 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 10 BMB 4 Jul.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Plateau Mt GREE 5 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Elka P GREE 1 Jun; first Ephratah FULT 21 Aug.
Eastern Bluebird: max 22 Prattsville GREE 2 Aug.
Veery: max 22 Boice Family P SARA 19 Jun.
Bicknell's Thrush: Plateau Mt GREE 5 Jun; Hunter Mt GREE 4 Jul.
Swainson's Thrush: max 13 West Kill Mt GREE 7 Jul.
Hermit Thrush: max 28 Cat & Thomas Mt Pres WARR 24 Jul.
Wood Thrush: max 14 Hunter Mt GREE 3 Jul.
American Robin: max 170 Niskayuna SCHE 4 Aug.
Gray Catbird: max 55 VFNHP 11 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: max 7 Cambridge WASH 20 Jun.
Northern Mockingbird: max 11 Stuyvesant COLU 20 Aug.
European Starling: max 1000 Hoosick RENS 28 Aug.
Cedar Waxwing: max 65 BMB 28 Aug.
House Sparrow: max 60 W Capitol P ALBA 14 Aug.
Evening Grosbeak: max 2 Bolton WARR 12 Jun.
House Finch: max 60 Alb Int Arpt ALBA 12 Jul.
Purple Finch: max 27 Corinth SARA 10 Jul.
Red Crossbill: max 6 Saratoga Springs SARA 27 Aug.
Pine Siskin: individuals in a few loc.
American Goldfinch: max 55 Ghent COLU 24 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 38 SNHP 1 Aug.
Chipping Sparrow: max 37 Wilton SARA 29 Aug.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 4 Minden MONT 8 Jul; FtEG 20 Jun.
Field Sparrow: max 18 SNHP 24 Jul.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 Stone Arabia MONT 15 Jun; 2 Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 15 Jun.
Savannah Sparrow: max 17 OCA 15 Jul.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 18 Jun; 3 Schenectady Co Arpt

SCHE 20 Jun; 2 Minden MONT 2 Jun;
Queensbury WARR 4 Jun; FtEG 6 Jun; Stone
Arabia MONT 11 Jun; Albany Int Arpt ALBA
13 Jun; Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 15 Jun;
Carlisle SCHO 18 Jun; Knox ALBA 19 Jun;
SNHP 24 Jun; Hartford WASH 6 Jul; Ancram
COLU 9 Jul; Stuyvesant COLU 20 Aug.
Song Sparrow: max 45 VFNHP 11 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: max 20 Drowned Lands
Swamp Cons Area COLU 14 Jul.
White-throated Sparrow: max 7 Edinburg
SARA 5 Jun.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 14 Berlin RENS 20
Jun.
Yellow-breasted Chat: SNHP 1 Jun;
Whitehall WASH 16 Jun, photos and audio rec.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R8):
Carlisle SCHO 8 Jun, *intro*.
Bobolink: max 170 FtEG 13 Aug.
Eastern Meadowlark: max 8 Canajoharie
MONT 29 Jul.
Orchard Oriole: max 7 APBP 1 Jun.
Baltimore Oriole: max 21 Grafton RENS 8
Jun.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 400 Schoharie
Crossing Boat Launch MONT 24 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 85 Malta
SARA 22 Aug.
Common Grackle: max 205 New Baltimore
GREE 16 Aug.
Ovenbird: max 40 Petersburg RENS 6 Jun.
Worm-eating Warbler: max 5 Deer Mt
Nature Trail ALBA 8 Jun; 5 Fox Hill COLU
24 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 4 Overmountain
Cons Area COLU 11 Jun.
Northern Waterthrush: max 2 mult loc.
Golden-winged Warbler: Whitehall WASH
16 Jun-11 Jul, only report.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 13 SNHP 1 Jun.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Whitehall WASH 17
Jun.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Putnam WASH 17
Jun.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 8 SNHP 7
Jun.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R8):
Surrender March Trail SARA 6-23 Jun, *intro*.
Tennessee Warbler: first Bob & Betty
Cummings Mem P WASH 17 Aug; max 2
Hague WARR 30 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 2 Amy’s P WARR
16 Jun; 2 Dyken Pd RENS 26 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: max 3 Hunter GREE 25
Jun.
Common Yellowthroat: max 51 SNHP 1 Jul.
Hooded Warbler: 2 Fox Hill COLU 20 Jun; 2
Overmountain Cons Area COLU 31 Jul;
Rensselaerville SF ALBA 9 Jun; Bozenkill
Pres ALBA 29 Jun.
American Redstart: max 50 Papscanee I NP
RENS 1 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: first 2 Burnt Hills SARA
20 Aug; max 4 Ballston SARA 29 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: 2 Overmountain Cons
Area COLU 6 Jun; 2 Schodack I SP RENS 21
Jun; 2 Taconic SP COLU 5 Jul; Copake COLU
14 Jun; Fox Hill COLU 20 Jun;
Northern Parula: max 3 Johnsburg WARR 10
Jul.
Magnolia Warbler: max 10 West Kill Mt
GREE 7 Jul.
Bay-breasted Warbler: first mult loc 31 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 18 West Kill Mt
GREE 5 Jun.
Yellow Warbler: max 22 Schodack I SP
RENS 5 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 17 Boice
Family P SARA 19 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 14 Plateau Mt GREE
19 Jun.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 Hague
WARR 11 Jul.
Palm Warbler: first Mine Kill SP SCHO 28
Aug.
Pine Warbler: max 10 Warrensburg WARR
21 Jun.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 10 Plateau Mt
GREE 5 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: max 9 APBP 1 Jun.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 13
West Kill Mt GREE 5 Jun.
Canada Warbler: max 3 Edinburg SARA 5
Jun; Berlin RENS 11 Jul.
Wilson’s Warbler: first Great Flats NP SCHE
29 Aug; VFNHP 29 Aug.
Scarlet Tanager: max 6 mult loc.
Northern Cardinal: max 13 mult loc.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 8 Grafton
RENS 4 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: max 7 APBP 1 Jun; 7 Putnam
WASH 26 Jun; 7 SNHP 10 Jul



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The National Weather Service records from Poughkeepsie reported a high temperature of 98° F on 30 June and a low of 43° on 1 June. Temperatures overall averaged 3.4° above normal. Rainfall for the month was 2.75", 1.16" below normal, resulting in a warm, dry month. July started off very wet with thunderstorms and the remnants of Tropical Storm *Elsa*. There was a low of 50° on 31 July and a high of 93° on 6 July. The average was 2.6° below normal. There were 6.06" of rain, 2.28" above normal, resulting in a cool wet month. The Poughkeepsie report indicated a high of 85° on 12 August, with a low of 64° on 3 August. This resulted in an average temperature for the month that was 2° above normal. There was a total of 4.98" of rain in the Region, 1.1" above normal. All of this resulted in a warm, wet month.

On the night of 22 August Tropical Storm *Henri* passed to our east on Long Island. The resulting counterclockwise winds out of the north produced an influx of birds in our Region, mainly along the Hudson River. Caspian Terns were by far the most abundant with Laughing Gulls not far behind. Shorebirds including Sanderlings and Baird's Sandpipers were spotted along the Hudson and in the Black Dirt Region, while Hudsonian Godwits and a Western Sandpiper were seen in Westchester as well.

The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, now in its second year, is documenting some very interesting breeding species in the Region, Dickcissel and Sedge Wren among them.

On 9 June Kyle Bardwell photographed a Brant on the Hudson flying in from the north with a GPS device attached to its back.

The Sandhill Cranes that bred earlier this year have finally succeeded in raising a colt. They nested once again on the New Jersey side of the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge and were seen with their well-grown offspring through 16 June, moving back and forth between the two states but disappeared for some time after that, only to be seen again on 10 July with the now nearly full-grown colt! Typical of this pair, once the chick was fledged, they spent much of their time at the Pine Island Turf Nursery.

On 11 August Kyle Bardwell was surprised to find a near breeding- plumaged American Avocet on the jetty at the Beacon Waterfront. This cooperative bird remained throughout the morning and was seen by birders from all around the Region.

On 11 August, Jim Yates spotted an adult **Brown Booby** roosting on the Water Chestnut piles in the Hudson River off Esopus Meadows Lighthouse Park. He got many photos of the bird before it was flushed by passing kayakers. This is the third summer in a row that a Brown Booby has been recorded in Region 9.

On 17 July Kyle Knapp saw a Little Blue Heron flying over the Wallkill River NWR. Subsequently, on 22 July, Ronnie DiLorenzo spotted a Little Blue Heron at Six and a Half Station Road in Orange County. The bird moved back and forth between there and the Citgo Pond across the Heritage Trail and continued the following day. Numerous reports came from around the Region shortly thereafter. As far as is known, only one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to Van Burenville Road in Orange County this year. The bird was reported for two weeks in mid June, but not thereafter (see note pp. 333-334). On 13 June Ari Weiss spotted a Glossy Ibis feeding on the baseball field at Piermont Pier. This was the third record for Rockland County, all from that location, until a juvenile showed up at Rockland Lake State Park on 15 July. This individual was very confiding and seen by many.

The northeast experienced an unprecedented incursion of **Roseate Spoonbills** during late June and July. Linda Scrima photographed one flying over the platform at the Wallkill River NWR on 14 July, but it was not seen there again. A second was reported in Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County on 21 July, and may have been the same bird. Though on private property, the landowner allowed limited access so the bird could be viewed. Though it took off early the morning of 23 July, it returned the following day, to the delight of many, and was present through 28 July. The homeowner verified the bird had been present since 18 July.

On 16 June Xander Vitarelli reported a pair of Sedge Wrens believed to be breeding on private property in Ulster County. The birds were seen repeatedly, photographed, and recorded. On 23 July, Debra DeFrancisco found a Sedge Wren on Lower Wisner Road in Warwick, Orange County. It turned out there was a colony breeding there, numbering perhaps as many as ten birds. They could be easily heard and seen, continuing through the period.

On 9 June there was an influx of Dickcissels in the Hudson Valley. A single bird at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR was the first there in several years, but three singing males at Croton Point Park that same day were quite unexpected. Eventually four males at Croton Point were verified and a female joined the group in early July. Three females were eventually documented, and breeding was confirmed with at least three fledglings photographed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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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, PUTN; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **CRS** – Croton Railroad Station, 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; **EMLP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, 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 River NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: Long Dock P DUTC 9 Jun (KB).
Blue-winged Teal: max 2 BSWMA 8-14 Jun (JCa, KM*i*, JH).
Gadwall: 2 SHSR 25 Aug (BT, JCi); 2 MC 28 Aug (SW).
Green-winged Teal: max 4 WRNWR 3-31 Aug (MZ, JCi, mob); max 9 Strever Farm DUTC 13-31 Aug (DK, BM, mob); MP 12-17 Aug (JH); SHSR 25 Aug (JCi, BT).
Ring-necked Duck: Hillview Res WEST 24 Aug (SCam).
Long-tailed Duck: Rye Town P WEST 3-20 Jun (SCam, GB).

Bufflehead: Annsville Creek WEST 12-17 Jun (SL); RR 2 Jul-31 Aug (JH, SB).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 3 EGR 10-25 Jun (GB, mob).
Ruddy Duck: Hillview Res 19-21 Jul (SCam, JAm).
Ruffed Grouse: Minnewaska SP ULST 10 Aug (SB); 2 Hartwood SULL 15 Aug (VB); Sparrowbush ORAN 15 Aug (KA).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 WRNWR 1 Jun-4 Aug (KK, mob); max 6 SHSR 1 Jun-22 Jul (KA, mob).

Black-billed Cuckoo: PHP 9-19 May (MR, mob); max 2 SFSP 9 May-13 Jun (FP, KMi mob); BSWMA 11-17 Jun (DD).

Common Nighthawk: BSWMA 18 Aug (PD); 100 Warwarsing ULST 21 Aug (JT); 12 Unionville ORAN 23 Aug (LS); 37 Wallkill ULST 24 Aug (CM).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: 2 Mine Rd ORAN 12 Aug (BT); SFSP 27 Aug (EF, TF).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: max 5 MC 1 Jun -31 Aug (GB, mob).

Virginia Rail: max 6 BSWMA 1 Jun-31 Aug (SB, mob); 2 WRNWR 20 Jul (KK); max 6 GV 1 Jun-27 Aug (PS, mob); max 5 Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 1 Jun-14 Jul (JS).

Sora: 2 WRNWR 1 Jun (YH); BSWMA 11 Jun (SB); BSWMA 3 Aug (JH).

Sandhill Crane: 3 WRNWR 1 Jun -10 Jul (YH, mob); 2 EMLP 30 Jun (JY); 2 Kallop Rd ULST 4 Jul (JMa); 8 Ashokan Res 9 Jul (AMe); 3 PITN 1 Aug (TB, GB), *intro*.

American Avocet: Beacon Waterfront DUTC 11 Aug (KB, mob), *intro*.

American Oystercatcher: max 5 MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (AS, mob); max 3 EGR 28 Jun-31 Aug (GB, mob).

Black-bellied Plover: 10 OCBDR 1 Jun (YH); 5 MC 1 Jun (SCam).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 Lake Tappan ROCK 29 Jun (NB); The Landing Dobbs Ferry WEST 22 Jul (JAm); max 29 MC 31 Jul-3 Aug (GB); max 15 PP 2-4 Aug (AWei); MP 4 Aug (JH); WRNWR 4 Aug (BN, KMi).

Upland Sandpiper: 3 OCBDR 8 Aug (MZ).

Whimbrel: 2 EGR 15 Aug (JW); PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Hudsonian Godwit: 2 EGR 23 Aug (GB, TB), *intro*.

Ruddy Turnstone: PP 3 Jun (JFC); PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Stilt Sandpiper: WRNWR 28 Aug (JCa, JCi).

Sanderling: Beacon Waterfront 8 Aug (KB, mob); max 3 OCBDR 23 Aug (BN); PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Dunlin: 2 OCBDR 1 Jun (YH).

Baird's Sandpiper: PP 15 Aug (ME, BT); max 3 OCBDR 23 Aug (BN); Glynwood Farms PUTN 26 Aug (KB, mob); PITN 25-28 Aug (BN); AP 29 Aug (JH).

Least Sandpiper: 4 AP 13-24 Jul (JH, mob); PP 14-16 Jul (AWei, CW); WRNWR 15 Jul (LS).

White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 31 Jul (TB, GB); PP 11 Aug (AWei); OCBDR 20 Aug (FP); MC 30 Aug (AK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 3 Camel Farm ORAN 1-4 Aug (GB, TB); max 2 WRNWR 4-20 Aug (KA); Strevler Farm 4-23 Aug (DvZ); EMLP 6 Aug (DW, JS); PP 11 Aug (AWei); MC 25 Aug (TB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Haverstraw ROCK 19 Jul (CW); max 8 PP 19 Jul-4 Aug (AWei); max 36 MC 31 Jul-4 Aug (GB).

Western Sandpiper: Milton Pt Rye WEST 22 Aug (JMc); 2 MC 30 Aug (SCam).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 MC 4-14 Jul (GB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 MC 2-3 Aug (GB, SR); max 12 WRNWR 3-31 Aug (YH, mob).

Willet: max 10 MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (KMcG, mob).

Short-billed Dowitcher: PP 14 Jul (LPi); Kendridge Farm ORAN 5 Aug (YH); max 3 MC 20-31 Aug (GB, mob); Rt 300 Pd ORAN 20-22 Aug (BN); max 11 Milton Pt Rye 22 Aug (JMc, GB); 3 OCBDR 23 Aug (BN); 3 MP 29 Aug (JH, SB).

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Wappingers Creek DUTC 30 Jun (SCar); RR 5 Jul (RCR); 2 AP 15 Jul (SB).

Bonaparte's Gull: NW 23 Jul (BN); 2 Beacon Waterfront 7 Aug (CP, mob); Fleischmann's Pier P WEST 22 Aug (SR); PP 21 Aug (LPi, CW); MacEachron Waterfront P WEST 23 Aug (AS).

Laughing Gull: max 22 Harbor Square P WEST 11 Aug (LT); max 3 PP 23-28 Aug (AWei, mob); Charles Pt Marina WEST 23 Aug (SL); CRS 23 Aug (KL); Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC 31 Aug (CC).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Least Tern: max 3 MC 2 Jun-15 Jul (SCam, mob); max 2 EGR 2 Jun-7 Jul (JH, GB).

Caspian Tern: CPP 7 Jun (KL); CPP 24 Jun (SR, mob); Hudson Highlands SP PUTN 14 Jul (KB); Long Dock P 21 Jul (KB); 2 Kingston ULST 6, 21 Aug (FM, PS); Beacon Waterfront 8 Aug (KB); Gibson Hill Rd 8-9 Aug (JS); max 8 Plum Pt ORAN 13-15 Aug (BN, mob); max 2 CPP 16-19 Aug (GB, mob); max 17 Hudson River WEST 23 Aug (JAm, mob); 4 EGR 23 Aug (GB, TB); 4 PP 23 Aug (AWei), *intro*.

Black Tern: 2 Beacon Waterfront 8 Aug (KB, SCam); MacEachron Waterfront P 22 Aug (JAm); Hyde P Station DUTC 23 Aug (DC).

Common Tern: max 10 EGR 1 Jun-31 Aug (GB, mob); max 25 MC 1 Jun-22 Jul (GB, mob).

Forster's Tern: max 5 MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (SCam, mob).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: PP 18 Jun (CC, LPi); Croton L WEST 25 Jun (CR); NR 26 Jun (PD); PP 15 Jul (AWei, SCam); max 3 AR 11, 20 Aug (CA).

BROWN BOOBY: EMLP 11 Aug (JY), *intro*.
American Bittern: BSWMA 11 Jul (JH); SFSP 14 Jul (EG).

Least Bittern: max 4 GV 1 Jun-23 Jul (RM, PS); max 5 WRNWR 3 Jun-20 Jul (FP, mob); BSWMA 5 Jun, 18 Jul (JH, SB); PP 16 Jun-17 Jul (AWei, mob); Goshen ORAN 29 Jun-23 Jul (MZ); KP 16-24 Jul (FM); Orange Swamp ORAN 17 Jul (BN).

Great Egret: max 30 WRNWR 1 Jun -31 Aug (MZ, mob); McDonald Rd SULL 2-9 Jun (JH); Montgomery ORAN 3-5 Jun (JCI, KMi); Long Dock P 9 Jun (CP); max 10 SHSR 7 Jul-8 Aug (JD, mob). Widespread.

Little Blue Heron: WRNWR 17 Jul (KK); MC 20-22 Jul (SCam, mob); SHSR 22-23 Jul (RDi, mob); Wappingers Creek 28-30 Jul (DvZ, mob); Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 28 Jul (AWei); Five Islands P WEST 29 Jul (RW); Cortland Manor WEST 30 Jul (DvZ); WRNWR 3-21 Aug (LS, mob); Kingston Res #1 ULST 3-31 Aug (PS, mob); Orangetown ROCK 17 Aug (AWei), *intro*.

Green Heron: 12 Dutchess P L DUTC 10 Jul (LF).

Snowy Egret: Millwood WEST 2 Jul (JAm); Stony Pt ROCK 7 Jul (MR); Lake Carmel PUTN 21-22 Jul (AMA); WRNWR 3-8 Aug (MZ).

Cattle Egret: RLSP 1-6 Jun (CW, mob).

Black-crowned Night-heron: 3 Congers L P ROCK 20 Jun (CC); CPP 16 Jun (LT); Greenwood L ORAN 4 Jul (LPa); SFSP 14 Jul (EG); max 3 Harbor Square P 15-27 Jul (LT); Tilly Foster Rd PUTN 28 Jul (SR).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron: Van Burenville Rd ORAN 3-16 Jun (JD).

Glossy Ibis: 2 EMLP 14 Jul (DT); RLSP 15-16 Jul (AWei, mob), *intro*.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: WRNWR 14 Jul (LS); Wappingers Falls 18-28 Jul (BMa, mob), *intro*.

Northern Harrier: BSWMA 17-27 Aug (JH, KMi); max 3 OCBDR 15-31 Aug (BN, mob); CPP 23-31 Aug (SR, mob); MC 27 Aug (AS, mob).

Red-headed Woodpecker: RSP 5 Jun-17 Jul (AS, mob).

Merlin: max 2 SGNWR 31 Jul (JD, DS); max 2 MP 4-31 Aug (JH); Camel Farm 12 Aug (BT); Mills-Norrie SP DUTC 30 Aug (SJ).

Peregrine Falcon: BSWMA 3 Aug (JH, mob); Hurley ULST 12 Aug (RH); Mills-Norrie SP 25 Aug (DvZ, SJ).

Monk Parakeet: 10 Titus Mill Pd WEST 18 Aug (PC).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: BMSP 2 Jun (AMA, mob); Cliffdale Farm WEST 12-21 Aug (SR, mob); RSP 20 Aug (MGr); Goshen 22 Aug (KA); Minnewaska SP 24 Aug (SB, DW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 Slide Mt. ULST 5-27 Jun (AWei, mob); Cliffdale Farm 15 Aug (KB, mob); Madam Brett P DUTC 18 Aug (KF, CF, mob).

Philadelphia Vireo: Fishkill Cemetery DUTC 30 Aug (AMA).

Sedge Wren: 2 Hurley 16 Jun-5 Aug (XV, mob); max 10 Lower Wisner Rd ORAN 23 Jul 11 Aug (DD, mob), *intro*.

Bicknell's Thrush: max 6 Slide Mt 2 Jun-24 Jul (BMc, mob).

Swainson's Thrush: Pruyn Sanctuary WEST 30 Aug (MGo).

Pine Siskin: 2 Salt Pt DUTC 28 Jun, 5-14 Jul (BM); Bearville ULST 3 Jul (FW); Salt Pt 4-13 Aug (BM).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 10 SGRNWR 1 Jun-15 Aug (KMCD, mob); max 5 CPP: 3 13 Jun (L. O'Hara, M. Bochnik), and 3 (ad and 2 juvs) here 24 Aug, (RL, ph); max 5 NR 11 Jun-2 Jul (SCam, mob).

Lark Sparrow: CPP 31 Jul (JW); Kingston Res #1 20 Aug (PS); CPP 31 Aug (SR, mob).

Orchard Oriole: BSWMA 1 Jun-17 Jul (RDi, mob); max 2 WRNWR 1 Jun-8 Aug (LS, mob); max 3 CPP 1 Jun-23 Aug (AS, mob); 3 Gibson Hill Rd 3 Aug (JS); Vassar Farm and Ecological Pres DUTC 5 Aug (KB).

Tennessee Warbler: Breakneck Ridge Loop PUTN 18 Jul (JMa).

Mourning Warbler: Peekamoose Rd ULST 5 Jul (PS).

Hooded Warbler: BSWMA 30 Aug (SB).

Cape May Warbler: 4 Hillview Res 24 Aug (SCam); Vassar Farm and Ecological Pres 20-21 Aug (KB, mob).

Northern Parula: Oakland Valley Rd SULL 28 Jun (JH); DR 15 Aug (MW); CPP 24 Aug (LT).
Dickcissel: max 7 CPP 9 Jun-29 Aug (PC, SL, mob); SGNWR 9 Jun-18 Jul (KMcD, mob);

Hurley Mt Rd ULST 23 Jun (WY); max 2 Glynwood Farm 26-27 Aug (KB, mob), *intro*.

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REGION 10 - MARINE

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June and August 2021 were much warmer than usual across the Region. Average daily temperatures were close to normal in July in both Central Park and in Islip, but this is slightly deceiving because overnight low temperatures rarely if ever dropped below 70° F during the month, which would have been regarded as very unusual in the past. Rainfall was below average in June, especially on Long Island, but it was far above average in both July and August, especially in the western parts of the Region, where Central Park recorded excessive rainfall totals on two dates. Two notable tropical storms affected Region 10: *Elsa* on 9 July and *Henri* on 22 August and later.

Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	74.3°	71.4°	+2.9°	70.6°	68.4°	+2.2°
Jul	76.0°	76.5°	-0.5°	74.6°	73.9°	+0.7°
Aug	77.5°	75.2°	+2.3°	75.9°	72.8°	+3.1°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	2.62"	4.41"	-1.79"	1.60"	4.27"	-2.67"
Jul	11.09"	4.60"	+6.49"	5.12"	3.43"	+1.69"
Aug	10.32"	4.44"	+5.88"	6.63"	3.98"	+2.65"

Many late-spring migrants were reported throughout the Region in early June, especially in the New York City (NYC) parks where northbound migration also tends to be heaviest. Some records of this kind are difficult to distinguish from individuals present for other reasons, such as White-throated Sparrows trapped in urban canyon oases, dispersants/vagrants (e.g., Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and

Evening Grosbeak), and rare/extralimital breeders (e.g., Broad-winged Hawk and Acadian Flycatcher).

White-rumped Sandpipers are among the latest northbound migrants, almost crossing paths with the earliest southbound species, such as Least Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs during mid-late June. Other cases are even more perplexing, including this season's Whimbrel at Plumb Beach, Brooklyn, NYC, on 7 June; Marbled Godwit at Cupsogue on 20 June; and a Stilt Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay 11 June. One of the most baffling bird records we can even recall involved a flock of **12 Common Mergansers** on Staten Island on 23 August; in most of the Region, CBC compilers worry about whether even one will appear in time for the mid-December-early January counts.

The occurrence of other summer visitors, including some historically regarded as unusual or rare in New York City and Long Island, is known to be quite regular. Four immature male King Eiders at three sites from Staten Island to Montauk was more than usual in summer, but nevertheless consistent with the species' habit of summering relatively frequently compared to its absolute scarcity in winter, its "normal" period of occurrence. In contrast, Red-throated Loon and Horned Grebe were unreported this summer.

The status of Lesser Black-backed Gull, very rare just a few decades ago, continues to change rapidly. Summering flocks of first- and second-summer Lessers now outnumber Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls at times along outer beaches of Suffolk County, with single-site counts over 100 now routine at Robert Moses State Park and Smith Point County Park. Even so, the species is rarely photographed in summer just a few miles away on the Long Island mainland and can be scarce even on the outer beaches during periods of fine weather, when they are thought to feed offshore. A Glaucous Gull photographed at Nickerson Beach, Nassau County on 15 June was a notable seasonal rarity, but one with surprisingly many precedents. Like King Eiders, Glaucous Gulls are "known to do this."

Arctic Terns made a strong showing at Nickerson Beach (probably five different first-summer and two second-summer individuals), Fire Island Inlet (probably two different first-summer and one second-summer), and Moriches Inlet (single first-summer, second-summer, and adult). All records were 1-12 June, and brief visits were the norm: observers following up a previous day's report generally found no Arctic Terns or visibly different individuals at a site. For instance, the first-summer bird photographed at Nickerson Beach on 6 June showed black blotches on the side of the face not present in similar birds photographed there on 5 June and 1 June, and the first-summer bird photographed at Democrat Point on 12 June showed an unusually large and heavy bill, contra a similar bird photographed there on 9 June.

Only a few post-breeding Brown Pelicans ventured as far north as Long Island this season. A series of observations on 9 July is interesting as a possible hint of the speed and habits of this conspicuous but nevertheless often frustrating species: Paul Sweet saw five fly west past Davis Park, Fire Island at 8:15 a.m.;

four (possibly the same) were seen to the west at Robert Moses State Park, at 8:56 a.m. (Pat Lindsay); followed by inside Jones Inlet (Seth Ausubel); and four were at Breezy Point, circling and then flying off westward toward Sandy Hook, NJ just before noon (Peter Paul).

Observers were watching the ocean on 9 July because of Tropical Storm *Elsa*, and a number of notable counts of regularly occurring seabirds are detailed below. Increased coverage of shelf break waters continues to refine our understanding of the seasonal and micro-geographical statuses of formerly almost mythical species, such as **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, **Black-capped Petrel**, and **Audubon's Shearwater**. It is also enhancing our understanding of the commonest species, such as Sooty, Cory's, and Manx Shearwaters, which are often scarce offshore and counter-intuitively seen in larger numbers from shore, albeit under favorable conditions, that the observers can more easily target.

Although there are about 25 previous records of **Wood Stork** in New York State, including many from Region 10, there had been few opportunities for downstate birders to observe this species, until this year. One at the Amazon Fulfillment Center, northwestern Staten Island, 31 July through 9 August was 2021's second chaseable bird, following one at Beaverdam Creek, Suffolk County, in May. Seen alive during the morning on 9 August, the Staten Island bird was found dead around noon that day, having choked on a three-foot piece of plastic foam. José Ramírez-Garofalo salvaged the specimen for the American Museum of Natural History.

Following New York State's first **Roseate Spoonbill**, on Staten Island in 1995, none were recorded in Region 10 until 25 July 2021. On this day, in the course of a phenomenal incursion of spoonbills throughout the East, two were discovered on Long Island, at Cold Spring Harbor, and in the marshes south of Oceanside, Nassau County. The latter was seen and photographed on discovery, then not found again. The former persisted at least through 7 August, occurring on both sides of the Nassau-Suffolk County line, and in one instance resting at length at the mouth of the creek defining the county lines on the south shore of St Johns Pond, to the great frustration of conscientious county listers, and the amusement of others.

Summer 2021 was the second season for the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. It is becoming clear that the methodology adopted for the current Atlas, combined with ongoing trends in the priorities and practices of many birders, is leaving a number of traditional challenges unsolved—and perhaps also creating some new problems. In assessing the status of colonial waterbirds, care must be taken to weigh the number and security of actual colonies against overall abundance, at these colonies and via non-breeding visitors. For the most part, known colonies are tracked very well by professionals like John Zarudsky (Town of Hempstead) and various state and federal biologists. In the past, it would be expected that the extra attention arising from atlas effort would detect a number of new or previously unknown stations for each species, but this seems much less likely this time around. For one thing, atlasers have been encouraged

to “code everything, all the time,” which results in numerous false positives for gulls, terns, herons, and others. Even more concerning, perhaps, is the relative absence of assigned blocks and their reciprocal bonds of duty and mentorship, which in past atlases have yielded many fine-scale discoveries of new nesting sites for common, but highly local, species. The sheer abundance of Black Skimmers at Long Island’s two long-standing colonies (Arverne, Queens, with ca. 200 pairs; and Nickerson Beach, Nassau with ca. 400 pairs), tends to obscure the fact that this species has very few options in our Region, with just two additional, much smaller, colonies known at present on Long Island (Atlantic Beach, Nassau and Cartwright Island, Suffolk).

The tendency for everyone to want to cover the “best” places—not to mention people’s desire and ever-increasing ability to see all of the “best” birds—understandably results in a huge volume of much weaker and less carefully focused effort; but even worse, these habits drain effort away from secondary and tertiary sites and greatly reduce the kind of patient and repeated coverage required to document scarce and hard to confirm breeders. American Bittern and Northern Harrier are among the species needing more close attention during the Breeding Bird Atlas. Both have nested in the Region (harriers formerly in numbers), and both tend to be reported in small numbers each summer at traditional stations. Even so, direct evidence of breeding is chronically lacking for both in recent years, and is unlikely to be acquired without directed effort. Other examples include Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, and many others.

There is considerable good news as well. Genuinely rare at all seasons in Region 10 as recently as 20 years ago, Bald Eagles have catapulted to unmistakable ubiquity, with reports now expected from any site in New York City or Long Island, on any day of the year. It is worth remembering that Red-tailed Hawk preceded the eagles, in a striking reminder of the volatility of bird populations: the New York City Parks Department estimated that 35 pairs of Red-tailed Hawk now nest within the Five Boroughs (*New York Times*, 9 May 2021, p. 4), whereas none were known there before 1991 (Pale Male). Similarly, according to Robert DeCandido, somewhere between 15 and 20 pairs of Great Horned Owls now nest in greater New York City.

We devoted considerable space in last year’s summer report (KB 70: 395-410) to detailing the then-current status of grassland breeders, forest breeders, and species dependent on localized freshwater microhabitats. Readers interested in these themes will find detailed data in the species accounts below, but we will wait until next year for a fuller re-appraisal.

The first flight of early-arriving freshwater waterfowl was detected widely across the Region on 14 August. This was followed by another on 24 August, with many reports of Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, and others thereafter. In the accounts below, numerous notable observations of migrants occurred on 13 or 14 August (Dmitriy Aronov, Tim Healy and Ryan Zucker’s observations of the morning flight at Breezy Point on the former), and again, on 24-25 August, in the wake of Hurricane *Henri*.

Henri formed over the Gulf Stream in mid August and headed north toward Long Island and southern New England. Expectations of species such as tropical terns, tropicbirds, Black-capped Petrel, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel ran high, but these were not realized. A **Brown Booby** at Riis Park on 23 August (Doug Gochfeld) very likely was *not* directly storm-related, as several were seen both before and after this date around Newark Bay, NJ, one was seen a week earlier at Cusogue County Park, east along the LI shore (Katie Kleinpeter), and two were seen offshore earlier in the month by Doug himself. Perhaps this relatively small storm had formed over waters mainly lacking birds and was small enough to be dodged by the birds in its northward path. But what *Henri* lacked in terms of tropical species, he produced in the form of grounded migrants that ordinarily over-fly our Region. Shorebirds such as American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper, and terns such as Black and Caspian, are often seen after storms, and such was the case on the morning of 23 August. The rarest species in this category was a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Riis Park, Queens, observed by Doug Gochfeld as it arrived from the north. But the most unusual phenomenon involved Hudsonian Godwits, which were observed in unprecedented numbers, especially notable given that the species was completely missed in Region 10 from June-August last year.

On the morning of 23 August, Jay Rand, Mary Normandia, and we (PJL, SSM) met at Orient Point to look for storm birds. At 9:04 and 9:08, we saw flocks of **30** and **57** Hudsonian Godwits fly close past us on the tip of the point, then heading off to the south or southeast. The first had approached from the north, whereas the second approached from the west, along the Sound shore of the North Fork. Meanwhile, five miles to the west at Truman's Beach, Aidan Perkins, Patrice Domeischel, and Luci Betti saw a flock of **110** flying south across the road, from the Sound to Orient Harbor, at 08:54, then another flock of **20** at Orient Point, crossing from north to south at the ferry terminal. Meeting them there, Pat and I decided to return with them to the tip, where Mary was still keeping vigil. The six of us were treated to one more flock of **107** birds, again approaching from the west along the shore and passing us closely before heading south or southeast. We alerted Brent Bomkamp, Brendan Fogarty, and others in western Suffolk, and those two headed to Robert Moses State Park, on the ocean shore of western Suffolk, to look for godwits. Amazingly, at 11:30, they saw and videoed a flock of **151** Hudsonian Godwits, working westward along the shore.

As information circulated, we learned that a flock of **104** had been seen around 8:00 in Hampden, Massachusetts, near where the Connecticut River crosses into Connecticut, and that others had been seen along the northern shore of Long Island Sound in southwestern Connecticut, including a flock of **194** near Stamford at 11:15. Finally, we learned of one on the Hudson River off of 14th Street in Manhattan, flying south early in the morning, at least seven flying south around 3:00 p.m. near Bantam, in northwestern Connecticut, and two flying southwest past Rye, Westchester County, NY, also in the afternoon. All of the birds on the western Long Island Sound were flying west or southwest along the

shore whereas all of those crossing or rounding Orient Point disappeared into the glare to the south or southeast. Based on the timing of the large flocks at Truman's Beach, Orient Point, Stamford, and Robert Moses State Park, and the assumption that the birds at Orient would not likely cross to the ocean anywhere to the west of Napeague, it seems very unlikely that any of these were duplicates. In contrast, the early morning flock at Hampden, MA was consistent in size, timing, distance, and bearing to have been detected again at Stamford, Truman's Beach, or Orient Point. Thus the best estimate for the number of individuals observed on 23 August is **681**, with **476** in Region 10: **324** in the Orient area and **151** at Robert Moses.

In the exciting period preceding the storm, Pat and I were part of numerous group discussions of storm-birding. These focused not only on birds but our fellow storm-birders, especially Andy Baldelli and Paul Buckley—but also others whom we had recently lost, including Tony Lauro, Bobby Kurtz, and Ned Brinkley. Ned was at Cornell when *Bull's Birds of New York State* was compiled (published in 1998). It is a curious footnote that his species account for Hudsonian Godwit overlooked the then Long Island maximum count: two flocks totaling 41, circling and calling within the eye of Hurricane *Bob* on 19 August 1991, beheld by four astonished storm-birders at Montauk Point: Paul Buckley, Andy Baldelli, Bobby Kurtz, and Tony Lauro (*The Kingbird* 41: 287; *North American Birds* 46: 67). All four of the observers of that event had shared it, and their intense feelings about it, with Pat and me many times over the 30 years and four days that intervened between it and the event discussed here. Most or all of the birds in both events were adults enroute to South America, were it not for a hurricane. Some of them might have been there for both storms, as almost was true among their human observers.

Other rarities, not mentioned above but detailed below, included two **White-winged Doves**, **Rufous Hummingbird**, **Purple Gallinule**, **Bridled Tern**, **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, no fewer than **5 Brown Boobies**, **White-faced Ibis** at Jamaica Bay, and a **Swallow-tailed Kite** over Shelter Island. No longer NYSARC reviewable but still rare for the Region were two **Sandhill Cranes**, and an **Evening Grosbeak** photographed on Fire Island on the very unusual dates of 11-12 June.

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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; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CJC** – Captree June Count (P JL, SSM compilers); **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CRSP** – Connetquot Ri SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **DP** – Democrat Pt, Fire I, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FINS** – Fire Island National Seashore, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **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/Inlet, SUFF; **Montauk** – Montauk area, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **nb** – northbound; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **OIn** - Old Inlet, Brookhaven, SUFF; **OPt** – Orient Pt, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **Sagg** – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; **sb** – southbound; **SBNW** – Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, SUFF; **SCSP** – Shirley Chisolm SP, KING; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **SY** – second year; **TY** – third year; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH. **FL, FY, NE, ON** – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

Jam Bay 11 Jul through (P. Paul, mob); 4 Mattituck, SUFF 15-16 Jul (B. Bolduc *et al.*).

Snow Goose: Francis Lewis P, QUEE 7 Aug (J. Draves).

Brant: less widely reported than usual, mostly sw LI; max 63 SCSP 15 Jul (DGo).

Canada Goose: 999 CJC 12 Jun; max 600 Miller Field, RICH 28 Aug (ACi).

Mute Swan: 73 CJC 12 Jun, much reduced from the last five years; max 250 Jam Bay 28 Jul.

Wood Duck: 4 CJC 12 Jun; max 44 PP 2 Jul.

Blue-winged Teal: pair CP 23 Jun (MBK *et al.*); 1-4 Jam Bay 5 Jun through Jul (CF *et al.*); Oakland L, APP 8 Jul (L. Tognan); pair Tackapausha Pres, NASS 10 Jun (K. Long); only Jun/Jul reps; arr two sites 14 Aug, more widely from 24 Aug; max 113 Jam Bay 21 Aug (SCam, S. Rappaport).

Northern Shoveler: 2-4 Jam Bay Jun-Jul; Oakland L, APP 8 Jul (L. Tognan); arr 4 CP 14 Aug (J. Suzuko); more widely from 24 Aug; max 40 Jam Bay 28 Aug (DGo); none RICH, NASS, or SUFF.

Gadwall: many reps from all parts of Region except BRON and e SUFF; almost exclusively coastal, east on South Shore to Moriches In, on North Shore to Port Jefferson; 3 CJC 12 Jun; max 125 Jam Bay 9 Jul (DGo).

American Wigeon: 2 Rockaway Beach, QUEE 19 Jun (A. Kling); 1-2 Jam Bay thru; JBWE 9 Jul (SA, MN); Crescent Beach, SUFF 2 Jul (A. Leidig); Frank Melville P, SUFF 10 Jul and later (L. Betti, PDom, *et al.*); only reps.

Mallard: 192 CJC 12 Jun, almost identical to last two yrs; max 430 Jam Bay 21 Aug (SCam, S. Rappaport).

American Black Duck: 11 CJC 12 Jun; max 350 Jam Bay 4 Aug (M. Shanley).

Northern Pintail: a few Jam Bay 13 Jul thru; Mill Pd, Port Washington, NASS 5-6 Jul (C. Patrick).

Green-winged Teal: Matrix Global Logistics P, RICH 27 Jul (ACi); 1-6 Jam Bay thru; Fire I In 12 Jun (E. Mutchnick); arr 14 Aug, more widely from 24 Aug; max 16 Jam Bay 25 Aug (J. Milton).

Greater Scaup: about 7 reps Jun-Jul, east to HSP 17 Jun (D. Cartwright).

Lesser Scaup: 1-2 Jam Bay thru.

King Eider: 2 imm males WPP to GKP thru; imm male MBI 6 Jun (K&SF); imm male L

Montauk In, SUFF 10 Jul and later (NBo *et al.*).

Common Eider: summered widely along the ocean coast, including small flocks to 92; sites included BPT, Jones In, Fire Island In, MBI, Shinn, and numerous sites on LI's South and North Forks; 32 CJC 12 Jun.

Surf Scoter: singles, duos, and trios summered widely again (see last two years), from CIC to Montauk and OPt.

White-winged Scoter: 1-3 reported at Jones In, OPt, and McAllister CP, SUFF.

Black Scoter: many reps along outer coast; also RICH and OPt; max 48 Montauk 12 Jun (U. Mitra).

Long-tailed Duck: 1-2 at eight typical sites.

Bufflehead: Greenport, SUFF 13 Jun (M. Zovco), only rep, fewer than usual.

Hooded Merganser: two juvs Matrix Global Logistics P, RICH 17 Jun and later; also notable CRSP 12 Jun (on CJC, K&SF) and Wertheim NWR SUFF on many dates Jun-Aug, both potential breeding sites.

Common Merganser: 12 WPP 23 Aug (ACi, ph.), very unusual number for date; a similar-sized flock was reported at nearby South Amboy, NJ that day.

Red-breasted Merganser: about a dozen reports of 1-4, mostly along the South Shore bays and beaches, as expected.

Ruddy Duck: many reps Jam Bay, max 50 on 15 Aug; a few others summered at traditional wintering sites, as usual.

Northern Bobwhite: no completely convincing reports of wild birds, given the extent of releases in recent years. Whether any of these are contributing to self-sustaining populations is unknown.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 10 MPB 11 Jul; persistence of wild populations east of NYC doubtful.

Wild Turkey: present RICH and BRON, unreported KING, QUEE, and NASS; numerous and widespread SUFF, east of about Hauppauge; max 37 Southold, SUFF 20 Jul (JSep).

Pied-billed Grebe: Jam Bay 14 Jul (D. DiGiacopo); Restoration Pd, APP 20 Jul (P. Shure); CRSP 1 Aug and later (V. Glasser *et al.*), ambiguous; others arr late Aug, e.g., CP 25 Aug and Mill Pd Pres, Wantagh, NASS 29 Aug).

Rock Pigeon: 199 CJC 12 Jun, max 316 CP 6 Jul.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Landing Estates, Southampton, SUFF 30 Jun to 5 Jul (D. & J. Bohrer); Huntington Station, SUFF 5, 12 Jul (M. Brogan).

Mourning Dove: 136 CJC 12 Jun; max 98 Planting Fields Arboretum, NASS 31 Aug (P. Reisfeld).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: relatively few in June this year (not recorded CJC 12 Jun); arr CP 13 Aug and RMSP 31 Aug.

Black-billed Cuckoo: late migrants into early June, e.g., CP 1 Jun; very few reps of likely breeders (not recorded CJC 12 Jun); sb arr Brooklyn Bridge P, KING 15 Aug (M. Yuan).

Common Nighthawk: reps from just six sites Jun-Jul: Oakwood Beach, RICH 4 Jun (ACi); Silver L P, RICH 17 Jun (CB); Snug Harbor, RICH 28 Jul (CB); PP 1 Jul (K. O'Hearn, K. Toomey); Hicksville, NASS 13 Jun (J. Gaglione, R. Haimes); and Mattituck, SUFF 8 Jun (B. Bolduc). First sb migr at SBNW 15 Aug with high counts of 128 on 27 Aug and 145 on 30 Aug (PDom *et al.*).

Chuck-will's-widow: Quogue, SUFF thru 24 Jun; at least three sites on FINS, between Sailor's Haven and Watch Hill, max 3 Blue Pt Beach, FINS 10, 14 Jun (C. Kessler).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: all reps were from known breeding sites in SUFF: Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Pres (max 6 on 24 Jul), CRSP (2 CJC 12 Jun), Rocky Point DEC (2 1, 30 Jun); Manorville, Westhampton area (max 3 on 21 Jun), Nap (2 on 10 Jun); Montauk.

Chimney Swift: 81 CJC 12 Jun; max 350 PP 26 Aug (DGo); coastal max 63 BPT 13 Aug (DAR, RZ).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 CJC 12 Jun; sb migrants widely noted 26 Aug; max 7 OPT 23 Aug (MN).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: ad male East Quogue SUFF 5 Aug (M. Higgiston, E. Schwinn, ph.).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: 9 CJC 12 Jun; a large *Rallus* in the marshes s of Oceanside, NASS 8 Aug (TH, ph., SP) has a fairly brightly colored breast and was suspected as a possible hybrid Clapper x King Rail; max 18 East High Meadow, QUEE 29 Aug (LDe).

Virginia Rail: reps from five sites in RICH, PBP and seven varied sites in SUFF, including 3 Watch Hill, FINS 12 Jul (P. Sweet), a barrier beach site where breeding had not been suspected.

Sora: 2 Jam Bay 11 Jul, one there 7-8 Aug; one heard in a small wetland in e SUFF 10 Jun; rare and under-documented breeder on Long Island.

Common Gallinule: River Rd marshes, RICH 1 Aug (CB, ACi); PP 31 Jul (mob, ph.), odd date and location.

American Coot: one summered PP; 1-3 Jam Bay 21-24 Jul; one Baisley Pd P, QUEE 3 Aug. **PURPLE GALLINULE:** Jam Bay 1-3 Jul (CF *et al.*).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Manhasset 13-15 Jun (SP, BF, *et al.*); BPT 17 Jul (M. Epstein *et al.*), distinguished from earlier Manhasset bird by molt state.

American Avocet: NB 18-24 Jul (mob).

American Oystercatcher: 45 CJC 12 Jun; max 317 Point Lookout NASS 17 Aug (R. Buckert *et al.*).

Black-bellied Plover: 2 CJC 12 Jun; max 165 OIn 30 Aug (BBo).

American Golden-Plover: arr 2 Amagansett SUFF 20 Aug (A. Lusty); Eastport turf fields SUFF 24 Aug (F. Durso); JBWE 25 Aug (PJJ); SPCP 30-31 Aug (BBo, mob); OIn 31 Aug (MMcB); only reps.

Semipalmated Plover: 6 CJC 12 Jun; max 350 Jam Bay 16 Aug (GB, TWB).

Piping Plover: 18 CJC 12 Jun; max 31 BPT 22 Jul (L. Ewing).

Killdeer: 33 CJC 12 Jun; max 100 Eastport SUFF 29 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: FKP 14 Aug (ACi, JRG), only rep.

Whimbrel: max 10 NB 12 Jul (S. Billerman, J. JMcG) and MBI 5 Jul (L. Musher).

Hudsonian Godwit: Jam Bay 9-16 Jul (DGo, mob); Bellport, SUFF 4 Jul (V. Vila); OIn 30-31 Aug (BBo, MMcB); immense flight following TS *Henri* 23 Aug: Hudson Ri at 14th St., NEWY A. Cunningham, heading s at 06:45; 110 Truman's Beach, SUFF (A. Perkins, PDom, L. Betti), single flock crossing North Fork 5 mi. west of OPT at 08:54, heading s; 214 OPT (SSM *et al.*), four flocks, one arriving from n and three from w, all rounding the point and heading s, from 09:04-10:03; 151 RMSP (BBo, BF), single flock, heading w at 11:30; *intro.*

Marbled Godwit: MBI 20 Jun (Jran, ph.), unus date; JoCo Marsh, Jam Bay 4, 11 Jul (LDe); ruins n of Gardiner's I, SUFF 31 Jul (F. Durso); ca. 12 reps 1-31 Aug, all of 1-3, and all from s shore of LI from PlumbB to MB.

Ruddy Turnstone: max nb 378 MBI (P JL, SSM); max sb Gardiner's I, SUFF 3 Aug (A. Farnsworth).

Red Knot: no large counts in Jun; max sb 35 MBI 12 Aug (L. Musher), low.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 55 Jam Bay 6 Aug (E. Becher).

Sanderling: max 4085 RMSP 24 Aug (K&SF).

Dunlin: max nb 10 JBWE 1 Jun (P. Maslow).

Baird's Sandpiper: PBP 25-27 Aug (P. Horan *et al.*); Brooklyn Golf Center, KING 27-28 Aug (DGo *et al.*); Ruffle Bar, Jam Bay 15 Aug (J. Malbin, LDe).

Least Sandpiper: max 450 MB16-17 Jul (ACo, J. JMcG).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 35 Jam Bay 21 Aug (S. Carroll).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: PlumbB 26-27 Aug; OIn 31 Aug (MMcB); 3 Easport Sod Fields, SUFF 28-31 Aug (JGI *et al.*); 2 Cutchogue, SUFF 31 Aug (B. Bolduc, JRan).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr PlumbB and Jam Bay 17 Jul; max 10 Jam Bay 14 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1100 Jam 23 Jul (TH, RZ).

Western Sandpiper: max 4 PlumbB 14 Jul (DGo, P. Paul) and 4 MBI 22 Jul (P JL *et al.*).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 830 Jam Bay 23 Jul (TH, RZ).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Jam Bay 24 Jul; max 8 Jam Bay 11 Aug (E. Gitlin).

American Woodcock: reported from 8 sites, the most unusual involving an injured bird found in a completely urban setting in Beford-Stuyvesant KING 16 Jun (A. Graham).

Spotted Sandpiper: breeding confirmed FKP, SCSP, Sammy's Beach, SUFF, Amagansett, SUFF, and Gardiner's I, SUFF; max 12 Fisher's I, SUFF 10 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Kodu, Brookhaven SUFF 31 Jul (R. Tagger).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 300 Jam Bay 23 Jul (TH, RZ).

"Eastern" Willet: 47 CJC 12 Jun, average for count; max 217 MBI 22 Jul, (SSM *et al.*).

"Western" Willet: arr DP 30 Jun (P. Horan), faded alt; 7 MBI 22 Jul (SSM *et al.*), early for so many; max 10 MBI 4 Aug (SSM).

Greater Yellowlegs: 11 CJC 12 Jun; max 109 Sunset Cove P, QUEE (ABk).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Jam Bay 3 Aug (K. Mirth); 2 on 4 Aug and later; last on 25 Aug; juv HSP 27 Aug (JGI) to 28 Aug; only reports.

Red-necked Phalarope: 1-3 Jam Bay 5-18 Aug (mob); 2 offshore Rockaway Beach,

QUEE 14 Aug (TH); 2 Napeague Harbor, SUFF 22 Aug (AnW), during *Henri*; 3 LI Sound, off Mill Neck, NASS 29 Aug (BBo), very unusual location.

POMARINE JAEGER (R10): Hudson Canyon 13 Aug (TJ); 3 ca. 30 mi ne Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (TJ); regular offshore but very rarely documented from land in R10.

Parasitic Jaeger: Riis P 10 Jun (BF), unusual w of SUFF; 2 RMSP 12 Jun (SSM *et al.*); SPCP 12 Jun (D. Powell); Montauk near shore waters 31 Jul (V. Pellegrino); Napeague Beach, SUFF 7 Aug (B. Browne); 2 Napeague Harbor (AnW) and one Little Reed Pd, Montauk (J. Vinovsky) 22 Aug, during *Henri*; OPT 23 Aug (SSM *et al.*); only reports; *intro*.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: RP 24 Aug (DGo, ph.), dark juv; *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: scattered reps of 1-5 along s shores of Staten I and LI in all three months; max 5 at three sites: GKP 24 Jul (CB); Georgica Pd, SUFF 6 Aug; and Sagg 20 Aug (ACo).

Laughing Gull: 1015 CJC 12 Jun, many, ON; max 1000 Jam Bay 15 Aug (BF) and 1000 BPT 24 Aug (ABk).

Ring-billed Gull: 54 CJC 12 Jun; max 210 JBSP 7 Aug (E. Becher).

Herring Gull: 410 CJC 12 Jun, FL; max 1000 Middle Line I, NASS 24 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 41 CJC 12 Jun; max 185 RMSP 28 Aug (KF).

Glaucous Gull: immis NB 15-16 Jun and Westhampton Dunes Overlook CP SUFF 24 Jun.

Great Black-backed Gull: 1056 CJC 12 Jun, huge inc, ON; 650 BPT 5 Jul (DGo, P. Paul).

BRIDLED TERN: ca. 30 mi ne Hudson Canyon 7 Aug (JSh, AnW); Hudson Canyon 27 Aug (A. Davis *et al.*).

Least Tern: 419 total and max 275 at DP on CJC 12 Jun, NE.

Gull-billed Tern: many reps from traditional sites around Jam Bay and Jones In, NASS; max 13 Yellow Bar Hassock Jam Bay 8 Aug (J. Malbin, LDe); further east, singles RMSP 13 Jul (JMcG *et al.*) and Tiana Beach 8 Jun (E. Schwinn *et al.*).

Caspian Tern: max 31 Fort Washington P NEWY 23 Aug (JMcG), *intro*.

Black Tern: max 17 Shinn 28 Aug (JGI).

Roseate Tern: 11 CJC 12 Jun; max 500 Plum Gut, Orient SUFF 27 Jun (SSM, P JL).

Common Tern: 941 CJC 12 Jun, very good number, ON; max 3000 NB 5 Jun (SSM, P JL), and 6 Jun (P. Paul).

ARCTIC TERN (R10): ca. 13 individuals, all 1-12 Jun: 5 SY and 2 TY NB, 2 SY and one TY Fire I In, and single SY, TY, and adult MBI; *intro*.
Forster's Tern: 29 CJC 12 Jun; max 300 Dubos Pt, QUEE 27 Jul (CF).
Royal Tern: max 104 OIn 30 Aug (BBo).
Black Skimmer: 3 CJC 12 Jun; max 1000 NB 29 Aug (SSM *et al.*).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: no reps.
Common Loon: 4 CJC 12 Jun, max.
Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 15 CJC 12 Jun; max 258 MP 9 Jul (NBo).
WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: slope side of Block Canyon 17 Aug (TJ); shelf side of Block Canyon 20 Aug (TJ, ph.).
BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: ca. Hudson Canyon 13 Aug (TJ); 2 ca. Block Canyon 20 Aug (TJ).
LEACH'S STORM-PETREL(R10): 2 Hudson Canyon 12 Jun (J. Christopher Haney), only rep Jun-Jul; 6 reps of 1-4 Block Canyon area 7-20 Aug; max 4 NOAA survey SUFF 17 Aug (TJ).
BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 3 reps of singles near Block Canyon 20 Aug (TJ, ph.).
Cory's Shearwater: 16 CJC 12 Jun; 64 Wainscott Beach, SUFF 25 Jun (HMcG; max 78 MP 9 Jul (NBo); only a few counts of single digits beyond Montauk near-shore waters.
Sooty Shearwater: 17 CJC 12 Jun, max; during *Elsa*, 2 SPCP (A. Perkins, KK) and 5 MP (NBo); no reps beyond Montauk near-shore waters.
Great Shearwater: 1 CJC 12 Jun; max 49 MP 9 Jul (NBo); 12 RMSP 28 Aug (PJL, SSM); widely rep in small numbers offshore.
Manx Shearwater: 1 CJC 12 Jun; max 5 RMSP 28 Aug (SSM, PJL); no reps beyond Montauk near-shore waters.
Audubon's Shearwater: no reps Jun-Jul; widely rep offshore from 8 Aug, generally 1-4; max 18 ca. Hudson Canyon 30 Aug (DGo *et al.*).
WOOD STORK: Matrix Global Logistics P, RICH 31 Jul (ACi) to 9 Aug (JRG), salvaged, to AMNH; *intro*.
BROWN BOOBY: ad Upper New York Bay, KING 5 Aug (RZ); ad female came aboard NOAA vessel ca. 25 mi s Moriches In, SUFF 6 Aug (DGo, ph.); imm ca. 60 mi se Shinn 8 Aug (A. Black, DGo); CCP 17 Aug (KK); ad or older imm RP 23 Aug (DGo); *intro*.

Northern Gannet: 62 CJC 12 Jun; single site max 29 CCP 7 Jun (SSM, PJL).
Double-crested Cormorant: 421 CJC 12 Jun; max 500 Franklin D, Roosevelt Boardwalk and Beach RICH 9 Jul (ACi) and 500 Miller Field RICH 18 Jul (ACi).
Great Cormorant: max 4 Opt 29 Jun (JSep).
Brown Pelican: widely reported south shore of RICH and ocean shore of LI, arr CCP 30 Jun (JRan), ph.
American Bittern: scattered singles RICH (2), NASS (2), and SUFF (3), none repeated nor with any evidence of breeding; *intro*.
Least Bittern: reported only from two sites in RICH, Jam Bay and two sites of the North Fork, SUFF.
Great Blue Heron: 7 CJC 12 Jun; max 30 Jam Bay 18 Jul (T. Preston).
Great Egret: 110 CJC 12 Jun; high count; max single site 86 Jam Bay 21 Jul (CF).
Snowy Egret: 37 CJC 12 Jun; max 82 OIn 30 Aug (BBo).
Little Blue Heron: 1 CJC 12 Jun; max 9 Captree I SUFF 21 Jul (SSM, Pat Martin).
Tricolored Heron: 3 CJC 12 Jun; max 3 Captree Marshes SUFF 10 Jun & 21 Jul and Seaman's Neck P NASS 2 Aug.
Cattle Egret: no reports.
Green Heron: 9 CJC 12 Jun; max 7 Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area NASS 15 Aug (J. McManus).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 12 CJC 12 Jun; max 57 Jam Bay 15 Jul (CF).
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 15 Cammanns Pd P NASS 29 Aug (J. Landesberg).
Glossy Ibis: 30 CJC 12 Jun; 60 Jam Bay 18 Jul T. Preston).
WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 13 Jun (ABk, ph.) through 21 Jul (mob).
ROSEATE SPOONBILL: marshes s of Oceanside NASS 25 Jul (BFo, TH, SP); Cold Spring Harbor (L. F. Melliny, Russell Taylor) 25 Jul to 7 Aug. First records for LI, NASS, and SUFF; *intro*.
Black Vulture: still scarce e of extreme w parts of the Region, with reports of 1-2 from one site in QUEE and three sites in SUFF.
Turkey Vulture: 2 CJC 12 Jun; max 28 New Dorp RICH 27 Aug (H. Fischer); widely reported throughout Region, scarce only s NASS and sw SUFF.
Osprey: 158 CJC 12 Jun; astonishingly abundant.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Shelter I SUFF 6 Jun (T. Norris, ph.).

Northern Harrier: Lemon Creek Pier RICH 15 Jun (J. Fiorito); f Tobay 19 Jul (P. Maslow, J. Wilson-Pines), trad breeding site; 3 reps Captree Marshes SUFF 10 Jun to 17 Jul, a trad breeding site; molting f Brookhaven Hamlet SUFF 10 Jun (P. Reisfeld, ph.); 2 reps E. Moriches SUFF 26 Jun, 15 Jul (D. DeFeo); 3 reps Gardiner's I/Nap 2 Jun to 24 Jul, an area with past reps in Jun; migrants numerous from mid August; *intro*.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: FKP 4 Jun (ACi), very rare Jun-Jul; New Dorp RICH 13 Aug (H. Fischer); FBF 29 Aug (D. Paul, P. Paul).

Cooper's Hawk: 2 CJC 12 Jun; widely reported all counties.

Bald Eagle: one CJC 12 Jun; widely reported in all counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 Lake Panamoka, Wading River SUFF 11 Jun and later (L. Wollerstein, mob), nesting successfully again; OPT 5, 9 Jun (JSep, M. Stokowski); also juv 1 Aug (JRan); OPT is a trad site for migrating/wandering raptors, but this series of reps warrants follow-up next season.

Broad-winged Hawk: Montauk 5 Jun (TS); a few sb in extreme w of Region from 9 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: 7 CJC 12 Jun; 35 prs nesting in NYC (NYC Parks, *intro*).

Barn Owl: at least a few present at trad sites, sw LI.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 10 CJC 12 Jun.

Great Horned Owl: one CJC 12 Jun; at least 15 prs in Manhattan alone (RDeC); reported from all counties.

Barred Owl: CP 1 Jun through 5 Aug, unus site.

Belted Kingfisher: not reported CJC 12 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reps of single ads at Fort Greene P KING 4 Jun and two sites RICH 24 & 28 Jun, unus for date and location; two pairs fledged young again near Manorville SUFF (V. Pellegrino); ad Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 30 Jul (M. Wolffsohn), *intro*.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 67 CJC 12 Jun.

Downy Woodpecker: 39 CJC 12 Jun.

Hairy Woodpecker: 10 CJC 12 Jun.

Northern Flicker: 33 CJC 12 Jun.

Pileated Woodpecker: no reps beyond RICH.

American Kestrel: max 6 Gramercy NEWY 9-28 Jun.

Merlin: FT 15 Jul and Jam Bay 16 Jul, odd dates; otherwise arr 11 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: one CJC 12 Jun; reported from all counties in Region.

Monk Parakeet: 7 CJC 12 Jun; max 25 GwC 21 Aug and Hewlett NASS 30 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: 65 CJC 12 Jun.

Eastern Kingbird: 21 CJC 12 Jun; max 213 BPt (TH, RZ).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP & PP 1 Jun, last nb; sb arr PBP 31 Jul (R. Aracil, ph.), exceptionally early; 6 more from 9 Aug, all NYC.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 16 CJC 12 Jun; max 15 Hunters Garden, Eastport SUFF 16 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a few nb reps thru 6 Jun; sb arr 20 Aug IHP (N. O'Reilly); 7 nb reps from 16 Aug, including max 2 Wolf Pres SUFF 27 Aug (JRan).

Acadian Flycatcher: Clay Pit Pds SP, RICH 5 Jun (ACi) and MPB 9 Jun (HL), presumed nb migrants; Brooklyn Bride Walkway KING 18 Jun (A. Khalifa), indicative of date range of transients; three reps of birds singing in plausibly suitable breeding contexts: PP through Jun, Manhasset NASS 7 Jun (SP) and Welwyn Pres NASS 12 Jun; no reps of sb migrants.

Alder Flycatcher: nb MPB 4 Jun (HL) and Arshamomaque Pres SUFF 6 Jun (JSep); Brooklyn Bridge P KING 25-26 Aug (M. Yuan, audio rec; *et al.*), only sb report.

Willow Flycatcher: 53 CJC 12 Jun; single-site max 20 FKP 4 Jun (JRG).

Least Flycatcher: MPB 1, 4 Jun (HL); CP 31 Jul (A. Cunningham), early; max 2, 7 sites 15-24 Aug.

Eastern Phoebe: one CJC 12 Jun, widely but sparsely distributed as a breeder in Region, absent from many areas.

White-eyed Vireo: 15 CJC 12 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo: a pair nested successfully at Uplands Farm Sanctuary SUFF (L. F. Melliny, Russell. Taylor; JRan, ph.); 1-2 Peconic Ri, Calverton SUFF 6-18 Jun (PJJ, SSM, *et al.*); sb arr 29 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: 42 CJC 12 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: 74 CJC 12 Jun.

American Crow: 61 CJC 12 Jun; almost all reports in single digits, especially those with details indicating careful identification.

Fish Crow: 104 CJC 12 Jun; single-site counts 10-100 routine.

Common Raven: 9 CJC 12 Jun; widely reported from all 7 counties.

Horned Lark: 5 CJC 12 Jun; max 10 Gardiner's I SUFF 3 Aug (A. Farnsworth).

Purple Martin: 44 CJC 12 Jun; max 296 RMSP 5 Aug (SSM), large number.
Tree Swallow: 116 CJC 12 Jun; max 3000 Arshamomaque Pres SUFF 2 Aug (JRan).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 12 CJC 12 Jun.
Bank Swallow: one CJC 12 Jun, rare on south shore outside of migration; max 35 BPT 13 Aug (DAR, TH, RZ).
Cliff Swallow: potential breeders present again PBP and APEC; small numbers of migrants along outer coast from 19 Jul.
Barn Swallow: 292 CJC 12 Jun; max 575 BPT 13 Aug (DAR, TH, RZ).
Black-capped Chickadee: 60 CJC 12 Jun.
Tufted Titmouse: 31 CJC 12 Jun.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few widely scattered reps in Jun, perhaps not unusual after a big flight year; small numbers sb from 20 Aug.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 13 CJC 12 Jun.
Brown Creeper: PBP 9 Jun (N. Dawson), only rep.
House Wren: 43 CJC 12 Jun.
Sedge Wren: FKP 14 Jul through (S. Curley, JRG); up to six singing males.
Marsh Wren: 27 CJC 12 Jun.
Carolina Wren: 109 CJC 12 Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 26 CJC 12 Jun, lowest in 7 yrs, vs. avg 43.
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 s NASS & NYC except for two odd reps: GwC 5 Jun and CVP 20 Jun (A. Honeywood).
Veery: max 8 CRSP (K&SF), CJC.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: PP 1 Jun; Wading River SUFF (B. Bull, ph.), rarely rep in spring in SUFF.
Swainson's Thrush: many reps 1; last nb Brooklyn Bridge P KING 17 Jun (M. Yuan, ph.), exceptionally late; sb arr GwC 28 Aug; no reports east of NYC by season's end.
Hermit Thrush: territorial birds reliably reported at six sites in the SUFF Pine Barrens from Rocky Point to Hunters Garden; also Bull Path, Northwest Woods, East Hampton SUFF 8 Jun (M. Wolffsohn).
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: 349 CJC 12 Jun.
Gray Catbird: 440 CJC 12 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: 7 CJC 12 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: 105 CJC 12 Jun.
European Starling: 489 CJC 12 Jun.
Cedar Waxwing: 111 CJC 12 Jun.
House Sparrow: 291 CJC 12 Jun vs. 7-yr avg 208.
EVENING GROSBEAK (R10): male Fire Island Pines SUFF 11-12 Jun (J. Pettet, ph.), very unusual date.
House Finch: 35 CJC 12 Jun.
Purple Finch: Tompkins Square P NEWY 2 Jun (L. Beausoleil).
European Goldfinch: BPT 17 Jul (BFo); many reps, up to 4 at a time, PP, GwC, and environs.
American Goldfinch: 60 CJC 12 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 123 CJC 12 Jun.
Chipping Sparrow: 85 CJC 12 Jun.
Clay-colored Sparrow: MPB, 10 Jun (HL *et al.*), singing; very unusual date.
Field Sparrow: 5 CJC 12 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: no documented reports.
Lark Sparrow: arr CP 21 Aug (DAR, N. Brase), unusual loc; MPB 30 Aug (HL *et al.*); RMSP 24 Aug (SSM).
Savannah Sparrow: breeders numerous only at FKP; otherwise widely reported but very local, in small numbers.
Grasshopper Sparrow: territorial birds noted FKP, Calverton, Cutchogue, and Nap SUFF; max 30 FKP 4 Jun (JRG); none noted in w SUFF or Westhampton SUFF areas this season.
Seaside Sparrow: 96 CJC 12 Jun, 7 yr max.
Nelson's Sparrow: PlumbB 1 Jun & 2 MPB 4 Jun (HL), only reps.
Saltmarsh Sparrow: 122 CJC 12 Jun, 7 yr max.
Song Sparrow: 184 CJC 12 Jun; max 30 F. D. Roosevelt Boardwalk and Beach RICH 1 Jun; 30 Brookfield P RICH 19 Jun (CB) and 30 there 19 Jul (ACi).
Lincoln's Sparrow: last nb 2 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: potential breeders in BRON, RICH, and KING, but only 2 sites SUFF.
White-throated Sparrow: many reps through summer in NYC parks but only two Jun reps to the east; sb arrival discernible from 24 Aug, early.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Ocean Breeze P RICH 4 Jul (P. Brown), only rep of potential breeder; arr PBP 24 Aug (N. Dawson); North Fork Pres SUFF 25 Aug (JRan); Marine P 31 Aug (HL); only reps.
Yellow-headed Blackbird: f NB 25 Aug (KF).

Bobolink: Jun reps from Governors 1 NEWY, Manhasset NASS, and Caumsett SP SUFF; max 40 FKP 14 Aug (JRG).

Eastern Meadowlark: RMSP 29 Jun (SSM *et al.*, ph.), very unus date/site combination; potential breeders restricted to Manorville-Calverton area except for Peconic SUFF farm 14 Aug (N. Pearson).

Orchard Oriole: 7 CJC 12 Jun.

Baltimore Oriole: 71 CJC 12 Jun, 7 yr min; max 15 Crab Meadow Beach SUFF 25 Aug (BBo).

Red-winged Blackbird: 604 CJC 12 Jun.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 92 CJC 12 Jun.

Common Grackle: 311 CJC 12 Jun.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 30 CJC 12 Jun; max 61 Jam Bay 1 Aug (AnW).

Ovenbird: 10 CJC 12 Jun; max 16 Hunters Garden SUFF 13 Jun (MMcB), good count of breeders.

Worm-eating Warbler: Southold SUFF 18 Jun (MSch), very rare breeder in Region; FBF 3 Jul (M. Epsein, ph.) and 2 CP 4 Jul (J. Romano), probable molt-migrants; otherwise arr 1 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2-5 Southold SUFF 12-23 Jun, pr nested successfully; arr CP 20 Jul (S. Chang).

Northern Waterthrush: widely rep 1 Jun; later in Manhattan parks; arr RMSP 22 Aug; max 10 Jam Bay 7 Aug and 10 BPt 13 Aug.

Blue-winged Warbler: 10 CJC 12 Jun; widely rep 15 Aug and later, e.g., 24 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: very few reps of potential breeders, mostly from North Shore of LI and Montauk area; 2 CJC 12 Jun; max 12 Lily Pd P SUFF 29 Aug (PDom).

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 6 Jun and 11-24 Aug (mob), only reps.

Tennessee Warbler: RMSP 22 Jul (P JL, SSM), unus date; arr 15 Aug; about a dozen reports of singles 24-31 Aug, mostly from NYC parks.

Nashville Warbler: arr 25 Aug.

Connecticut Warbler: no reports.

Mourning Warbler: 8 reports thru 7 Jun, all NYC except HLSP 3 Jun (J. Gaglione *et al.*) and Ruth Oliva Pres, E. Marion SUFF 1 Jun (JRan).

Kentucky Warbler: APP 22 Jun (S. Walter), only rep.

Common Yellowthroat: 108 CJC 12 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: two reps of singing birds in suitable-looking habitat: Blydenburgh CP SUFF 8 Jun and Oakdale SUFF 12 Jun (BBo), on CJC; arr Jam Bay 4 Aug.

American Redstart: 8 CJC 12 Jun; max 22 GwC 29 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: max 3 CP 28 Aug (R. Serio).

Northern Parula: widely reported 1-3 Jun from migrant traps inappropriate for breeding, but also lingering/prospecting more widely than usual into mid-late June: CP to 18 Jun, CRSP 5 Jun, Peconic R, Calverton SUFF 18 Jun, Hither Hills SP SUFF 13 Jun, and males singing at three sites in and near Camp Hero, Montauk 15 Jun (2) and 20 Jun (1); all of the SUFF sites resemble breeding habitat; max 9 Sands Pt Pres NASS 31 Aug (B. Garriel *et al.*).
Magnolia Warbler: max 3 GwC 29 Aug (M. Silber).

Bay-breasted Warbler: last nb 3 Jun; arr CP 15 Aug, then four singles 24-29 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: last nb 5 Jun; arr CP 5 Aug, early; next earliest 15 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: 242 CJC 12 Jun, FY; 9 RMSP (P JL, SSM), first strong flight; max sb 28 BPt 13 Aug (DAR, TH, RZ).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: after a few Jun stragglers in the NYC parks, once again there were no reports suggestive of breeding and just one stray in Jul: PBP 4 Jul (D. Chernack); arr 13 Aug and widely rep 18 Aug and later; max 9 APP 15 Aug (P. Reisfeld).

Blackpoll Warbler: widely rep thru 5 Jun, with several more thru mid-month; nb max 4 CP 1 Jun and 4 GwC 1 Jun; no Aug reps.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: CP 1 Jun (MBK *et al.*); arr 14 Aug; max 4 CP 29 Aug.

Palm Warbler: arr CPP 31 Aug (A. Yuan).

Pine Warbler: 36 CJC 12 Jun; single-site max 30 Hunters Garden SUFF 29 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Ruth Oliva Pres, East Marion SUFF 23 Jun (M. Zovko), unus date; arr Jam Bay 15 Aug (g. recer), very early; WPP 27 Aug (ACi); 3 more reps 29-31 Aug.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1-2 BCA from spring through 19 Jun; pair 12 Jun on the CJC, the male singing and the female feeding a juv Brown-headed Cowbird; only reps.

Prairie Warbler: 9 CJC 12 Jun; single-site max 18 West Meadow Wetlands Res, Brookhaven SUFF 2 Jun (PDom).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 4 reps NYC thru 7 Jun; male singing persistently Astoria P QUEE 17 Jun (TH), unus date; arr 20 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last nb 9 Jun, late; arr 11 Aug; max 10 CP 15 Aug (TH, J. Spindel, RZ).

Wilson's Warbler: last nb 6 Jun; arr 14; all singles.

Summer Tanager: CP 17 Jun (I. Lara); GwC 20 Aug (H. Nove, ph.); only reps.

Scarlet Tanager: 3 CJC 12 Jun; no notable counts thru end of Aug; much reduced as a breeder in the Region.

Northern Cardinal: 132 CJC 12 Jun, vs. 7-yr avg 121.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ca. 18 possible breeding sites, mostly on or near the North Shore of QUEE, NASS, and SUFF; also CRSP 5 & 17 Jun (V. Glasser) and two sites near North Sea, Southampton (F. Durso); sb migr arr several sites 7 Aug, widespread 24-25 Aug and later.

Blue Grosbeak: BPt 1 Jun (ABk); MPB 13 Jun (HL); breeders found only at several RICH sites and just three sites in SUFF breeding areas; fewer than last year.

Indigo Bunting: 2 CJC 12 Jun; breeders concentrated in RICH and n of moraine on LI; BPt 13 Aug (DAR, TH, RZ), otherwise little evidence of sb migration by end of period.

Dickcissel: about 15 reps, more than usual: five from s shore of RICH, two from coastal Brooklyn; two from BPt on unusually early dates, 28 Jul (DGo) and 31 Jul (SSi); max 4 Crab Meadow Beach SUFF 24 Aug (BBo, TS).



Track map of Hurricane *Henri* of the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season. The points show the location of the storm at 6-hour intervals, from 15-24 August 2021. FleurDeOdile, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

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

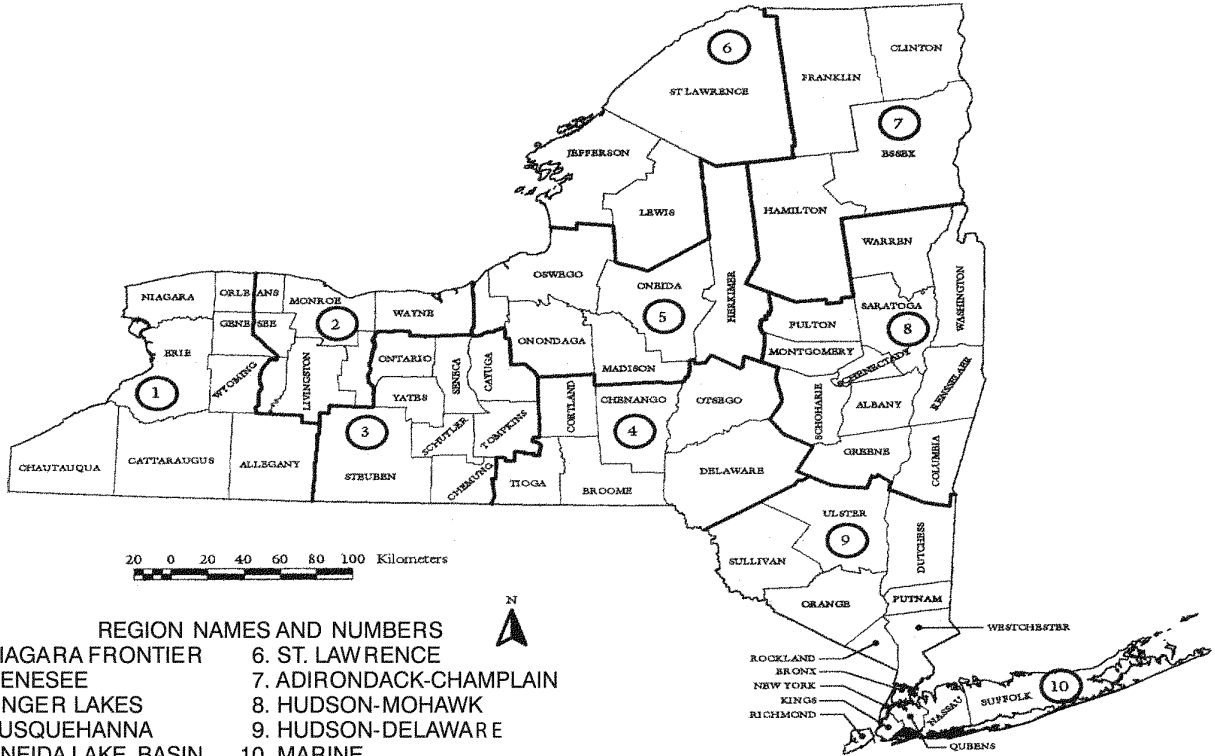
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

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

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.



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