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Front Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Tiffitt Nature Preserve, *Erie*, 29 Jun 2018, © Sue Barth.

Back Cover: Eastern Kingbird, Birdsong Parklands, *Erie*, 11 Jul 2018, © Sue Barth.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2014

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) evaluated 123 submissions involving 69 occurrences of New York State review species from 2014, including 30 submissions involving four occurrences of potential first State records. Additionally, the Committee evaluated 4 submissions involving four occurrences of New York State review species from previous years. Reports were received from across the state, with 25 of the 62 counties represented plus the pelagic zone. The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high and naturally benefits the value of the archive. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to eBird, listservs, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and even *The Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily passed along to NYSARC. Doing so, therefore, remains the responsibility of the observer(s). The growing use of the Internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate rarities found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 90 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs, video and audio recordings, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, several *Kingbird* Regional Editors have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>

Here, a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to NYSARC

secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to Gary:

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HIGHLIGHTS

It was another remarkable year for vagrants in New York State. A mind-boggling four species were added to the official checklist – Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*), Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*), Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*), and Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*). Nearly as amazing, there were four species that appeared for just the second time – Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Common Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*), Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), and only a few days after the first State record, Kirtland's Warbler. Throw in the three seabirds that turned up far inland and you would have to call 2014 a truly phenomenal year for birds in New York. And this does not even include the 56 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma castro*) that were found on a single pelagic trip!

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2014 annual meeting was held via Skype on 3 Mar 2018, less than six months after the 2013 annual meeting. Note that the meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. For example, at the 2014 annual meeting we mainly reviewed reports of birds seen in 2014 along with a few reports from earlier years. As many readers are aware, Skype allows two or more people to meet remotely through the use of their computers. Although there were a few technical difficulties, the consensus from the eight Committee members was that the Skype meeting was a great success. With Committee members at both ends of the state, physical meetings are much more difficult for everyone involved. The use of Skype should allow the Committee to meet more frequently and to make headway on the review backlog. In the 2014 annual meeting the Committee discussed and completed the voting for about two dozen reports that were not finalized prior to the meeting. Review of eBird reports was discussed again. NYSARC has already started using eBird to help establish the full date range of occurrence of individual rarities that have been accepted by the Committee. In addition at times we have used eBird reports to supplement formal submissions to NYSARC, as with better or additional photographs, for

example. With the vastly increased use of eBird, it has become evident that NYSARC will need to more fully incorporate eBird into the review process in order to maintain a complete picture of the status of review species in the state. A few other state committees have incorporated review of eBird records, and NYSARC is hoping to leverage these efforts to bring more eBird records into the Committee's review process. After the extensive changes to the review list agreed upon in the 2013 annual meeting, the Committee decided that further changes were not necessary at this time. The terms of Andy Guthrie, Doug Gochfeld, and Derek Rogers were noted as ending at the end of 2018. Potential new Committee members were discussed. Further actions concerning the Committee make-up were tabled pending email discussion in the ensuing weeks and will be detailed in the 2015 annual report.

2014 Reports Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

2014-21-A/C Six, Morningside Park, **Sullivan**, 24 Jun (John H. Haas, Renee Davis, Kenneth M. McDermott, ph J. Haas, Mary Collier)

Six unusual-looking ducks were discovered by Carl Lindsley at Morningside Park on 24 Jun. He brought Renee Davis to see them, and she immediately recognized them as Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Others were alerted and got to see and photograph these birds, which were not found after this day. Records of this southern species in the East have exploded in recent years. This is the eighth accepted record in New York from 2010 through 2014.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2014-3-A/B One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 16, 27 Jan (Arie Gilbert, Eileen Schwinn, ph A. Gilbert, E. Schwinn). eBird 16 Jan-19 Mar

2014-45-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 9 Nov (Derek Rogers, ph D. Rogers)

2014-71-A Two, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 1-2 Mar (Derek Rogers, ph D. Rogers)

The Riverhead area of eastern Long Island has garnered the most records of this relatively recent addition to New York's avifauna. The first bird found there in 2014 was discovered in January by Arie Gilbert and his companions, who quickly posted the sighting, allowing many others to see it that day and into March. On 1 and 2 Mar, Derek Rogers found two Pink-footed Geese at the Riverhead fields, one assumed to be the bird found by Gilbert and the other a new arrival. One bird was subsequently reported to eBird in the area as late as 19 Mar, though it is not possible to tell whether this was the long-staying bird or the newer arrival. On 9 Nov, Rogers found the first fall/winter migrant of 2014 at the Riverhead fields. Despite getting the word out immediately, apparently he was the only observer. Rogers was excited to have the opportunity to hear the bird call on several occasions.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2014-54-A One, Smithtown, **Suffolk**, 29 Nov (Derek Rogers, ph D. Rogers)

Initially reported earlier in the day by David La Magna, this Barnacle Goose was nicely documented by Derek Rogers. It was not reported in the area after this day. Due to numerous records in recent years, it was decided at the September 2017 NYSARC meeting that reports of this species in downstate areas will no longer be reviewed. Documentation for upstate occurrences is still encouraged.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

2014-2-A One, Buffalo, **Erie**, 9 Jan (William Watson)

2014-12-A/B One, Buffalo, **Erie**, 6 Apr (William Watson, James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki, Rick Bacher)

2014-55-A One, Buffalo, **Erie**, 23 Nov (William Watson, ph W. Watson). eBird 23-25 Nov

Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki documented three sightings of female/immature male Tufted Ducks at the headwaters of the Niagara River in Buffalo during 2014. The January and November sightings involved a bird with a noticeable tuft, believed by some to be the same bird seen in the area during 2012 and 2013. The April bird had a negligible tuft and is considered likely to be a different individual. The November discovery was made by Alec Humann.

Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*)

2014-8-A/H One, Point Peninsula, **Jefferson**, 25-27 Apr (Kevin McGann, Derek H. Rogers, Kimberly Sucey, Arie Gilbert, Mark Magistro Jr., William Watson, Bernie Carr, Jeff Bolsinger, ph Alex Lamoreaux, D. Rogers, K. Sucey, A. Gilbert, M. Magistro Jr., J. Bolsinger)

This Willow Ptarmigan in Jefferson County was accepted as the first record for New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2014-67-A One, Barker Bicentennial Park, **Niagara**, 18 Apr (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)

While scoping and counting Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) well out on Lake Ontario, Willie D'Anna came across this Western Grebe. He watched the bird for two hours until two other birders arrived, and he was able to obtain some diagnostic digiscoped images. It was only seen by these three birders on the one day.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2014-20-A/C One, Chelsea Waterside Park and Piers, Manhattan, **New York**, 22 Jun, 3 Jul (David J. Ringer, Patrick Baglee, Angus Wilson, ph D. Ringer, P. Baglee). eBird 4 Jul-24 Jul, 9 Aug, 16, 28 Nov, 12, 27 Dec

2014-59-A One, Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, **Niagara**, 29 Aug (Betsy Potter)

While birding at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park next to Wilson Harbor, Betsy Potter heard the song of the Eurasian Collared-Dove, a species she recognized from her visits to Florida. She was able to track the bird down and get a brief view of it before it flew off. Although there were no more sightings here, a bird was photographed at a feeding station a little over a mile from there the following December, perhaps suggesting that this individual stayed in the general area. Manhattan's first-ever Eurasian Collared-Dove was discovered by David Ringer and documented by Ringer, Patrick Baglee, and Angus Wilson. The bird apparently stayed in the area for months, as there are eBird reports from the area up until 27 Dec 2014, albeit with long gaps of up to two plus months between sightings. Interestingly, there are two validated eBird reports from Inwood Hill Park in northern Manhattan from 16 Jul and 3 Sep, which, based upon the descriptions of missing tail feathers, would be a different individual.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

2014-61-A One, Jones Beach, **Nassau**, 11, 16, 29 Nov (Arie Gilbert, ph A. Gilbert). eBird 2 Nov-8 Dec

Initially discovered by Sam Janazzo at Jones Beach State Park West End, this Common Ground-Dove was documented by Arie Gilbert. The many eBird reports indicated that the bird stayed for over a month, with the last sighting on 8 Dec. The bird was missing its tail feathers, which may have induced it to stay longer than it might have otherwise. That said, New York's first Common Ground-Dove in 2010 also stayed a lengthy three weeks. This was only the second record for the state, with the first appearing at nearby Captree State Park (Wilson *et al.* 2012).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2014-50-A/B One, Westhampton Beach, **Suffolk**, 16 Nov (David Klauber, Pat Palladino, ph Derek Rogers)

2014-58-A One, Blasdell, **Erie**, 25 Aug (Mike Zebehazy, ph Dennis Russell)

2014-68-A One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 10 Jun (Willie D'Anna, ph Sue Barth)

White-winged Dove has a history of showing up on Long Island, likely dispersants from the burgeoning population in the southeastern United States. In 2014 two Long Island records were documented for NYSARC. The first was at Cupsogue County Park on 10 Jun, discovered by Sue Barth, Celeste Morien, and Willie D'Anna, and the second was at Westhampton Beach on 16 Nov, found by David Klauber and Bobby Rosetti. Both were one-day-only sightings. There are two other Long Island records in 2014 in eBird, one at Montauk and one at Fort Tilden, both supported by clear photographs. Another White-winged Dove, this one just south of Buffalo, was documented for NYSARC by Michael Zebehazy on behalf of the observer/photographer, Dennis Russell.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2014-38-A One, Smyrna, **Chenango**, 30 Sep (Robert P. Yunick)

Master bander, Robert Yunick, was invited to Gertrude Federici's residence to capture and band this bird. Yunick identified the bird from measurements as a hatch-year female Rufous Hummingbird. According to the homeowner the bird was present from 25 Sep to 1 Oct.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

2014-70-A One, Peru, **Clinton**, 17 Aug (William Krueger, ph W. Krueger)

This Purple Gallinule specimen was found by Elizabeth Cummings along State Route 9 in Clinton County and subsequently collected by Jacob Straub and placed into the SUNY Plattsburgh collection. The record was documented with a report and a photo by Bill Kreuger. While the majority of records are from late summer and fall, as is this one, they span over most of the year, including the winter months (DiCostanzo 1998). Unfortunately, a relatively high proportion of records of this species involve specimens.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2014-16-A One, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 5, 10 May (Catherine Barron). eBird 4-11 May

Found by Richard Veit on 4 May, this Black-necked Stilt on Staten Island was observed and documented by Catherine Barron on 5 and 10 May. There are also multiple eBird reports, including some with diagnostic photos.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

2014-9-A One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 29 Apr (Justin LeClaire, ph J. LeClaire). eBird 6 May

This bird was discovered by Justin LeClaire as he was monitoring Piping Plovers (*C. melodus*) as part of a team from Virginia Tech. LeClaire observed this or another bird again on 6 May (eBird 2018).

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

2014-30-A/C One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 24 Aug (John Gluth, Arie Gilbert, Douglas J. Futuyma, ph J. Gluth, D. Futuyma)

This one-day wonder was found by Andrew Baksh on the Moriches Inlet mud flats off of Cupsogue County Park. A difficult identification, with Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*) being very similar, this remarkable record is only the second for New York, with the first at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 13 Sep 2005. The Moriches Inlet bird was an adult male.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

2014-27-A/B One, Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, **Niagara**, 28 Jul (William Watson, Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna, Sue Barth)

Reports of Ruff have been on the uptick in recent years, with the 2014 record marking the ninth accepted by the Committee in only three years. This year's record was discovered by Alec Humann at Tonawanda WMA in Niagara County. Humann got the word out quickly, allowing several birders to see it before it disappeared the following day. This bird was either a female or a faeder-type male. Faeder males are believed to permanently mimic the plumage of females in order to surreptitiously steal matings on the lek when a female crouches to solicit copulation (Jukema and Piersma 2006). Distinguishing faeder males from females by plumage alone may not be possible in the field. In the hand a faeder male may be told by its wing length, which is intermediate between those of displaying males and females (Karlionova *et al.* 2007).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2014-37-A One, Fort Niagara State Park, **Niagara**, 24 Aug (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

This juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger was seen by Jim Pawlicki as it was flying by over a half-mile out on Lake Ontario. Surprisingly, the jaeger turned in toward shore and came within 100 yards of Pawlicki, allowing him to snap some beautiful diagnostic images. Long-tailed Jaeger has been shown to be a regular migrant on Lake Ontario from annual observations at the west end of the lake in Hamilton, Ontario. In more recent years, multiple records have been captured at the southeastern corner of the lake from Derby Hill and from Hamlin Beach State Park near Rochester. Identifying distant jaegers over the lake remains challenging, however, and observers are urged to carefully consider the more likely and very similar Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*) before claiming a record of this species. Naturally, photographs can be of immense value in helping to confirm a Long-tailed Jaeger.

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

2014-28-A One, Fort Ann, **Washington**, 27 May (Jeremy J. Kirchman, ph J. Kirchman)

A worker on the farm of Alex Parent in Fort Ann, Washington County, found this adult female Atlantic Puffin alive in the yard by the homestead. The DEC picked the bird up and took it to a bird rehabilitation center, but, unfortunately, it did not survive the day. The pathology report concluded that the bird likely died of starvation. The specimen is now at the New York State Museum (NYSM 16642). The Committee is indebted to the Museum's Curator of Birds, Jeremy Kirchman, for these details as well as the report with photos that documented the record. There is one other record of this species occurring inland in New York. That record concerned a bird that was found alive in a weakened condition near Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., on 27 Sep 1963 but which died the following day (Bull 1974). The specimen was mounted and placed in the collection of the State University of New York at New Paltz, Ulster Co. While noting this record, Bull placed doubts on its legitimacy by citing the inland locality and the "remarkably

early date” as raising the possibility that it was a captive bird (Bull 1974). This does not seem very likely, however. In support of the likelihood that this was a legitimate vagrant are North Carolina’s first state record, found on a pelagic trip on 14 Aug 1993, and a specimen record from Florida found on 1 Oct 1998 (eBird 2018, Pranty 1999). There are other Aug and Sep reports of this species from off the coast of Massachusetts (eBird 2018). Perhaps Bull’s concerns influenced the authors and editors of Bull’s Birds of New York State, who also suggested that it could have been a captive bird (Lolya 1998).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*)

2014-64-A One, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 26 Jan (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh). eBird 24-26 Jan

This adult Mew Gull was found on 24 Jan by Shane Blodgett. It was documented for NYSARC by Andrew Baksh, who included three helpful photos. As is typical of coastal records of this species, it belonged to the nominate European race, *L. c. canus*, also known as Common Gull and recognized by some authorities (e.g. Sibley 1996) as a separate species from the North American race, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2014-24-A One, Somerset Lake, **Delaware**, 27 Jun (Alan Ryff)

From her dock on Somerset Lake in Delaware County, Margaret Jewitt spotted a tern flying over the water. Any kind of gull or tern was unusual there, so she asked Alan Ryff to come see the bird. Ryff immediately recognized the bird as a small *Sterna* tern, likely a Common (*S. hirundo*) or Forster’s (*S. forsteri*), species that he was very familiar with from 55 years of birding in the Great Lakes area. Since the bird was in poor light, the two observers drove to a different vantage point on the lake, where they obtained excellent close views in binoculars and spotting scope as the bird flew about and foraged. After several minutes of study, the bird gained elevation and appeared to depart the lake. Ryff’s thorough, detailed description described an adult Arctic Tern in alternate plumage and convincingly ruled out other possibilities. Although now a regular early summer migrant to the outer beaches of Long Island, inland reports of Arctic Tern in New York are exceptionally rare, with only four prior reports from there that have been reviewed and accepted by NYSARC.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

2014-32-A One, Sagaponack, **Suffolk**, 2 Sep (Arie Gilbert, Philip Uruburu, ph A. Gilbert)

This basic plumaged adult Sandwich Tern was found by Arie Gilbert, with Phil Uruburu. This extends the streak of consecutive years with an acceptable record of this species in the state to eight.

White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

2014-51-A One, Hudson Canyon, **Pelagic (Suffolk)**, 12 Aug (Sean Sime, ph S. Sime)

Continuing the trend of late summer sightings in recent years, this White-faced Storm-Petrel was found during a See Life Paulagics trip, organized by Paul Guris. The documentation, provided by Sean Sime, included two diagnostic photos.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

2014-52-A Fifty-six, Hudson Canyon, **Pelagic (Suffolk)**, 12 Aug (Sean Sime, ph S. Sime)

With only two prior records accepted by NYSARC, few people were expecting 56 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels to be found in New York waters on a single pelagic trip. This remarkable number was seen on a See Life Paulagics trip and is another testament to the fine work that “pelagic pioneers” are doing in the exploration of New York’s pelagic zone. Sean Sime documented these birds and included several photos. Although he only personally saw “roughly 40,” the official trip total was 56. This number is supported by eBird reports from three locations with totals of 52, two, and two individuals.

Fea’s Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*)

2014-48-A/B One, Coordinates of 39.41 degrees North, 72.16667 West, **Pelagic (Suffolk)**, 12 Aug (Doug Gochfeld, Sean Sime, ph D. Gochfeld, S. Sime)

This Fea’s Petrel, discovered on an organized pelagic trip, was the first fully accepted record in New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account.

Great Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)

2014-49-A One, DeRuyter Reservoir, **Madison**, 18 Jul (Bill Purcell, ph B. Purcell)

This is a remarkable record of a highly pelagic species found in the woods alongside a tributary of the DeRuyter Reservoir in Madison County. The finder, Gian Dodici, photographed the bird and then picked it up and released it on the nearby reservoir. It was seen by numerous birders that day but did not appear to be in good health and was captured by a rehabilitator. Unfortunately, it died the following day. The documentation, provided by Bill Purcell, included a close photo of the shearwater on the water. Additional details of this event, including other inland records in and around New York, are discussed by Perry and Wheeler (2014). There are only two prior inland records of Great Shearwater in the state (Askildsen 1998).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

2014-31-A One, Fort Tilden, **Queens**, 29 Aug (Lukas Musher, ph L. Musher)

2014-39-A One, Crown Point State Historic Site, **Essex**, 23 Aug (Gary Chapin, ph G. Chapin). eBird 23-26 Aug and 2 Sep. Note: the 2 Sep record was from

Noblewood Park, further north in Essex County.

The Brown Booby seen at a great distance from Fort Tilden was documented by Lukas Musher, who watched the bird with Corey Finger. Musher is an experienced seabird watcher, having gained experience at Southeast Farallon Island off California, as well as at several places on the Atlantic Ocean. Despite the great distance, estimated at four to seven kilometers (2.5-4 miles), Musher recognized the species almost immediately as being different from a Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*), the expected sulid on the east coast, by its flight style. The dark head and neck, sharply demarcated from the clean white belly, and the lack of white on the uppertail coverts helped to firmly rule out a gannet. In 2013, New York had its first inland record of Brown Booby when one showed up on Lake Erie at the source of the Niagara River in Buffalo (Pawlicki 2014). That individual was part of a larger incursion of the species up the East coast and in the Southwest. Less than one year later, New York's second inland occurrence was found by Gary Chapin on Lake Champlain. Chapin's documentation included photographs of the Booby, both on the ground and in flight.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

2014-18-A/B One, Town of Wilson, **Niagara**, 24-25 May (William Watson, Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna). eBird 24-30 May

While birding with Betsy Potter and Sue Barth, Willie D'Anna found this Tricolored Heron foraging from some docks and a large willow tree on the west side of Twelve Mile Creek, close to where it empties into Lake Ontario. Numerous birders were able to see this locally rare heron during its one-week stay.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2014-23-A/B One, Captree Island, **Suffolk**, 22 May & 11 Jun (Derek H. Rogers, Willie D'Anna, ph D. Rogers, Sue Barth). eBird 16 May-13 Jun

This bird was found by Ken Feustel on 16 May and seen by many over the course of its nearly four-week stay. It was often easy to pick out among the Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) it associated with by its non-breeding plumage. Birders could then look for the red iris and facial skin to confirm the identification.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

2014-6-A One, North Bellmore, **Nassau**, 14 Apr (Robert Proniewych)

2014-7-A One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 14 Apr (Jennifer Kepler, ph J. Kepler)

2014-15-A One, Geneva, **Ontario**, 15 May (Charles Rouse)

The three records of Swallow-tailed Kite in 2014 make a total of eight in just three years that have been accepted by NYSARC. The birds in North Bellmore and Prospect Park were seen on the same day and around the same time, precluding the possibility of there being just one individual involved. Both were naked-eye observations, with the Prospect Park bird photographed by the

observer, Jennifer Kepler. Though binoculars were not used in either observation, this species is so distinctive that the important distinguishing features were still well seen and noted by the observers. Much rarer than the downstate sightings, Charlie Rouse observed a Swallow-tailed Kite in Ontario County in central New York State. Like the others, Rouse had no binoculars, but he was able to follow the Kite in his car and to stop and get out to observe it flying overhead multiple times.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2014-13-A One, Greenwood Cemetery, **Kings**, 10 May (Jennifer Kepler, ph J. Kepler). eBird 11 May

2014-14-A Two, Town of Root, **Montgomery**, 13 May (Chris Keefer, ph C. Keefer)

2014-25-A One, New York Botanical Garden, **Bronx**, 11 July (James C. Dawe)

2014-69-A One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 17 May (Doug Gochfeld, ph D. Gochfeld)

Records of Mississippi Kite continue to accrue in New York, with a good proportion coming from the New York City metro area. On 10 May, Jennifer Kepler photographed one over Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. On 17 May, Doug Gochfeld photographed an apparent second year bird over Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. On 11 July, a Michigan birder saw an apparent adult over the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. The latter sighting was by a very experienced birder who was at the gardens to study the plants and thus, did not have binoculars with him. However, his lengthy study and description were compelling to the Committee. Finally, two birds were photographed 13 May while perched a few miles from the only confirmed successful breeding site in the state, in Montgomery County. One bird was observed bringing food to the other, a behavior typical of pair-bonding between mates. Unfortunately, the birds were apparently not found afterward, as there are no validated eBird reports and no reports in *The Kingbird*.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2014-65-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 10 Apr (Willie D'Anna)

This dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen migrating with Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) at the venerable Braddock Bay hawk-watch. There was a heavy flight of raptors and vultures on this day, with many observers present to witness the spectacle. Long-time hawk-watcher Frank Nicoletti, who was visiting the site where he had been the official counter many years ago, spotted and identified the Swainson's, whereupon the assembled throng of birders oohed and aahed as it passed by overhead.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2014-4-A One, Town of Orleans, **Jefferson**, 3 Feb (Ed Sykes, ph E. Sykes)

This submission, from Ed Sykes, included a diagnostic photo of a Great Gray

Owl on a branch right next to the trunk of a deciduous tree. Sykes was the only observer, and the bird was never seen again (Jeff Bolsinger, pers. comm.).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2014-5-A One, Fort Edward, **Washington**, 6 Apr (Robert P. Yunick, ph Gordon Ellmers)

Robert Yunick was trapping and banding raptors with Alison Van Keuren when Van Keuren noticed a large raptor perched on a snag in a nearby field. Yunick took a brief look at the bird and suspected it could be a Gyr Falcon, but he had to finish processing the American Kestrel (*F. sparverius*) in his trap before he could study it further. Around this time Gordie Ellmers stopped to talk with the two men and was told of the possible Gyr. He went down the road a short ways and began taking photographs, some of which accompany Yunick's NYSARC submission. Eventually, Yunick was able to study the bird and confirm his initial impression, and the word was quickly spread to other birders. From the photographs, this appears to be a rather pale Gyr Falcon of intermediate morph-type. It should be noted that Gyr Falcons do not really show three discrete plumages of dark, gray, and white but rather a continuum from dark to light, such that some birds are difficult to place in one or the other category. The bird appeared to be a juvenile, based on the blue ceres.

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)

2014-62-A/N One, Manhattan, **New York**, 23 Dec-9 Jan 2015 (Zack Winestine, Joanne Pawlowski, Richard Guthrie, Angus Wilson, Phil Uruburu, Ardith Bondi, Jamie Koufnan, Klemens Gasser, Thomas W. Burke, Doug Gochfeld, Shawn Billerman, Arie Gilbert, ph Z. Winestine, R. Guthrie, P. Uruburu, A. Bondi, J. Koufnan, Lloyd Spitalnik, Gail Benson, D. Gochfeld, S. Billerman, A. Gilbert, Video Cathy Weiner, Pat Dubren, D. Gochfeld, Sound Recording K. Gasser)

This record was accepted as the first for New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account.

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

2014-47-A/G One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 15, 22-25, 28, 30 Nov, 28 Dec 2014, 1, 2 Jan 2015 (Kai Sheffield, Sean Sime, Richard Guthrie, Arie Gilbert, Thomas W. Burke, Shawn Billerman, Willie D'Anna, ph K. Sheffield, S. Sime, A. Gilbert, Gail Benson, Lloyd Spitalnik, David Speiser, S. Billerman, W. D'Anna). eBird 27, 29 Nov, 1, 4-7, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 23, 27, 30, 31 Dec 2014, 4, 5 Jan 2015

Representing only the second record for New York State, this Cassin's Kingbird was found by Kai Sheffield on 15 Nov. Although birders looked for it during the next few days, it was not until a week later that it was seen again in the same spot it had been observed originally. During the course of its more than seven week stay, the kingbird would disappear for periods of time but always showed

up again at the same spot, the community garden at Floyd Bennett Field. The first record for New York was a bird found at Montauk on 13 Oct 2007 (Wilson *et al.* 2009).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

2014-63-A One, Sands Point, **Nassau**, 19 Oct (Glenn Quinn, ph G. Quinn)

While birding at Sands Point on Long Island Sound, Glenn Quinn came across this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, which he was able to photograph as the bird foraged. It appears to have been an adult with a relatively long tail and obvious pink underwing coverts. Unfortunately, the bird was not seen by anyone else. This record marks the fourteenth accepted in New York State in the previous 18 years.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2014-35-A One, Hamlin, **Monroe**, 5 Sep (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony)

2014-60-A One, Rockaway Community Park, **Queens**, 5 Oct (Arie Gilbert, ph A. Gilbert)

Andy Guthrie found the Say's Phoebe in Monroe County in the early evening, down the road from his home, and got the word out immediately. This enabled a handful of birders to see it before sunset. The record was documented for NYSARC by Dominic Sherony and appears to be the earliest fall record in the state. The Say's Phoebe at Rockaway Community Park was found by Corey Finger and documented by Arie Gilbert. With both of these records, the bird was only seen the one day.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

2014-34-A/C One, Town of Henderson, **Jefferson**, 21-22 Sep (Kevin McGann, Tony Shrimpton, Bill Purcell, ph K. McGann, T. Shrimpton, B. Purcell)

2014-40-A/B One, Plumb Beach Park, **Kings**, 2, 4 Oct (Philip Uruburu, Arie Gilbert, ph A. Gilbert). eBird 1-8 Oct

The Jefferson County Northern Wheatear was found by Tony Shrimpton, who immediately alerted other birders. The bird was seen into the following day before presumably departing. Shane Blodgett found the Plumb Beach Wheatear, and the bird stayed around for several days, allowing it to be seen and documented by Phil Uruburu and Arie Gilbert. The late September-early October time frame is the peak period for this species to appear in New York, and these two records fit nicely into that pattern.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2014-56-A One, Town of Nelson, **Madison**, 3 Dec (Bill Purcell, ph B. Purcell). eBird 22, 29 Nov-4 Dec, 7 Dec

Brian White first noticed this bird outside a window in his yard. Birders were able to see the Solitaire on White's property up until 7 Dec. Bill Purcell documented the bird for NYSARC.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

2014-29-A/E One, Town of Stanford, **Dutchess**, 22-23 Aug (Frank Margiotta, Liz Martens, Carena Pooth, Barbara Mansell, Barbara Butler, ph C. Pooth, B. Mansell)

While driving, Barbara Mansell received a call on her cell phone. She pulled over to answer it, and, while on the phone, she noticed a Lark Sparrow on a nearby power line! Other birders were alerted and were able to see the bird that day and the next. Mansell and four others submitted documentation to NYSARC. Lark Sparrow is a rare but regular fall visitor to Long Island. Although NYSARC does not request documentation for downstate reports, documentation for upstate sightings such as this are strongly encouraged.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)

2014-42-A/C One, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, **Genesee**, 22 Oct (William Watson, Kurt A. Fox, James Pawlicki, ph W. Watson, J. Pawlicki)

While successfully searching for Nelson's Sparrows (*A. nelsoni*) at Iroquois NWR, Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell also discovered this LeConte's Sparrow. Pawlicki was able to obtain diagnostic photos and show the bird to others, including Bill Watson and Kurt Fox, who also documented the sighting. Almost all of the non-coastal records of LeConte's Sparrow in New York have occurred in April, May, and October—thus, this record fits neatly into that pattern.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2014-1-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 7 Jan (Eileen Schwinn). eBird 2 Feb

2014-10-A One, Blasdell, **Erie**, 24 Apr (William Watson)

Ken and Sue Feustel found the likely female Yellow-headed Blackbird at Riverhead on 7 Jan, and Eileen Schwinn was one of a few birders who also got to see it that day. The adult male in Blasdell was reported to the local Audubon chapter and confirmed by Tom Kerr. Bill Watson and a few others were able to see the bird that day, but it was not reported afterwards. Due to an increase in reports of this species, both downstate and upstate, NYSARC will no longer review documentation for this species, effective in 2018.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

2014-66-A One, Town of Porter, **Niagara**, 13 Apr (Willie D'Anna)

Brewer's Blackbird formerly occurred in New York State much more frequently, but after the mid 90s, reports have dropped off considerably. Pastures are the most likely habitat to find this species in, and Willie D'Anna was checking one of the relatively few remaining sites in Niagara County when he came across this individual with a mixed flock of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Unfortunately, the bird was not in a good position to be digiscoped and before long, the flock took flight. D'Anna and Betsy Potter

spent several minutes trying to relocate the Brewer's Blackbird without success. Although the discovery was put out on local listservs and text alerts, the bird was not seen again.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

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

2014-43-A One, Fort Drum, **Jefferson**, 4-18 Jun (Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, ph J. Bolsinger)

The Hamlin Beach record was accepted as the first for New York State. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a full account. Appearing just three days after the bird at Hamlin Beach, the Kirtland's Warbler at Fort Drum acted as though it was on breeding territory (Bolsinger 2014). This singing male lingered for two weeks. Until a relatively short time ago, this formerly endangered species had never been found nesting outside of Michigan. In recent years, Kirtland's Warbler has increased in population rather dramatically, nesting now in Wisconsin and southeastern Ontario (Bocetti *et al.* 2014), and the possibility of future occurrences in New York would seem to be very good. As Bolsinger states in his article, although it may seem unlikely, future breeding in New York State is possible.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

2014-53-A One, Heckscher State Park, **Suffolk**, 8 Oct (Patricia Lindsay)

What Pat Lindsay had planned as a brief check of Heckscher State Park before work turned into a few moments of high excitement when she found a Black-headed Grosbeak. Although she was alone and did not have a camera, she studied the bird as well as she could, carefully noting as much as possible. Being very familiar with the call of the similar Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*P. ludovicianus*) enabled her to immediately cue in on this bird as a possible Black-headed Grosbeak. Her thorough study of the bird in a relatively short period of time and subsequent research afterward convinced her and the Committee that this was an adult female/immature Black-headed Grosbeak. Unfortunately for those who searched afterwards, it could not be relocated. Unlike several other western passerines that stray to the coast with some regularity (*e.g.* Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Black-headed Grosbeak occurs much less frequently. In addition, it is much more likely to be found in winter or spring than the fall (D'Anna 1998), which is when the other species are found most frequently. The early October date of this record is very unusual and makes this the second earliest ever recorded in New York, the earliest being a sight record on 28 Sep 1945 by John Bull (Bull 1964).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2014-57-A One, Rotterdam, **Schenectady**, 26-28 Nov (Jenny Murtaugh, ph Janice Lengvarsky)

A male Painted Bunting visited the feeding station of Janice Lengvarsky in Rotterdam, and she was able to take photos with her point and shoot camera. DEC wildlife technician Jenny Murtaugh submitted the documentation on behalf of Lengvarsky. Although it is not possible to be certain from the photos, it appears that this bird was unbanded, and it did not show any obvious signs of captivity. For example, the plumage appeared to be in excellent condition. As a result, Committee members did not raise any concerns about origin.

**2014 Report Accepted
But Origins Unknown or Unnatural**

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

2014-26-A One, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, **Kings**, 16 Jul (Terry Rogers)

One Committee member expressed a concern that this bird may not have been identified correctly. However, the remainder of the Committee accepted the identification but considered the origin unlikely to be natural. Although there are some local populations that either are or could become established in Florida and along the Gulf coast, Committee members are of the opinion that the odds of a genuine vagrant to New York from these populations are very small at this time.

2013 Reports Accepted

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2013-89-A Two, Buffalo, **Erie**, 10-11 Nov (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

The Niagara River is the premier site to see this species in New York, with fall migration being the best time by far to find it. Jim Pawlicki found these two immature birds, though on the first day of observation he was only aware of a single individual. However, while examining his photos, he noticed slight plumage differences and realized that he had seen two different first-winter Franklin's Gulls. Returning the following day, he was able to see both birds again. Starting in 2018, NYSARC will no longer review upstate sightings of this species, which has shown a slight increase in reports in recent years. Downstate sightings should still be submitted to NYSARC, as the species remains quite rare there.

"Thayer's" Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides thayeri*)

2013-90-A One, Goat Island State Park, **Niagara**, 23 Dec (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

Although no longer considered a separate species, the status of this subspecies of Iceland Gull has remained fairly consistent in the state. It is annual in small numbers on the Niagara River and quite rare in the rest of the State, especially the downstate area. Identification is difficult, and birders are encouraged to photograph any individuals believed to be of this form. Jim Pawlicki's submission included one photo of the bird standing among Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) and another of the bird with its wings spread. The latter shows blackish tips on the six outermost primaries of the left wing, a helpful feature for identifying this subspecies, as "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull (*L. g. kumlieni*) typically shows blackish or grayish on five or fewer primaries.

2013 Reports Accepted in Revised Form

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* or *gambelii intergrade*)

2013-96-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 3 Oct (Emily Patterson)

This was a submission of a "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow, and it involved a bird that was captured and banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. The report was brief, but a clear close-up photo of the head and breast of the bird was included. Although the well-known field marks for identifying this subspecies are shown, NYSARC strongly encourages multiple photos that show the entire bird clearly, as important additional features unknown to the person(s) submitting documentation could help to make a firmer identification. The key features for separating the *gambelii* subspecies from the expected nominate race are the pattern on the lores and the color of the bill. This bird had completely unmarked lores, as expected for *gambelii*. However, the bill color was not as orange as shown by clear examples of this subspecies. The problem, as it often is when subspecies are involved, is that intergrades between the various subspecies are common. Although some Committee members still considered the bill color within range of *gambelii*, others felt that an intergrade was not ruled out. The Committee was unable to muster enough votes to pass the record as submitted. However, the Committee was convinced that this bird was either *gambelii* or a *gambelii* intergrade, and a vote for that form was unanimously accepted.

2011 Report Accepted

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

2011-155-A One, Manhattan, **New York**, 28 Aug (Sam Stuart, ph Rhys Marsh)
Hurricane Irene was a destructive 2011 hurricane along the Atlantic coast that had weakened to a tropical storm by the time it made landfall in Brooklyn. Sam Stuart and Rhys Marsh were watching the Hudson River from Pier 63 in lower

Manhattan. They had already seen a Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) that Irene had brought to the area, and they even had a second Wilson's later. In between those sightings they watched this Band-rumped Storm-Petrel flying low up the river. Marsh's photos show that the feet did not project beyond the tail as they would on a Wilson's and that the tail was not forked as on a Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. leucorhoa*). The shape of the rump patch, clearly wider than the length, also supported the identification.

1984 Report Accepted

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila caerulea*)

1984-49-A One, Wolfe's Pond, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 20 Dec (Norma and William Siebenheller)

At the time when this report was reviewed in 1985, this was the latest accepted record in New York. There have since been later records. Though voted on and accepted by the Committee years ago, it recently came to our attention that this record was never published in any NYSARC report. Publication here and now corrects that oversight. The Committee encourages anyone who has noticed errors of omission or commission by NYSARC to contact us, no matter how long after the fact. We apologize to Norma and William for this oversight.

2014 Reports Not Accepted

Rufous/Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/calliope*)

2014-33-A One, Manhattan, **New York**, 16 Sep

This report of a hummingbird hovering at a fifth floor apartment window box in midtown Manhattan was submitted by someone who claimed familiarity with western hummingbirds, particularly Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), from his time living in California. Unfortunately, the only description provided was that the bird showed a green iridescent back and a pale brownish front. While these features may be consistent with a Rufous or Calliope Hummingbird, without more detail, Committee members could not even be sure that this was not the much more expected Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2014-36-A One, Poughkeepsie, **Dutchess**, 23 Sep

This report involved a brief observation of a bird that flew up to a branch, stayed for a couple of minutes, and then flew away from the observer. Although parts of the report were suggestive of this species, Committee members were concerned by the missing details, such as the wing shape, tail pattern, and the color of the secondaries. Some Committee members were willing to give this

relatively experienced birder the benefit of the doubt, but the majority felt that the details provided simply were not enough.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2014-41-A One, Mount Kisco, **Westchester**, 12 Oct

This report, submitted by an experienced hawk-watcher, involved a raptor that flew by the Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch at a distance of about a half mile. As the bird was below the observers, only the upperparts color and pattern were observed. The upperparts appeared uniformly dark, including the uppertail coverts, implying to the observer that this was a dark-morph individual. Appropriately, the description included much detail of the bird's shape and flight style, which are frequently the most conspicuous features of a migrating raptor at a hawkwatch. Committee members were on the fence with this one, but most felt that it was just not quite convincing enough for acceptance.

Western Kingbird x Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis* x *T. tyrannus*)

2014-17-A One, Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 17 May

This interesting kingbird was found by a group of birders on a field trip. The documentation consisted of description and four photos, although only one soft photo was of much usefulness. The bird was with an Eastern Kingbird, and it showed an obvious white tail tip, dark head, white throat, gray breast, and yellow belly. In the field it was identified as a very rare Cassin's Kingbird (*T. vociferans*). The observers very quickly sent out photos and descriptions to various experienced birders, who determined that this was not a Cassin's Kingbird but most likely a Western x Eastern Kingbird hybrid. The Eastern Kingbird influence is obvious, as evidenced by the white tail tip and dark head. The Western Kingbird influence is shown by the yellow belly. Most on the Committee were in agreement that the bird was a hybrid but believed that other hybrid combinations were not ruled out, such as Cassin's x Eastern Kingbird. Western x Eastern hybrids are known from several records, whereas other western species of kingbird x Eastern hybrids are not well documented. Thus, based on likelihood, this may well have been a Western x Eastern Kingbird. However, without better documentation this is unknown and, unfortunately, the Committee could not accept the record.

"Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)

2014-46-A One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 24 Oct

This was an intriguing report from experienced observers of a junco with a red back, contrasting black mask, and ventral body lacking browns or pinks. "Gray-headed" Junco is extremely rare in the east, with only four eBird records east of the Mississippi River and none along the Atlantic coast. Identification of the junco forms is also complicated by the possibility of intergrades. Thus, a record of this form in New York would need very strong documentation. Unfortunately, the view of this bird was relatively brief, and some details were

not clearly observed, such as the color and pattern of the bill, which would be helpful for ruling out the similar “Red-backed” Junco (*J. h. dorsalis*). It is regrettable that photo documentation was not obtained for this potentially significant record. Without stronger documentation, the Committee was unable to accept the record.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2014-22-A One, Ithaca, Tompkins, 27 Jun

This report of a red bird lacking the black wings of a Scarlet Tanager (*P. olivacea*) could have been a Summer Tanager, but Committee members surmised that this was a relatively inexperienced birder and wondered if it was actually a Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). The bill was described as thin, which is unlike either a tanager or a cardinal. The late June timing would be very unusual for an upstate sighting of this species. Given these shortcomings and the brevity of the report, the Committee decided not to accept it.

CONTRIBUTORS

Rick Bacher, Patrick Baglee, Andrew Baksh, Catherine Barron, Sue Barth, Gail Benson, Shawn Billerman, Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Ardith Bondi, Thomas W. Burke, Barbara Butler, Bernie Carr, Gary Chapin, Mary Collier, Simon Courtney, Willie D’Anna, Renee Davis, James C. Dawe, Pat Dubren, Gordon Ellmers, Kurt A. Fox, Douglas J. Futuyma, Klemens Gasser, Arie Gilbert, John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Andy Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, John H. Haas, Jessie W. Jaycox, Chris Keefer, Jennifer Kepler, Jeremy J. Kirchman, David Klauber, Jamie Koufman, William Krueger, Steve Lacker, MaryLaura Lamont, Alex Lamoreaux, Justin LeClaire, Janice Lengvarsky, Patricia Lindsay, Mark Magistro Jr., Barbara Mansell, Frank Margiotta, Rhys Marsh, Liz Martens, Patricia Martin, Kenneth M. McDermott, Kevin McGann, Glenn Miller, Jenny Murtaugh, Lukas Musher, Sally Newbert, Pat Palladino, Andrea Patterson, Emily Patterson, James Pawlicki, Joanne Pawlowski, Carena Pooth, Betsy Potter, Robert Proniewych, Bill Purcell, Glenn Quinn, David J. Ringer, Derek H. Rogers, Terry Rogers, Charles Rouse, Dennis Russell, Alan Ryff, Richard Ryley, Dan Schniedewind, Eileen Schwinn, Kai Sheffield, Dominic Sherony, Tony Shrimpton, Sean Sime, David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik, Sam Stuart, Kimberly Sucy, Ed Sykes, Philip Uruburu, William W. Watson, Cathy Weiner, Casey Wetherbee, Angus Wilson, Zack Winestine, Robert P. Yunick, Mike Zebehazi.

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

Willie D’Anna (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Thomas W. Burke, Andrew Guthrie, James Pawlicki, Doug Gochfeld, Patricia Lindsay, Derek Rogers

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**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
71ST ANNUAL MEETING, HENRIETTA, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 6, 2018**

The 71st Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held on October 6, 2018, at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, located at 5257 West Henrietta Road in Henrietta, New York. President Michael DeSha called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Roll call of member clubs revealed that 37 delegates from 23 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Tim Baird made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2017 annual meeting. Andy Mason seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Michael DeSha

Mike presented his written report. Highlights of the year include a highly successful annual meeting hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, the beginning of intensive planning for the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas effort, and significant changes to NYSOA membership routines due to the sudden and totally unexpected death of our membership manager, Berna Lincoln, in October 2017.

Mike reported that Tim Baird, Joan Collins, Carena Pooth, and Kathy Schneider arranged for the NYSOA umbrellas that were given to members attending the annual meeting. The Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trips Committee still lacks a chair, and a volunteer is needed. There are currently no field trips scheduled.

Mike thanked Joan Collins for taking on the role of membership manager. With help from Pat Aitken as circulation manager, Joan has taken over the membership records and will be working to transfer them to Wild Apricot, an online membership management system. Mike also thanked Carena Pooth for her ten years of outstanding service as leader of the New York State Young Birders Club. He reminded the attendees that it is critical that someone be found to continue in her tradition, as she is giving up her role for family health reasons.

Mike's report also summarized the recent activities of the steering committee for the third New York Breeding Bird Atlas (NY BBA III). Unlike

past atlases that were under the control of NYSOA, this one will be administered by a collection of entities. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NYSOA, New York Audubon, and SUNY ESF are all involved. However, NYSOA is well-represented. Kathy Schneider is the co-chair of the steering committee, and Joan Collins, Mike DeSha, Greg Lawrence, and Bob Spahn are all members of the committee. Applications for the job of project coordinator for NY BBA III have been received, and are currently being evaluated by the steering committee.

After delivering his report, Mike commented that it is increasingly difficult for the nominating committee to find candidates for the jobs of officers, directors, and committee chairs as they become vacant. He stressed that it is important for the board to engage in succession planning, and also for members of the organization who are currently not involved to step up and volunteer. Ideally we would find people to shadow the current holders of these positions, preparing to take them over in the future.

Treasurer's Report – Andy Mason

Andy presented three written reports – a balance sheet, a statement of general operating fund activity, and a statement of the activities and balances in other funds. There was nothing unusual to report.

Spending was under budget for the year, though it did exceed income. The largest expense continues to be printing and mailing *The Kingbird*. Andy reminded the group that this will be his final year as treasurer, and asked them to think about candidates for the job.

NYSOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee – Stephen Chang

Andy presented the report on behalf of Stephen and the committee. An audit of NYSOA's financial statements was conducted as of December 31, 2017, and found no problems.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn

Michael DeSha asked for a motion to approve the bylaws revisions that were circulated earlier this year, concerning conflict of interest statements. Bob Spahn moved to approve the revisions, and Brian Dugan seconded. After brief discussion, the revisions were unanimously approved. Bob Spahn also brought up another recent change in New York State law that concerns when nonprofit organizations must notify members of upcoming business meetings. Notice must now be provided no less than 10 days in advance and no more than 50 days in advance. Traditionally, official notice of the upcoming annual meeting has been distributed more than 50 days in advance. An additional notification will now need to be sent to comply with this requirement, but it can be sent by email. Another minor change to the bylaws will be needed to incorporate this requirement. The change was proposed at this meeting and will be voted on at

the 2019 annual meeting.

Awards Committee – Bill Ostrander

Bill reported that the President’s Award, the Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award, and three Lillian C. Stoner Awards would be presented at the evening banquet. There were no nominees for certificates of appreciation this year, but Bill reminded the group that those nominations can be made at any time.

Conservation Committee – Andy Mason

Andy provided a written report on the committee’s work over the past year. A major concern has been the Lake Ontario wind project, which will place 600-foot-high turbines near the shoreline of Lake Ontario. NYSOA opposes industrial-scale turbines within two miles of the Great Lakes shorelines, as well as in certain other areas of the state. Committee member Brian Dugan recently attended a public meeting about the project. Andy stated that the committee will be working over the coming year on a NYSOA position paper on large-scale solar power projects and their effect on grassland bird habitat. He welcomes input from members, and expects to have a resolution on this topic ready to be voted on at the 2019 annual meeting.

Doug Futuyma asked about the status of the committee’s work on the issue of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The Trump administration reinterpreted the MBTA to only prohibit intentional taking or harming of birds; the accidental taking or harming of a species does not apply. Doug mentioned that there is litigation challenging this interpretation, and wondered whether NYSOA could get involved at some level with the lawsuit. There are also efforts in the New York legislature to enact a law that would restore the original interpretation of the MBTA at the state level. Some NYSOA member clubs have also been communicating with their U. S. Representatives, encouraging them to guard against any effort to pass legislation that would codify the new interpretation.

County and State Listing Project – Carena Pooth

Carena supplied a detailed written report. There were 129 submissions for 2017, the highest number ever. The full report is available on the NYSOA website.

Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trips Committee

Tim Baird reported for the committee, which is in need of a chairperson. This year’s annual meeting giveaway item was a birding-sized umbrella imprinted with the NYSOA name and logo.

Brendan Fogarty delivered a report from Greg Lawrence about the NYSOA Facebook page. Greg’s report mentioned that he would like a volunteer to take over the page, and Alison Kocek volunteered immediately. Greg reported that more frequent posts are needed in order to maintain interest in the page, and he

encouraged member clubs and individuals to submit photos and other materials for posting. He also recommended that the page make more of an effort to convert casual visitors to NYSOA members.

Joan Collins reported on field trip activity. The committee's goal is to sponsor one to three weekend field trips per year. There was one trip this past year, focused on viewing and learning about crossbills in the Adirondacks.

Membership and Circulation – Joan Collins, Pat Aitken

Joan Collins supplied a written report on membership activity, showing continued growth in all categories of individual membership. Joan and Pat will be working this fall on the project to convert from spreadsheet records to an online membership management system (Wild Apricot). Once this transition is completed, the online system should make the work of the committee significantly easier.

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

Shai Mitra presented a report from Willie. NYSARC continues to make progress catching up with the backlog of reports. The committee has begun meeting via Skype, which has enabled them to meet more frequently. They recently completed review of 2015 reports, and the 2015 annual report is being prepared.

The committee has decided to begin classifying reports of *Larus canus* to subspecies, either (North American) Mew Gull or (European) Common Gull. NYSARC is also planning to begin accepting eBird records of certain species if they are accompanied by photo or sound recording documentation, and accepted by the eBird reviewer. The committee has recently reached out to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, which is already accepting certain eBird records, to discuss the difficult issues involved. The plan will enable the inclusion of records that are never reported directly to NYSARC. This will only apply to species that have been determined not to pose difficult identification problems. There will also be a list of species that will continue to require full NYSARC review before acceptance.

The terms of three committee members will be coming due at the end of this year – Andy Guthrie, Doug Gochfeld, and Derek Rogers. The process of renewing their terms, or replacing one or more, is currently underway. Andy is noted as having been an extremely valuable member of the committee for the past fourteen years.

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

Carena submitted a written report detailing the club's activities and membership statistics. More than three-quarters of the club's members live in southeastern New York. There were eleven field trips scheduled for this year, though one was canceled due to weather. NYSYBC has awarded more than \$33,000 in scholarships since the program began in 2010. Other than a \$500 startup grant from NYSOA, all of the club's money has been raised by the club. Carena

notified the parents of the club members that she would be resigning as leader, and several of them contacted her with offers to help however they could with operational and administrative tasks going forward.

Publications – Seth Ausubel

Shai Mitra provided an update on his efforts to get *The Kingbird* caught up to its publication schedule. He expects that two more issues will be sent to the printer before the end of the year. Shai mentioned that there is turnover in the regional editor jobs, so we should be thinking about and speaking with potential candidates.

Joan Collins reported that she is always in need of contributions for *New York Birders*, which is published quarterly. In particular, reviews of books and apps of interest to birders would be helpful. Joan reports that the volunteer profiles are one of the more popular features of the newsletter.

Carena Pooth reported on the latest changes to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. There were several taxonomic changes made by the American Ornithological Society that are reflected in the updated checklist. The printed version of the checklist will be available in time for the next round of membership renewals. Shai Mitra mentioned that the regional reports in *The Kingbird* will be switching to the new taxonomic order.

Research – Greg Lawrence

Greg's prepared report was delivered by Brendan Fogarty. The primary focus of the committee this year will be NY BBA III, as well as the annual waterfowl count. Greg will continue as chair of the research committee. He plans to query researchers, conservation partners, and birders in order to develop a list of the top priorities for ornithological research in New York. Greg also plans to make efforts to increase coverage of Breeding Bird Survey routes across the state.

Kathy Schneider reported on the status of planning for NY BBA III. She said that there are seven parties involved in this atlas, unlike previous atlases which were conducted by NYSOA and DEC. The parties are the New York Natural Heritage Program, New York State DEC, Audubon New York, eBird/Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Cornell Cooperative Research Unit, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), and NYSOA. The committee has been meeting since 2015 and has already put a lot of time into planning. They have obtained a federal grant of \$750,000, which will be routed to DEC. DEC will contract with ESF, ESF will hire the Natural Heritage Program, and the Natural Heritage Program will hire people to work on the atlas. Making all of those arrangements has consumed much of the committee's time to date. They are now forming four subcommittees to address many issues that need to be worked out. The steering committee is also working on a governance structure to define the roles and relationships of the various entities involved with the atlas. Fifty-six applications were received for the project coordinator position, and the committee is in the process of making a selection.

The committee has written a job description for the regional coordinator positions, and they are beginning to talk to potential candidates. One of the main job duties will be identifying and training volunteers, including teaching them to use the eBird mobile app. The job will also involve review of submitted data, and some degree of oversight of the block sign-up process. It has yet to be determined exactly how the block sign-up process will be divided between eBird and the regional coordinators. Candidates for the regional coordinator jobs will need a thorough knowledge of not only the birds of New York, but also of the birders in their region and their skill levels. The committee is working to develop a pool of candidates for these jobs, and welcomes input. Kathy and Bob Spahn both stated that although a substantial grant was obtained, additional fundraising will be needed. Mike DeSha recommended that NYSOA budget funds to assist with the atlas in coming years. Mike also reported that, after discussion with Andy Mason, he volunteered to have NYSOA serve as a repository for funds coming into NY BBA III from outside sources. A separate account will be created for this purpose.

Waterfowl Count – Bill Ostrander

Bill reported on the 2018 count, the results of which will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Kingbird*. A regional coordinator for the count is needed for Region 9, in southeastern New York.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

Carena presented a printed report detailing all of the updates to the NYSOA website. The report also includes lists of the most visited sections of the website. After the home page, the most popular page on the site is the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*. The Christmas Bird Count calendar and the NYSARC reports are also among the most viewed portions of the site. Carena also completed a project to convert the entire website to a secure protocol, so that certain web browsers would no longer display a “Not Secure” message. The portion of the website that accepts payments has always used the secure protocol, but it was previously not needed for the remainder of the pages.

DEC Report – Mike Wasilco, DEC Region 8 Wildlife Manager

Mike presented a comprehensive report that was prepared by the DEC Central Office summarizing their work. The information was somewhat dated, covering the period ending in March 2018, since DEC has not had a bird specialist on staff since John Ozard retired last year. They are currently in the process of hiring a new bird specialist to fill John’s position in Albany. The report summarizes DEC’s monitoring efforts for various habitats and species of concern. Mike mentioned the need for volunteers to assist with alpine forest bird monitoring. He also reported on the Young Forest Initiative, a project to maintain early successional habitat, which is needed by certain species. The goal is to maintain young forest habitat on 10 percent of the land in Wildlife

Management Areas. The report also states that DEC staff covered thirteen Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in 2017, but that more than 30 percent of the BBS routes in the state continue to go uncovered.

Election of Officers

Bob Adamo presented the following 2018-2019 slate of officers and directors on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

Officers

President: Michael DeSha

Vice President: Tim Baird

Treasurer: Andy Mason

Secretary: John Kent

Directors 2018-2020

Joseph Brin, Doug Futuyma, Richard Guthrie, Shirley Shaw, Bob Spahn

Shai Mitra made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers and directors. It was seconded by Alison Kocek, and the slate was elected unanimously. In addition to the new directors, Brian Dugan, Brendan Fogarty, Lucretia Grosshans, and Carena Pooth will be continuing for the second year of their current terms.

Andy Mason made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot to re-elect Bob Adamo (Chair), Kathy Schneider, and Dominic Sherony to the Nominating Committee. Shai Mitra seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Doug Futuyma made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot to re-elect Stephen Chang (Chair), Tom Burke, and Peter Capainolo to the Auditing Committee. Shai Mitra seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Kevin McGowan made a motion to elect the Friends of the Washington County Grasslands IBA as a new member organization of NYSOA. Alison Van Keuren seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

New Business

The 2019 annual meeting will be hosted by the Catskill Center, and will take place September 13-15 in the Kingston area. Peg DiBenedetto of the Catskill Center reported that planning is underway, and that they have the enthusiastic support of the John Burroughs Natural History Society, which will be planning field trips and providing leaders.

Onondaga Audubon is considering hosting the 2020 annual meeting.

Kevin McGowan moved to adjourn, and Peg DiBenedetto seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted, John Kent Recording Secretary

PATCH BIRDING—THE STEWART SCHOOL SUMP

Brendan Fogarty

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Divide the 2017 population of Nassau County, New York, by its area, and you get a unit area of 5,000 square feet per person. If that statistic were applied in some sort of hyper-equitable world, the Nassau residents could each claim about one professional basketball court of private land. Thankfully, people are social and have gained a general command of vertical architecture, so wild space remains. Still, most of Nassau's undeveloped terrain is unstable lowland sand and the narrow greenways that defend the street grid from our few imprudent streams. These parks are great, but only represent a tiny minority of bird habitat. Any occasion to sample the birdlife somewhere else is great. The ability to bird there with frequency and purpose is worth celebrating. This satisfying and productive habit is called patch birding.

I never expected patch birding would be for me. When I wanted to see birds, I went somewhere where diversity is expected. After joining the workforce after college, I came across patch birding by necessity. I worked in an office near the giant concrete temple that is the Roosevelt Field Mall. A hairline of greenery marked the border of the greater mall footprint, widening around a sump hidden behind near the Stewart School. It was surrounded by pokeweed and Japanese knotweed growing right out of a gravel lot. There were a few older trees right along the sump, but otherwise it was intensely disturbed demi-forest, with many invasive plants and evidence of occasional garbage dumping and squatting. The shoebox ecosystem was isolated by some half-hearted, temporary fencing. After a few weeks of walking along the edge, I found there was access within, and I began a quick lunch-hour walking routine around the Stewart School Sump, every possible workday.

I began working in the early summer, so birding was originally a byproduct of a relaxing walk. I was not even eBirding many days. Fall migration brought a case for documentation, beginning with a Tennessee Warbler (they are a local migrant east of New York City). A group of Chipping Sparrows formed and eventually attracted a Clay-colored, and the overgrown lot miraculously had Lincoln's and Lark Sparrows and an Orange-crowned Warbler later in the season. In the winter, there were Fox Sparrows, and hundreds of Fish Crow would fly by, commuting to the dumpsters behind the food court. I encountered Killdeer, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, and a woodcock, all in or along the giant, decidedly dry parking lot. A kingfisher once tried hunting the tiny sump. Tent caterpillars brought in a locally-scarce Black-billed Cuckoo at eye level. A Monk Parakeet visited, and a Rusty Blackbird. There was an early Winter Wren the second September, and a Mourning Warbler, and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Many of these species I had only seen once or twice before in the

whole county. I encountered well over 100 species during my six seasons of visits.

In May, a stunning adult Red-headed Woodpecker enjoyed a particular dead tree in the nearby residential area. The bird left after a week, and another week later that same tree was cut to its base. The majority of my patch was also leveled shortly after I stopped working there. Tonight I happened to pass by it, and finally saw the first supports of the hotel that will cater to shopping enthusiasts and tired businesspeople with small rolling suitcases. I had known the hotel was coming since shortly after I began birding there. I had dreams of documenting endangered species on site to disrupt construction, or something to that effect, but the site had been purchased before I had even found it. My patch was an inevitable casualty.

Even though it was not rescued, my patch provided me many quiet hours and eBird with some nice, meaningful data. I was privileged to be able to see its true and surprising potential to shelter and feed birds throughout the whole year. Two or three random visits here would have likely turned up nothing of interest at all. I look forward to adopting a new patch someday, and hope everyone has the chance to find a place to survey routinely, like the Stewart School Sump.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2018

Michael F. Cooper

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June brought close to average temperatures throughout most of the state, while July and August were generally 3-5 degrees warmer than normal. Rainfall reports were more varied, with June generally slightly drier than normal and July and August wetter overall, especially in the eastern Regions. In Regions 8 and 10, the summer was characterized as being oppressively humid, and featured a heat wave at the beginning of July. Several Regions mentioned that fluctuating water levels through the summer tended to not coincide with shorebird migration, with water levels being too deep by the normal August peak of migration. The high water levels were a benefit to waterfowl, gallinules and coots, and several Regions mentioned good numbers for those species.

To that point, a pair of Trumpeter Swans in Iroquois NWR raised six young- the first confirmed breeding record for the Region. High counts were reported from Region 3, where they are expected. Common Gallinules were mentioned in Regions 2, 3 and 4. In Region 2, the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area produced a high count of 296—a mind boggling number to this Region 10 birder who scrambles to get a glimpse whenever one turns up on a local pond! Improved visibility due to damage to cattails by muskrat activity apparently helped make them more findable. The Region 3 portion of

Montezuma turned up a peak count of 250—hard to imagine. Region 4, where they are much more unexpected, also had confirmed breeding.

Other marsh breeders mentioned favorably include Least and American Bittern in Region 1, Least Bittern in Region 5 and Pied-billed Grebe in Region 2, with up to 42 counted at Montezuma NWR. Dabbling ducks were considered to have done poorly in Region 2, with mixed results in Region 3. Lingering non-breeding waterfowl included Brant in Region 2, Long-tailed Duck in Regions 1, 2 and 3, White-winged Scoter in Region 2, and a Snow Goose in Region 5, and the usual long list in Region 10. Horned and Red-necked Grebes also turned up in small numbers in Regions 2 and 3, and in Region 2, numbers for Common and Red-throated Loons were thought to have been a little above normal and a little early in their re-appearance in August.

Sandhill Cranes continued their dance across the state, with breeding mentioned for Regions 2, 4 and 7, and additional reports from Regions 1, 3, 9 and 10—remarkable considering that the first confirmed breeding for the state occurred as recently as 2003.

Caspian Terns returned to breed for a second confirmed record at Buffalo Harbor in Region 1, but peaked at a disappointing 100 in Region 2. But the sight of a Bald Eagle flushing 168 Black Terns from a marsh in the Van Dyne Spoor area in Region 2 must have been quite spectacular! A Least Tern on East Spit at Braddock Bay provided only the fourth record for Region 2. In Region 10, 26 individual Arctic Terns were documented, a very large number. Laughing and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were scattered through several of the non-coastal Regions, where they are notable, and a count of 22 Lesser Black-backs on the annual Captree June Count, in southwestern Suffolk County on 9 June, was also significant. An adult Glaucous Gull was found at East Spit in Region 2 on 23 July. Four days later another was reported at Wilson Tuscarora State Park in Region 1, a distance of less than 60 miles as the Burgomaster flies. On Long Island, a large Laughing Gull colony was located on a marsh island in Great South Bay, just the second major colony found in the Region, although increased numbers in recent years hinted at its existence.

Region 10 also turned up some good shearwater flights visible from the beaches, even into the eastern end of the Long Island Sound. In most years, birds like Bridled Tern, White-faced Storm-Petrel and South Polar Skua would be the highlights of the offshore pelagic season, but check the Region 10 report for a taste of what else lurks out there.

Shorebird numbers were erratic, reflective of rainfall and drought conditions in different Regions and months during the period. In Region 2, for example, numbers were described as low early in the season when late spring migrants are expected, but picking up considerably by late July with decent numbers of southbound birds. Throughout the eight non-tidal Regions of the state, 33 species of shorebirds were reported—surely a respectable total. The highlight for breeding shorebirds surely must be a pair of Piping Plovers with four chicks in Oswego County in Region 5. A juvenile found in Jefferson

County was wearing a band acquired in Oswego County—was that one of these four? Another shorebird in trouble, Upland Sandpiper, was found in seven Regions, but nothing encouraging was said about them in any case. At Fort Edward in Region 8, the maximum reported was just two birds.

American Avocets were recorded from three Regions, including 26 at Westfield in Region 1 and three fly-bys photographed in Region 5. A Marbled Godwit was photographed at Barcelona Harbor in Region 1, the only one reported away from tidal Regions of the state, as was a Ruff in Region 3 at Montezuma and a Western Sandpiper in Region 7. Willets were found in five non-tidal Regions, including one flock of 11 in Region 1 and they bred at Marshlands Conservancy in Region 9, where a Western Willet was identified in early August. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Region 3 at Montezuma was the only one reported away from the coast. A Red-necked Phalarope was a nice find at Crown Point in Region 7. A Long-billed Dowitcher photographed in Region 8 was a great Regional rarity.

Interesting waders away from the tidal zones included multiple Little Blue Herons in Region 8 and Region 9, Snowy Egrets scattered across several Regions, and Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Regions 3, 5 and 8. A Cattle Egret at Montezuma in Region 3 was the only one recorded upstate.

Merlins were reported or suspected of breeding in Regions 1, 2, 4 and 5, solidifying their hold in areas of the state where they were unknown as breeders just a couple of decades ago. Likewise, Black Vultures are now found almost across the entire state, with the comment from Region 1 that they now occur year round in the Lewiston area. Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons continue their well-documented expansion throughout the state, while American Kestrels and Northern Harriers continue to trend in the opposite direction, going unreported across large swaths of the state. A Golden Eagle on 22 August was noteworthy for time of the year, as were two Rough-legged Hawks going by the Braddock Bay Hawk watch on 13 June, all in Region 2.

Owl reports may be as much a function of effort as species' presence, but a Barn Owl in Steuben County in Region 3 was notable. Snowy Owls lingered into early June in Region 6 and to 1 July in Region 10. A Eurasian Collared Dove in Region 2 was the only report of this invasive, which surprisingly has spared New York State from its continent-wide expansions. A female Spruce Grouse with five chicks in Region 7 is exciting news for birders around the state who still have hopes of seeing this "grail" bird. Cuckoos of both species were reported widely, but only in Region 6 were numbers thought to be notable. A Chuck-will's-widow in Warren County, Region 8 lingered into early July. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were widely reported and mentioned as doing well in several Regions. Clinton County in Region 7 recorded its first nesting record for Red-bellied Woodpecker, a pair feeding young. Just two Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported state-wide, one each in Regions 5 and 7.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from every Region and Olive-sided and Acadian nearly so. Three Canada Jays reported in Region 5 were the only

ones mentioned statewide. Two Fish Crows were detected in Watertown, Region 6, after an absence of several years. High counts for swallows were topped by an impressive 2425 at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 in early July. Following the pattern of few reports of boreal specialties, Boreal Chickadee was mentioned only once, that in Region 7. A maximum count of 23 Sedge Wrens at Fort Drum led an impressive Region 6 total of 33 birds. They also returned to Region 8 after a six year absence.

Cedar Waxwings were reported in good numbers, with a maximum of 305 at Hamlin Beach in Region 2. Red Crossbills were widely reported, but generally in small numbers. White-winged Crossbill was reported only from Region 7, and Evening Grosbeak from Region 7 and 8.

Grassland species seem to be doing well in protected grassland areas. Clay-colored Sparrows continue to establish themselves as part of the state's avifauna, with good numbers reported from Region 1 at four different locations, and a max of 24 at Fort Drum in Region 6. Overall, they were reported from six upstate Regions. Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows were likewise widely reported, and two different Henslow's Sparrows in Region 2 were surprising. Henslow's returned to the Shawangunk Grasslands in Region 9, this time a pair observed and suspected of breeding. Dickcissel apparently did not repeat from last year in the 'gunks, but was found in the Orange County Black Dirt region in July and August. Region 10's grassland birds—Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, Horned Larks and E. Meadowlarks—continue to hang on in the relict patches of habitat left to them, and were reported only in small numbers. Back in Region 2, a Western Meadowlark delighted birders through the reporting period. The grasslands there also produced Bobolink counts of up to 100 birds, and this species was widely reported from upstate Regions.

Away from the grasslands, the picture for passerines was more mixed. Warblers were widely reported as migrants, and there were some encouraging comments when it came to breeding success, especially for those generally thought of as southern breeders. Prothonotaries were well represented in Region 5 and elsewhere, and seven Hooded Warblers was a good one day total in Region 4. 31 Cerulean Warblers was a good one day count at Howland Island in Region 4—this is, of course, a species of great concern here in New York and throughout its range. Another warbler in trouble, Golden-winged, generated quite a few comments, none of them good. In Region 6, they continue to lose ground to Blue-winged Warbler. Hybrids were reported from at least seven Regions. Yellow-throated Warbler returned to Region 10's Bayard Cutting Arboretum for an eighth year. A record early Connecticut Warbler was banded on 25 August in Region 2. Another at Sapsucker Woods in Region 3 was a rare find. Yellow-breasted Chats in Regions 3, 5 and 9 were unexpected rarities, with breeding suspected in Region 9. Hopefully early flights of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch and Myrtle Warblers in Region 10 were harbingers of a fall or winter finch flight rather than a reflection of a poor breeding season as reported further north in the state.

A Black-headed X Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at a feeder in Steuben County, Region 3. In Region 1, a male Summer Tanager was photographed and represents the second summer record for the Region.

I encourage everyone to read through the Regional reports—there are so many gems of information buried within. For example, you may have a tough time finding cuckoos, but birders in Region 5 have found that this is not a problem for everyone. Check that Region’s report for details on a new method for censusing cuckoos and maybe Least Bitterns as well. Check Region 8 for a very detailed and very discouraging assessment of the breeding season at one Saratoga County location. Hopefully some of the poor numbers may reflect local or temporary conditions. Hummingbirds, for example, seem to have fared better elsewhere in the state than at this location.

And, especially for those of us who have been doing this for a while, I point you to the Region 2 report from Robert Spahn. Maybe I’m reading my own frustration into his words, but I was kind of entertained by his comments while trying to deal with the new sequence of species that the Regional editors have to adjust to. I can almost convince myself that a grouping titled “Rails to Tropicbirds” make sense, but then I scroll around to see “Loons to Parrots” and “Waterfowl to Hummingbirds”, and, Robert, I feel your pain.

Finally, while many of us may think that lounging on a sailboat in Long Lake on a late summer afternoon sounds idyllic, the fact that a Brown Booby actually did this while posing for photos and video surely makes this sulid a contender for Bird of the Season. Another contender comes from Region 9, the Anhinga which put in a couple of appearances, allowing a few lucky birders to see this fourth state record. Two outstanding pelagic species from Region 10 warrant consideration, but considering their “limited engagement” and the need for NYSARC review, I think the nod has to go to the Region 9 Roseate Spoonbill which, after remaining tantalizingly close to the New York, New Jersey state border, eventually made a few forays into the Orange County side of the Wallkill River NWR to scoop up the BOTS Award. With that one in the books, who knows what next summer might bring.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June 2018 was pleasant. The mean temperature was 67.2°F, 0.9° above average. Rain was light until later in the month, with a monthly total of 2.82" at the Buffalo airport, 0.84" below average. July was warm and mostly dry, with an average temperature of 74.4°, 3.3° above normal. Rainfall at Buffalo was 2.15",

1.08" below average. The very warm weather continued through August, with the mean temperature at 72.8°, 3.2° above normal. There was 3.62" of rain, 0.36" above average. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

Among notable breeding reports, two **Trumpeter Swans** at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR raised six young and provided the first confirmed breeding record for Region 1. **Caspian Terns** again bred in Buffalo Harbor following last year's first confirmed Regional breeding. **Black Vultures** were again sighted in the Lewiston area consistent with recent summers; however, there is no confirmed breeding evidence yet.

The less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report were found mostly in their previously documented breeding areas. **Upland Sandpipers** were at Tillman Road WMA again, plus a mid-July report at Iroquois NWR and a nocturnal flyover in August. **Common Nighthawk** was only reported in Buffalo before late summer migrants arrived by mid-August. **Sandhill Cranes** were present in Iroquois NWR, although I'm not aware of confirmed breeding this year. **Merlins** bred at several locations, which has become the new normal. **Sedge Wrens** were at three locations. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at four locations, all near Lake Ontario. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Tonawanda WMA as usual, but nowhere else. It will be interesting to see how these species will fare in the third NYS Breeding Bird Atlas that is approaching in less than two years.

Summer shorebirding was decent, with most highlights coming from along Lake Erie. The biggest highlights included a Regional maximum of **26 American Avocets** at Westfield on 15 July and a **Marbled Godwit** at Barcelona Harbor on 19 August; both were observed and photographed by Gale VerHague. There were four **Willet** reports, including a group of 11 at Brant on 5 August. **Whimbrel** were reported from three locations. Two to three **Red Knots** were found at Dunkirk Harbor 22-23 July, while another was found at Buffalo Harbor in late August. **Sanderlings** were reported in higher numbers than usual, which may have been the result of reportedly poor breeding for most shorebird species in the arctic.

Joel Strong was surprised to find an adult **Glaucous Gull** at Wilson Pier on 27 July, representing the first July record. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Olcott on 11 June was notable but becoming consistent with more frequent summer reports. There were two **Black Tern** sightings in August, the only reports away from Iroquois NWR and vicinity which is the lone breeding area.

There was a good showing for both **Least Bittern** and **American Bittern**, a continuation from May. Dick Collins found a **Snowy Egret** at Tift NP in June and then Kevin Rybczynski found one at Times Beach NP three weeks later. There was likely one bird given that there were also sightings this summer along the Ontario side of the Niagara River.

Diving duck reports included Redhead at three locations and **Ring-necked Duck** at two locations, with lone sightings of Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and

Bufflehead. Long-tailed Duck continued from spring on Lake Ontario until at least 7 June.

Late summer or “fall” migration for passerines was well reported but without notable concentrations or rare species. Seven **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports in August were more than usual for this species. A “**Brewster’s**” **Warbler** was identified in late August; perhaps more notable in that we went through another summer without any Golden-winged Warbler reports, though I’m not sure if anyone is really searching for this species. Hopefully there will be some out there to be discovered when atlas work starts in a few years. It was notable that Purple Martins did not congregate at the Grass Island roost in late summer this year.

A male **Summer Tanager** photographed by Kris and Mike Tripi in their yard in Rushford, Cattaraugus County on 20 June was the second summer record for this species. Both records have occurred in recent years, so it will be interesting to see if reports of this more southerly species will occur more regularly in the years ahead.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BuFH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I, SP ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: Ellery ChauL 22 Jun; DH 23 Jun thru; 6 Wilson NIAG 29 Jul; max 11 WTSP 20 Aug; 6 Carlton ORLE 27 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad + 6 yg INWR 15 Jun thru; first confirmed nesting in Reg.

Wood Duck: max 82 INWR 9 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Tift NP 10 Jul; 2 BuSP 19 Jul; max 50 TWMA 30 Aug.

N. Shoveler: TBNP 3 Jun; Hamburg ERIE 21 Jun; 2 BWWTP 5, 12 Jul; Buffalo NR 30 Aug; only reports.

Gadwall: 3, 1 BWWTP 6 Jun, 12 Jul; 2 Tift NP 12 Aug; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: Amherst ERIE 6 Jun; LBSP 17 Jul; Grand Island NR 16 Aug; only reports.

Am. Black Duck: max 3 Barcelona CHAU 28 Jul; 2 Ellery ChauL 31 Aug.

N. Pintail: max 2 TWMA 30 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 2, 4 INWR 24 Jun, 7 Jul; max 8 LBSP 31 Aug.
Redhead: 2, 1 BWWTP 13 Jun, 12 Jul; 2 BuffH 31 Jul; 2 Leon CATT 24 Aug, unusual loc.
Ring-necked Duck: INWR 3, 9 Jun; N Collins ERIE 5 Aug (SB); only reports.
Greater Scaup: Buffalo NR 31 Aug, only report.
Lesser Scaup: BWWTP 21 Jul, only report.
Long-tailed Duck: last PB 7 Jun (CM).
Bufflehead: INWR 9 Jun (AG), only report.
Com. Merganser: max 41 DH 8 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 13 FNSP 3 Jun; Barcelona CHAU 23 Jun, 29 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: 30, 24, 12 BWWTP 6 Jun, 5 Jul, 4 Aug, reg loc in sum; 3 INWR 7 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 21 INWR 31 Aug.
Com. Nighthawk: 1, 1, 8 Buffalo ERIE 24 Jun, 22 Jul, 19 Aug; arr 2 Ellery CHAU 17 Aug; five other Aug reps.
Chimney Swift: max 125 NF 10 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 1, 26 Jun; 2 N Harmony CHAU, 2 CSWMA 16 Jun; JAS 5 Jul; 2, 5 Kiantone CHAU 28 Jul, 11 Aug; 6 TBNP 29 Jul; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Sora: CSWMA 18, 24 Jun; 4 Kiantone CHAU 28 Jul; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Am. Coot: max 10 INWR 20 Jun; DH 14-29 Jul; BuSP 29 Jul.
Com. Gallinule: max 30 INWR 31 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 3, 4, 5 INWR 24 Jun, 27 Jul, 19 Aug; max 9 Shelby ORLE 18 Aug (DeS).
Am. Avocet: 26 Westfield CHAU 15 Jul (GV, ph!), Reg max, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: last Yates ORLE 4 Jun; arr 2, 3 Somerset NIAG 1, 8 Aug; Ridgeway NIAG 3 Aug; BuffH 12 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 Wellsville ALLE 19 Aug (DC).
Semipalmated Plover: arr DH 22 Jul; max 42 TWMA 5 Aug.
Killdeer: max 82 Oakfield GENE 9 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 3 TRWMA 20 Jun; INWR 18 Jul; Grand Island ERIE 8 Aug (AH), nocturnal migrant.
Whimbrel: arr BWWTP 21 Jul; 3 DH 22 Jul; max 4 Olcott NIAG 25 Jul; only reports.
MARBLED GODWIT (R1): Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug (GV, ph!), rare.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1, 5 DH 22, 23 Jul; 2 LBSP 23 Jul; Wilson NIAG 27 Jul, 7 Aug; Olcott NIAG 31 Jul; Barcelona CHAU 11 Aug; 2 PB 15 Aug; 3 Buffalo NR 30 Aug.
Red Knot: arr 2, 3 DH 22, 23 Jul (GV); BuffH 28-31 Aug (PY); only reports.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr LBSP 23 Jul; max 3 John White WMA GENE 5 Aug.
Sanderling: arr BWWTP 21 Jul; 46, 36 DH 22 Jul, 18 Aug; 48 WoBSP 27 Jul; max 55 LBSP 23 Jul (DB, CM); 12 Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug; higher numbers than usual.
Dunlin: PB 9 Jun; last Wilson NIAG 24 Jun (AG).
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1, 1 BuffH 19, 31 Aug; only reports.
Least Sandpiper: arr LBSP 8 Jul; max 62 TWMA 5 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BuffH 19 Aug; Wilson NIAG 21 Aug; Buffalo ERIE 25-30 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 TWMA & 3 Ischua CATT 5 Aug; max 7 Keeney Swamp SF ALLE 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last PB 9 Jun; arr PB 12 Jul; max 255 LBSP 23 Jul (DB, CM); 44 TWMA.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr LBSP & Pomfret CHAU 17 Jul; max 3 DH 23 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 Jamestown CHAU & 2 Royalton NIAG 10 Jul; max 10 Franklinville CATT 5 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 13 INWR 7 Jul; max 20 TWMA 30 Aug.
Willet: arr DH 9 Jul, early; Barcelona CHAU 24 Jul; max 11 Brant ERIE 5 Aug (AT, MJ); TWMA 6 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr LBSP 17 Jul; max 14 TWMA 30 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: PB 24 Jun; Buffalo NR 26 Jun; TWMA 14 Jul; max 40 NF 25 Aug.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Olcott NIAG 11 Jun (WD), only report.
GLAUCOUS GULL: ad Wilson NIAG 27 Jul (JS, ph!), first Jul record.
Caspian Tern: 230 BuffH 2 Jun, nested for 2nd year in a row; 40 Ellery ChauL 15 Jul.
Black Tern: max 30 INWR 26 Jun; N Collins ERIE 5 Aug (SB); BeSP 23 Aug.
Com. Tern: max 100 BuffH 4 Jul.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 5 PB 9 Jun; arr Wilson NIAG 23 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 BuffH 2 Jun; 500 NF 13 Jul.

Am. Bittern: 3 INWR 9, 15 Jun; JAS 5 Jul; Cuba ALLE 13 Jul (DC); TBNP 27 Jul; TWMA 5 Aug; good showing.

Least Bittern: 2 INWR 6, 19 Jun; N Harmony CHAU 16 Jun (TL); max 5 Tift NP 16 Jun; 2, 3, 3 TBNP 30 Jul, 2, 25 Aug; Dayton Gravel Ponds CATT 28 Jul (JG); good showing.

Great Egret: 20 INWR 4 Jun; Sinclairville CHAU 25 Jun; max 42 TWMA 5 Aug.

SNOWY EGRET: Tift NP 19 Jun (DCo); TBNP 11 Jul (KR); probably same bird that was also seen along Niagara R on Canadian side.

Black Vulture: Lewiston NIAG 10, 27 Jul, year round resident at this loc.

Osprey: well reported from known breeding locs.

Bald Eagle: well reported from known breeding locs; max 6 DH 23 Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: GHSP 24, 26 Aug, unusual loc.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 TBNP 3 Jun; max 5 FNSP 11 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 4 Jul; Buffalo ERIE 5 Jul; 3 N Tonawanda NIAG 8 Jul; Westfield CHAU 15 Jul; 4 LBSP 29 Jul; 4 Sheridan CHAU 12 Aug.

Merlin: 2 ad + y, 3 Buffalo ERIE 19 Jun, 29 Jul (PY); Jamestown CHAU 29 Jun (JB); Lakewood CHAU 10, 16 Jul (TS); reps multi loc Aug, likely wanderers or migr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr TBNP 19 Aug; Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 19, 30 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun; arr 1, 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 7, 24 Aug; 1, 2 TBNP 19, 24 Aug; six oth Aug reps; good showing.

Acadian Flycatcher: last Gaines ORLE 16 Aug.

E. Kingbird: 17 LBSP 17 Aug; max 30 TWMA 27 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr TBNP 19 Aug.

Purple Martin: 163, 167 BWWTP 24 Jun, 1 Jul; max 235 Shelby ORLE 20 Jun; 170 OOWMA 12 Jul.

Tree Swallow: max 300 TWMA 5 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 50 Dayton Gravel Ponds CATT 28 Jul.

Barn Swallow: max 100 DH 8 Aug.

Sedge Wren: 1, 2 Yates ORLE 4, 8 Jul (WD, JS, DD, DoS); Leon CATT 11 Jul (R&DR); John White WMA 18 Jul (CH); only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: last 2 Buffalo ERIE & INWR 9 Jun; arr Wilson NIAG 16 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 9 Fredonia CHAU 7 Aug.

Pine Siskin: rep 8 loc Jun; Wilson NIAG 17 Jul, 11, 14 Aug (WD).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 3, 2 Olcott NIAG 6 Jun, 5 Jul; Somerset NIAG 1, 8 Jul; 2 LBSP 4 Jul; 2 Carlton ORLE 6 Jul; becoming more regular along L Ontario.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Bethany GENE 2 Jun; Waterport ORLE 8 Jun; Yates ORLE 4 Jul; Somerset NIAG 13 Jul; Farmersville CATT 23 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: rep9 loc; max 4 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 20 Jul.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 Harmony CHAU 17 Jun (TL); Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 8 Jul; Forestville CHAU 13 Aug; only reps away from ALLE, CATT.

Bobolink: max 80 INWR 9 Aug; 75 Ischua CATT 31 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: rep 15 loc Jun, good showing; 2 AISP 2 Jun; CSWMA 3 Jun; Wellsville ALLE 12 Jun; 2 JAS 16 Jul; last Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug.

Com. Grackle: max 1050 Lewiston Res NIAG 11 Aug.

Ovenbird: arr TBNP 8 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: rep only 4 loc.

N. Waterthrush: arr AmSP 14 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

“Brewster’s“ Warbler: GHSP 26 Aug (WD), only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: Almond ALLE 4, 11 Jun; Alfred ALLE 9 Jun; Willing ALLE 27, 28 Jul; arr Buffalo ERIE 13 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 3 TWMA 9 Jun; reg breeding loc.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Orchard Park ERIE 13 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: WFWMA 11 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 26 Jul; arr DH 12 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr Tift NP 15 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 12 Aug; max 6 FNSP 22 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 INWR 4, 30 Jun; AISP 24 Jun; last Royalton NIAG 8 Aug.

N. Parula: max 4 AISP 2, 23-30 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 12 Jun; Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 23 Jun (GC), unusual loc; arr Ellery CHAU 19 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 WoBSP 19 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 9 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr NF 14 Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr WoBSP 17 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 2 Hanging Bog WMA
ALLE 25 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr NFSP &
Tiftt NP 25 Aug.
Palm Warbler: arr TWMA 30 Aug
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr WoBSP 12
Aug.
Prairie Warbler: rep 5 locations.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TBNP 19
Aug.
Canada Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun;
max 5 Keeney Swamp SF ALLE 15 Jun; arr
AmSP 13 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr TBNP 23 Aug.
SUMMER TANAGER: Rushford ALLE 20
Jun (K&MT, ph!), unexpected; 2nd summer
record.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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Summer 2018 was another typical summer, with the tail end of spring migration and the start of fall migration both a bit weak. A major element of this summer's report is the change to the most recent AOS checklist order for this report and going forward. There has been some significant shifting of the relative placement of some bird families and species over the past two years. It will take some effort and time to become comfortable with trying to summarize all coherently after many years of relatively stable order. Please be patient.

It began with a pleasant June for the first four weeks, followed by a couple of oppressive days leading into a hot July. Temperatures averaged 67.7°F, 1.4° above normal. There was only one record, a high low on the 10th. Precipitation totaled 2.22", 1.12" below normal. Lake Ontario levels were back to just a bit above normal, a much appreciated change from last year's record highs. July continued on hot and dry, with browning vegetation, especially west of Rochester. A pattern change on about 21 July brought cooler temperatures and drought-relieving rains. Rochester was at the NW corner of an area between an upper level low in the Ohio Valley and a high over Western Atlantic pumping moisture into areas east with persistent rainfall and flooding. Temperatures averaged 75.2°, 4.4° above normal for the sixth warmest July on record, and precipitation totaled 3.20", only 0.13" below normal. There were 11 days with the highs >90°, the most since 1955. August was a typical hot and humid summer month, with periodic relief from cold fronts with showers. Temperatures averaged 73.6°, 4.3° above normal for the eighth warmest August on record, and precipitation totaled 2.67", 0.80" below normal. But there were heavier rains to our south and east on the 8th and on the 14th 2-4" fell on the metro area, but only 0.84" was officially recorded.

Generally, weather was good for birds and birding. eBird reports were up substantially in June and August and the total number of lines of records for the

three months were: 32,654; 27,285; and 23,712, respectively. Species totals were up and down vs. last year, but all were up over their 10-year averages. Nearly all expected species were reported each month. There were few real rarities, but some good finds nonetheless. In July, the rainfall boundary brought some great shorebird numbers and a few rarer birds to the area from just west of Rochester on east along the south shore of Lake Ontario. In August, passerine banding, and migration in general, seemed off to a slow start.

Moving on, we start with the familiar waterfowl. This family was weak in all three months, with low numbers for the usual breeding species and few surprises. Interesting notes included: a Brant to 4 June; up to 60 Mute Swans in the Town of Greece; Redhead, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck all present into June; American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal at the East Spit area of Braddock Bay in July; single Redhead, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser along the south shore of Lake Ontario in July; and “fall” arrivals of Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser in August. Red-necked Grebe was found at the late dates of 5 and 19 June and then arriving on 23 August, a day before the first Horned Grebe, with all these grebe reports at Hamlin Beach SP by Andy Guthrie. A peak of 42 Pied-billed Grebes in the Van Dyne Spoor area of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) on 8 August is a good count.

Our first block of species in an unfamiliar position starts with pigeons and doves, with a report of a Eurasian Collared-Dove, with photo, from Pittsford, a Rochester suburb, by Steve Taylor on 8 July. Next, the best nightjar records were Common Nighthawk on 2 June, then the first of fall migration with two in Honeoye Falls on 15 August. Good Chimney Swift numbers were 300 on 27 July and 230 on 19 August from the usual York Central School chimney in Greiggsville and 150 at the Dalton Elementary School on 20 and 21 August, both sites in Livingston County. Next, there were 462 lines of records in eBird for Ruby-throated Hummingbird in August. But 314 of these were for only 13 observers with 10-39 reports each for their feeders, and another 60 lines were from 13 more observers with 3-8 reports, each from one location. This new grouping ends with the usual few rail records, then some great numbers for Common Gallinule from the Van Dyne Spoor area, where cattails had died off over a large area leaving muskrat houses and the birds visible. Per DEC, the die-off was likely due to the effects from winter muskrat activity in the marsh. There was a peak count of 296 on 18 August. Finally, Sandhill Cranes were noted in small numbers all season in the usual areas in the NMWMA and in the Town of Richmond, Ontario County. Only two young were photographed with adults near Crusoe Lake, Town of Savannah in late July by Bill Gillette.

This season’s shorebirds provided some excitement, with nine expected species into early to mid June. Numbers were generally low, and the more unusual reports were Semipalmated Plover to 19 June, Sanderling (often missed

in spring) arriving on 5 June with a last spring record on 10 June, and a late Dunlin on 9 June. Least Sandpiper then became the first fall arrival on 25 June. July brought 20 species of shorebirds at mostly typical arrival dates. However, the weather shift on 21 July and the rain boundary line after that produced peak counts not seen here in years, including: 111 Whimbrel on 26 July at Sodus Point; 21 Red Knot on 22 July, 255 Sanderling, a Regional record high, on 23 July, and 250 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 23 July, all at the new barrier beach area of the East Spit of Braddock Bay; and many other records and counts that will be noted in the species section to follow. In August, reports continued from the East Spit barrier beach, and, with other reports from piers and beaches along the Lake Ontario shore, produced 24 species for the month. Most numbers were low in August, with the only notable high count 50 Sanderlings on 21 August at Sodus Point. The most notable species for August were Upland Sandpiper, now scarce except in migration, Red Knot continuing, and a Wilson's Phalarope on 21 August at Sodus Point.

Among the gulls, an adult Laughing Gull on 6 June passing Hamlin Beach and spotted by Andy Guthrie is an irregular rarity, but an adult Glaucous Gull found and photographed by Robert Buckert at the East Spit on 23 July was very rare. Otherwise the continuing trend of Lesser Black-backed Gull each month was most noteworthy. The Region's fourth **Least Tern** was found at the East Spit by Jim Miles and Laurie Mattle on 8 July and was seen and photographed by at least six others that day, then, likely the same individual was seen briefly by Lynn Bergmeyer on 3 August. Caspian Terns were present throughout the season, with a peak around 100 birds each month; those numbers are low for the July-August period, and juveniles were scarce. A real surprise was at the Van Dyne Spoor area on 14 July, when a Bald Eagle flushed the Black Terns in the marsh and Chris Wood, there with 19 other observers from Ithaca, counted 168, certainly a record high for the Region for recent years. A couple of single Black Terns at Braddock Bay in August was considered noteworthy. A maximum count of 24 Common Terns passing Hamlin Beach on 30 July is a low peak.

In the new grouping including loons through waders, we have four Red-throated Loons to 20 June and 20 Common Loons on 3 June, a bit high for the dates, then both loons reported in July, and finally a first fall Red-throated Loon on 23 August and six Common Loons on 31 August, both early for fall. Double-crested Cormorant numbers reported seemed low for the apparent numbers around Irondequoit Bay, with peak counts of about 100 until a maximum of 430 were recorded passing Hamlin Beach on 31 August. There were no unusual heron or egret reports for the season, only a few Black-crowned Night-Herons in unexpected locations.

Putting the vultures back on top of the raptors, we have Black Vulture in June at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch and Letchworth SP and in July still in Letchworth. There was also a good count of 54 Turkey Vultures in Letchworth. Though the official hawkwatch had ended, observers on 13 June had 29 Bald Eagles, 35 Broad-winged Hawks, and a late two Rough-legged Hawks. At the

other end of the season, again no official hawkwatch, but Dave Tetlow reported good Red-tailed Hawk numbers in early August, and Mike Tetlow reported a peak count of 578 on 28 August. No Northern Goshawks and only a few Red-shouldered Hawks were reported. On 22 August, Kim Hartquist spotted a Golden Eagle over the Plank and Five Mile Line intersection in the Town of Penfield. There were no owl or woodpecker reports of special interest this season. So we end this section with note of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports fairly low all season, though increasing in August. The only likely nesting Merlin notes came from Geneseo. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons fledged three young in the 15-20 June period, and all were still present in the general area through July.

Finally the passerines. With Olive-sided Flycatchers relatively scarce now, it was good to see three records into June, with the latest 19 June, and then a few fall arrivals scattered through August and across the Region. Looking at the end of the spring, we have most of the usual late migrants banded to typical dates, though Philadelphia Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Bay-breasted Warbler were all missed both in banding and even in reporting. Generally numbers were low and departure dates typical in June. Rarer breeding species noted were: Prothonotary Warbler, which was also reported in July and to 10 August from the usual Armitage Road area in the NMWMA; Prairie Warbler from the usual areas south of Harriett Hollister Spencer SRA in Ontario County; and Clay-colored Sparrow again at known sites and on into July. A surprise in June was **Henslow's Sparrow**, first reported at Beatty Point in the town of Greece on 5 June by Michelle Gianvecchio and seen and photographed or recorded through 2 August by many, then another found by Mike Wasilco and Christina Hoh in the Nations Road IBA on 21 June. Both were found during planned survey work. The rare **Western Meadowlark** on Armitage Road was again reported on 8 and 9 August. Essentially all expected passerines were reported in both July and August. In July, low-level banding efforts at BBBO detected a few surprises: a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher also photographed on 26 July; Swainson's Thrushes on 8, 22, and 28 July, with the 22 July bird recaptured on 23 July; Winter Wren on 30 July; Tennessee Warbler on 22 and 26 July; and Mourning Warbler on 16 July. Also in July, there were at least some decent swallow counts, though not to historically high numbers, and of special note, 2425 Bank Swallows photographed and counted on Parking Lot #5 at Hamlin Beach SP by Dominic Sherony and Doug Daniels on 8 July. Once again Jim Adams continued his regular walks at Oatka Creek Park, and his notes included a bumper season for Carolina Wren and a likely breeding of Mourning Warbler, unusual for Monroe County. It was also apparently a good summer for Northern Mockingbird locally, with up to 20 individuals reported just in Kings Bend Park, Town of Pittsford in August. Wrapping up the season, both banding and birding seemed slow in August. A special treat was a Connecticut Warbler both banded and photographed on 28 August.

Another June surprise was a lone Red Crossbill reported by Andy Guthrie from Webster Park on 12 June. Locally there are quite a few very late spring records for winter finches found near the Lake Ontario shore. In future reports I will need to work on moving the finches to their new location between the pipits and Snow Bunting; old habits die slowly.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, MONR; **BB-ES** – East spit of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **CLI** – Conesus Lake In, inc WMA marshes, LIVI; **DE** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester, at Lake Ontario; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T of Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – trails at west end of park; **HB-YC** – Yanty Creek area of HB; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **IBO** –

Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P and vicinity at S end of Irondequoit Bay; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou, MONR; **M-OW** – Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Rd west side of BB; **MAC** – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (MRM)** – Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, Morgan Rd Marshes, WAYN; **NMWMA (VDS)** – Van Dyne Spoor area, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **SPT** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC, LIVI.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: BB-ES 3 Jun (DH, RN); last Summerville Pier 4 Jun (MGU).
Mute Swan: max 60 Buck Pond, Greece 5 Jun.
Trumpeter Swan: max 9 NMWMA (VDS) 10 Jun.
Wood Duck: max 40 Canadice L – S 17 Jun & NMWMA (VDS) 8 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: HB 24 Jun, unusual loc for date; 12 BB-ES 28 Jul (RBU), unusual num & loc for date.
N. Shoveler: BB-ES 28-30 Jul & 1-2 BB-ES 2-25 Aug (mob), unusual loc for dates.
Gadwall: 3 HB 19 Jul, scarce in summer; arr BB-ES 15 Aug (RR), early.
Am. Wigeon: HANA 11 Jul & BB-ES 22 Jul & SPT 3 Aug, scarce in summer.
Mallard: 156 Greece 13 Jul; max 163 OB 7 Aug; good counts for dates.
Am. Black Duck: max 5 NMWMA (VDS) 10 Jun, very low max.
N. Pintail: arr 2 f HB 16 Aug (AGU), early.
Green-winged Teal: 2 HANA 17 Jun (MGU), unusual loc for date; BB-ES 23-28 Jul, 2 Aug (mob), scarce in summer.
Redhead: IBO 19-26 Jun, 3, 20 Jul & BB-ES 8 Jul, scarce in summer; arr BB-ES 25 Aug (GL, LK, RBU), early.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 CLI 4 Aug (RR), early.
Lesser Scaup: last IBO 3, 5 Jun (MGU); 2 Silver L 18 Jun (RSt), late.
White-winged Scoter: last 10 HB 6 Jun (AGU), late; HB 21 Jul (AGU), scarce in sum.
Long-tailed Duck: last PtB 7 Jun (CMo); HB-YC 3 Jul (AGU) & HB 31 Jul (AGU), scarce in sum; arr 1 f BB-ES 31 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 20 HB 3 Jun (AGU), late for number; BB-ES 8 Jul, 2-11 Aug (mob) & HB 1 Aug (R&SSp), scarce in sum.
Ruddy Duck: TCEA 27 Jun (MW), rare in sum.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 42 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 8 Aug, good count.
Horned Grebe: arr HB 24 Aug (AGU), early.

Red-necked Grebe: last HB 5, 19 Jun (AGU), late; arr 5 HB 23 Aug (AGU), early.
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 Pittsford MONR 8 Jul (ST, ph), new loc.
Com. Nighthawk: 4 H 1 Jun (AGU); last 3 G (KGr) 2 Jun; arr Honeoye Falls 15 Aug (BCar).
Chimney Swift: max 300 York Central School, Greiggsville LIVI 27 Jul (JK); 230 York Central School 19 Aug (JK); 150 Dalton Elementary School LIVI 20, 21 Aug (JGor).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 462 lines in eBird many loc Aug, *intro*.

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: 200 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 21 Jul (JMcG, LS); max 296 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 18 Aug (DD), *intro*.
Am. Coot: max 55 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 18 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: max 10 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 9 Jun (MM); 2 T Richmond ONTA 15 Jun, 13, 14 Jul (LBr, BH, RSm); E Lakeshore Marshes WAYN 6 Jun (MGU).
Black-bellied Plover: last BB-ES 11 Jun; arr Jones Bridge Rd LIVI 13 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 Wyoming Rd WYOM 18 Aug; no big counts.
Semipalmated Plover: last SPT 19 Jun; BB-ES 8 Jul.
Killdeer: max 75 Woods Rd WAYN 18 Aug, low max.
Upland Sandpiper: H 2, 6, 17, 25 Aug (AGU, BriM), now rare.
Whimbrel: arr 3 SPT 10 Jul (JWi); 10 Sodus Bay Lighthouse Pt 22 Jul (MGU); 11 SPT 26 Jul (DSh, MGU); 105 to max 111 SPT 26 Jul (JWi, LBe, RBU); 1-3 5 loc 14-31 Jul (14+ obs); 1 3 loc 6, 18, 20 Aug (DHo, JiM, JWi); 12 HB 18 Aug (AGU); unusually high numbers, *intro*.
Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 SPT 11 Jun; arr SPT 21 Jul; max 12 Summerville Pier 2 Aug (LBe).
Red Knot: arr 13 & max 21 BB-ES 22 Jul (TL; JiM, LMa); 1-7 ind 3 loc 23-29 Jul (20+ oth obs); 2 Summerville Pier 1 Aug (DH, CGI);

1-2 BB-ES 2-11, 27 Aug (mob); unusually high numbers.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MAC 17 Jul.

Sanderling: arr IBO 5 Jun (JiM); last spring 2 BB-ES 10 Jun (JiM, LM), often missed in spring; arr fall 1-3 SPT 14 Jul (JWi); 100 & 150 SPT 22 Jul (MGU, JW); 108 HB 22 Jul (AGU); 125 BB-ES 22 Jul TL); **max 255** BB-ES 23 Jul (RBu), Reg record high; 84 rep, 1-47 ind many loc 16-31 Jul (mob); 50 SPT 21 Aug (JWi, W&MR); 103 rep, 1-24 ind Aug (mob); unprecedent numbers, intro.

Dunlin: last PtB 9 Jun (AGU), late; arr 4 Wyoming Rd WYOM 18 Aug (RSt).

Baird's Sandpiper: arr SPT 7 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 2 NMWMA (MRM) 10 Jun; arr NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 25 Jun (W&MR); max 40 NMWMA (MRM) 25 Jul, low max; 170 lines eBird many loc Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 29 Jul (5 obs).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (Marten Tract) & SPT 17 Jul (MGU).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 BB-ES & 1 NMWMA (MRM) 10 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 10 Jul; max 250 BB-ES 23 Jul (RBu), good count.

peep sp: max 115 BB-ES 22 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 BB-ES 8 Jul (14+ obs); max 13 BB-ES 24 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr NMWMA (Marten Tract 17 Jul (MGU).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 HANA 9 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Kings Bend P, Pittsford 5 Jul (J&VL).

Willet: SPT 14 Jul (JWi).

Greater Yellowlegs: last NMWMA (MRM) 4 Jun; arr 10 MAC 17 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr SPT 21 Aug (JWi, W&MR).

Bonaparte's Gull: present all summer, unusual; max 45 BB-ES 19 Aug (TL), low max.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad HB 6 Jun (AGU).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: total ~13 at 4 loc 2-24 Jun (AGU, MGU, TL); max 8 HB 9 Jun (AGU); total 6 at 4 loc 3-28 Jul (4 obs); total 6 at 5 loc 3-22 Aug (7 obs); good numbers for summer.

GLAUCOUS GULL (R2): 1 ad BB-ES 23 Jul (RBu, ph), very rare mid-summer.

LEAST TERN: BB-ES 8 Jul (JiM, LMA, 16+oth obs), 4th Reg record; BB-ES 3 Aug (LBe), likely same ind?.

Caspian Tern: max 114 SPT 6 Jun; 92 BB-ES 24 Jul & 100 BB-ES 16 Aug, low-typical peaks for months, few juv.

Black Tern: NMWMA (VDS) 17, 29 Jun; max 168 NMWMA (VDS) 14 Jul (CW, shared w 19 oth obs) & 118 NMWMA (VDS) 19 Jul (MT), very high counts for recent years.

Com. Tern: max 50 HB 9 Jun (JF); present thru, unusual, usually a gap mid Jun – mid Jul..

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: dep 4 HB 20 Jun (AGU), late; HB 18 Jul (AGU), scarce mid-summer; HB 23 Aug (AGU), early.

Com. Loon: max 20 HB 3 Jun (AGU), late for so many; HB 2 Jul & 6 HB-YC 3 Jul (AGU); scarce mid-summer; arr 6 HB 31 Aug (AGU), early.

Double-crested Cormorant: counts to 100-125 thru 28 Jul; max 430 HB 31 Aug.

Am. Bittern: Basket Rd, Webster 8 Aug (JWi), unusual loc.

Great Blue Heron: max 60 NMWMA (VDS) 21 Jul, good count.

Great Egret: rep 1-9 many loc thru.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: North Ponds P, Webster 19 Jun (KM); 1 juv HANA 5 Jul (DSh); Kings Bend P, Pittsford 22-26 Jul (GF, 5 oth obs); unusual locs;

BLACK VULTURE (R2): BB hawkwatch 13 Jun (MT); LSP 16 Jun (TBo); LSP 18 Jul (DMi, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 60 HANA 10 Aug (AP).

Bald Eagle: max 29 BB hawkwatch 9 Jun (MT, ES); 11 BB hawkwatch 18 Jun (MGU); over 100 lines of eBird records each month, but only 2 oth counts >10.

N. Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: single reps Jun & Jul; total 16 migr 5 loc 3-25 Aug (5 obs).

Broad-winged Hawk: 35 BB hawkwatch 13 Jun (MT); 27 M – OW 6 Aug (DTe).

Red-tailed Hawk: 252 M – OW 5 Aug (DTe); 364 M – OW 6 Aug (DTe); max 578 BB hawkwatch 28 Aug (MT).

Rough-legged Hawk: last 2 BB hawkwatch 13 Jun (MT, ES), late.

Golden Eagle: Plank & Five mile line Rds, Webster (KH), rare in sum.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 5 HB 20, 25 Aug (CGI, A&AN).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 HHSpencer SRA, ONTA 20 Jun (ST), typical of counts in breeding areas.

Merlin: Rt 256 Conesus LIVI 19 Jun (KC); SUNY Geneseo Campus 20 Jun (MW);

Chandler Rd Greenway, LIVI 13 Jul (JK); T Gates MONR 18 Jul (JWa); total 10 ind 8 loc 8-27 Aug; only nesting reports Geneseo.

Peregrine Falcon: total 4 ind 3 loc 4-25 Jun; total 8 ind 8 loc 3-25 Jul; total 13 ind 9 loc 5-30 Aug; 3 yng fledged Rochester 15-20 June, all still present in the general area thru July.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Highland P Rochester 6 Jun; Beatty Pt, Greece 15 Jun; last Ganondagon, T Victor 19 Jun, late; arr CLI 4 Aug (BeB); Jones Bridge Rd LIVI 19-25 Aug (JK, 3 oth obs); Beechwood SP 23-26 Aug (MGU, 5 oth obs); New Rd WYOM 25 Aug (DBea).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1B BBBO 12 Jun; 3B BBBO 15 Aug; total B 12 BBBO 15-30 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 7 Bergen Swamp (DBem, PMac, JR, RSp);

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: max 15 B BBBO 1 Jun; total B 6 BBBO 15-24 Aug, low.

Willow Flycatcher: max 18 Beatty Pt, Greece 12 Jun (RSp), good count.

Least Flycatcher: max 12 Honeoye L Inlet WMA 16 Jun (BH), good count; total B 8 BBBO 20-30 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 27 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 43 HHSpencer SRA 8 Jun (R&SSp, T&PS); total B 18 BBBO 15-30 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 65 H 13 Aug.

Bank Swallow: max 2425 HB – Parking Lot #5 8 Jul (DSh, DD), ph, careful counts; 1600 2425 HB – Parking Lot #5 11 Jul (AGu); parking lot near Devil’s nose colony; no big counts of migr.

Barn Swallow: max 150 BB-ES 25 Aug, low max.

Winter Wren: total ~18 ind 13 loc Jun (15+ obs), good numbers; 1B BBBO 30 Jul, unusual loc for date.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: no reports.

Swainson’s Thrush: last 2 loc 3 Jun (7+ obs); 1B BBBO 8, 22, & 28 July, 22 July bird recap 23 July; arr HB – WE 16 Aug (RSp).

Hermit Thrush: arr M – OW 25 Aug (LK, GL).

Gray Catbird: max 28 Beatty Pt, Greece 17 Jun (AGu); total B 47 BBBO 15-30 Aug.

N. Mockingbird: max 20 Kings Bend P, Pittsford 2 Aug (RR), high count.

Cedar Waxwing: max 305 HB 5 Jun (AGu).

Am. Pipit: dep HB 7 Jun (AGu, ph), late.

Red Crossbill: WP 12 Jul (AGu), irreg in sum.

Pine Siskin: rep of 1-3 ind scattered across Reg thru.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-3 Cook Rd, Hamlin 9, 12, 17 Jun, 4-14 Jul (sev obs); Ballantyne Rd, T Chili 3, 16, 18 Jun (sev obs).

Savannah Sparrow: max 35 Nations Rd survey 1 Jun (MW), good count.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 8 Nations Rd survey 1 Jun (MW).

HENSLOW’S SPARROW (R2): 1-2 Beatty Pt, Greece 5-30 Jun, 2 Jul (MGi, mob, ph, aud); Nations Rd, Geneseo 21 Jun (MW, Cho); now rare, found on grassland surveys.

White-throated Sparrow: last near Newark WAYN 10 Jun (SBe), late

Bobolink: max 100 Livonia LIVI 18 Aug (TB), good count.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 4, 8, 9 Jul (CW, W&MR, ZS-W, RBo), still at original site.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 300 HB 31 Aug (RSp).

Ovenbird: migr Webster Arboretum 31 Aug.

N. Waterthrush: total B 6 BBBO 16-30 Aug.

Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler: County Rd 10, Geneseo 11 Jun (KC).

Black-&-white Warbler: M 17 Jun (MGU), unusual loc for date.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru 17 Jun (mob), 22 Jul (JeB, CW), 10 Aug (JMcG), nesting.

Tennessee Warbler: last HB 9 Jun (AGu), late; 1B BBBO 22, 26 Jul, rare mid sum; arr 1B BBBO 16 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr 1B BBBO 16 Aug.

Connecticut Warbler: 1B BBBO 25 Aug, ph, Reg record early.

Mourning Warbler: 1B BBBO 16 Jul, unusual loc for date.

Com. Yellowthroat: total B 18 BBBO 15-29 Aug.

Am. Redstart: total B 34 BBBO 15-30 Aug, good number.

Cape May Warbler: arr 3 HB 15 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: last 1B BBBO 16 Jun, late; arr Chimney Bluffs WAYN 19 Aug, early; total B 36 BBBO 21-30 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1B BBBO 16 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr G 13 Jun (KGr), early.

Yellow Warbler: max 44 Beatty Pt, Greece 12 Jun (RSp); 42 Beatty Pt, Greece 15 Jun (AGu); good counts; total B 9 BBBO 15-29 Aug, low num B.

Blackpoll Warbler: last HB 8 Jun; HB 22-28 Jun (AGu), late. **Black-throated Blue**

Warbler: last Cranberry Pnd Trail, G 1 Jun; arr Beechwood SP 25 Aug.

Pine Warbler: max 10 HB 25 Aug (BriM), good count.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr HB 15 Aug (AGu), early migr.

Prairie Warbler: 1-2 Wetmore Rd, LIVI 11 Jun (BH, STa, TBo, ph), rare breeder.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr M – OW 19 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last 1B BBBO 12 Jun; arr 1B BBBO 15 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1B BBBO 5 Jun; arr NMWMA (VDS) 20 Aug.



REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In Ithaca, June 2018 was cooler and drier than normal, with the average temperature 0.6°F below normal and precipitation 1.9" less than normal. July and August were both warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature in July was 1.7° above normal, and the precipitation was 0.12" more than normal. The average temperature in August was 3.1° above normal, and the precipitation was 1.34" more than normal.

While the bountiful rainfall of August led to swollen rivers and streams making them inhospitable to waterfowl, conditions at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge were apparently excellent for Trumpeter Swans and dabbling ducks. Observers recorded high counts in August for Trumpeter Swan and all species of dabbling ducks, except Wood Duck and Mallard. They recorded a high count for Mallards in June. A variety of diving ducks lingered into June, with Canvasback on Cayuga Lake and at Montezuma NWR, Greater Scaup on Seneca Lake, Lesser Scaup on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and at Montezuma NWR, Long-tailed Duck on Seneca Lake, Bufflehead on Seneca, Canandaigua, and Keuka Lakes, Common Goldeneye on Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes, and Red-breasted Merganser on Seneca Lake. Ring-necked Ducks were seen on Seneca Lake and at Montezuma NWR in July and again at Montezuma NWR in August. An individual Ruddy Duck was reported at Montezuma NWR in August.

Joining the August high counts at Montezuma NWR was Pied-billed Grebe, and joining the lingering June diving ducks was Horned Grebe, with as many as three on Seneca Lake in June. Unusual were two Red-necked Grebes on Seneca Lake in mid-August. Jay McGowan also recorded a high count of Double-crested Cormorants on Cayuga Lake in August.

A single Snowy Egret and a single Cattle Egret showed up at Montezuma NWR in June. Remarkably, two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons appeared in the

Region. Kayakers photographed one wading in Fall Creek in Freeville. The other was at Montezuma NWR for more than a month for many to see. David Nicosia's report of 25 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Montezuma NWR was a summer high count.

Two Black Vultures spent the last half of the season in the Ithaca-Dryden area. Charles Higham reported 100 Turkey Vultures at Taughannock Falls State Park for another high count. Chris Wood turned in a high count for Ospreys at Montezuma NWR. Also at Montezuma NWR, Michael Scheibel reported a high count of Common Gallinules, Logan Kahle turned in a high count of American Coots, and Mark Brown had a high count of Sandhill Cranes.

Late departing spring migrant shorebirds were Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. Early arriving fall migrant shorebirds were Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Ann Mitchell reported a high count of Greater Yellowlegs. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana reported a high count of Lesser Yellowlegs. Jay McGowan reported a high count of Sanderlings at Long Point State Park and Tim Lenz reported the same number at Montezuma NWR. Jay and Kevin McGowan reported a high count of White-rumped Sandpiper. Unusual species of shorebirds included an American Avocet in early June and a Ruff in early August, both at Montezuma NWR. A Red Knot was at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake in late August.

No unusual gull or tern species were reported during the season, but observers reported high counts for Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls and for Black Tern. The high count of six Bonaparte's Gulls in Aurora Bay came on 10 June, a late spring migrant date for that species. Also late was a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Myers Point on 14 June. A sighting of the species at the same location on 9 July is a rare mid-summer record.

Observers in Steuben County found a location for Barn Owl in the Town of Thurston. Jeremy Collison had a high count of Belted Kingfishers in Queen Catharine Marsh. William Evans and Ethan Lai had high counts of Red-bellied Woodpecker in separate locations in Tompkins County. Logan Kahle had a high count of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in Finger Lakes National Forest. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana had a high count of Acadian Flycatcher in Cayuta Gulf. An Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were reported on early fall arrival dates.

Other miscellaneous high counts were Wes Blauvelt's Blue Jays in Tompkins County, Chris Wood's Tufted Titmice in Queen Catharine Marsh, Tim Lenz's Red-breasted Nuthatches around the Bonavista State Park Golf Course, a large birding group's Brown Creepers at Shindagin Hollow State Forest, Paul Rodewald's American Robins in Enfield, and William Evans's Cedar Waxwings at Jennings Pond. William Evans also recorded the nocturnal flight call of an early migrating Swainson's Thrush in mid-July.

The only late spring migrant warbler was a Cape May Warbler on 4 June. Early fall migrating warblers were a Cape May Warbler on 18 August and a

Northern Parula on 23 August. Another Northern Parula was seen and photographed by a large birding group at Roy H. Park Preserve on the remarkable date of 13 July. It is difficult to say if this was a late spring migrant or an early fall migrant or a bird that had just given up on the idea of completing its migration. Adriaan Dokter and Ken Rosenberg had a high count of Black-and-white Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Chris Wood had a high count of Prothonotary Warblers at Montezuma NWR. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana reported a high count of Cape May Warblers in Roy H. Park Preserve. Jeremy Collison had a high count of Bay-breasted Warblers at Palmer Woods. Meena Haribal had a high count of Pine Warblers in Danby. Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala reported a high count of Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. A large group of observers tallied a high count of Canada Warblers at Shindagin Hollow State Forest. Rare warblers included a Golden-winged Warbler and a “Lawrence’s” Warbler at Sapsucker Woods, a back-crossed Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler hybrid in Danby, a Connecticut Warbler in Sapsucker Woods, and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Monkey Run.

Rounding out the high counts were Ethan Lai’s Chipping Sparrows at Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, nocturnal fall migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks tallied by a group of counters at Cornell University, Meena Haribal’s Bobolinks at Montezuma NWR, and Jay McGowan’s Orchard Orioles at Myers Point. A Black-headed X Rose-breasted Grosbeak hybrid appeared and was photographed at a feeder belonging to Jennifer Fais and Noel Sylvester in the Town of Rathbone, Steuben County in early August. The bird continued there through the end of the season. “Winter” finches this summer were a Red Crossbill that Marky Mutchler sound-recorded in the Finger Lakes National Forest and flocks of Pine Siskins in the Town of Caroline and on Hammond Hill, both in Tompkins County.

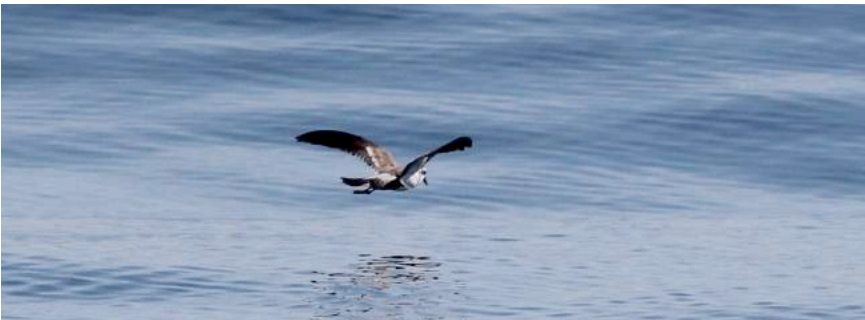
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**PHOTO GALLERY
SUMMER 2018**



Trindade Petrel, near Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 20 Aug 2018, © Tom Johnson.



Bridled Tern, Great Gull Island, *Suffolk*, 4 Aug 2018, © Sean Sime.
South Polar Skua, offshore Long Island, 20 Jul 2018, © Rachael Herman.
White-faced Storm-Petrel, near Hudson Canyon, 19 Jul 2018, © Rachael Herman.



Anhinga, Morningside Park, *Sullivan*, 23 Jul 2018, © John Haas.
Roseate Spoonbill, Wallkill River NWR, *Orange*, 5 Aug 2018, © Karen Miller.



American Avocets, West Barrier Bar CP, *Cayuga*, 7 Aug 2018, © Deborah Dohne.
Brown Booby, Long Lake, *Hamilton*, 25 Aug 2018, © Tom Whitney.
Lark Sparrow, Randall's Island, *New York*, 31 Aug 2018, © Nadir Souirgi.

Dave Kennedy, Max Kirsch, Geo Kloppel, J Gary Kohlenberg, Yasuhiko Komatsu, Stuart Krasnoff, Ethan Lai, Gabriel Leite, Tim Lenz, Sam Loomis, Lea LSF, N Mahathi, Patricia Martin, Anne Mayville, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Seabird McKeon, Tracy McLellan, Phil McNeil, Matthew D. Medler, Jasper Merry, Peto Miranda, Ann Mitchell, Elliot Montieth, W Morris, Diane Morton, Marky Mutchler, Adrianna Nelson, Patrick Newcombe, Jessica Newman, David Nicosia, Bob Nieman, James Norwalk, Dave Nutter, Dixon Onderdonk, Ana Paula Oxom, Pooja Panwar, Lorena Patricio, Hans Peterman, Scott Peterson, Jo Popma, Mike Powers, Bill Purcell, Paul Rodewald, Emma Rosen, Ken Rosenberg, Kevin Rybczynski, Livia Santana, Saurabh Sawant, Michael Scheibel, Tom Schulenberg, Luke Seitz, Jarred Seveyka, James Sharpless, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, David Simpson, Roger Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Andrew Spencer, Mike Stage, Rick Stevens, Noel Sylvester, Michael S Taylor, Michael Tetlow, Chris Thomas, Sarah Toner, Diane Traina, Drew Weber, Wyatt Westerkamp, David Wheeler, Chris Wood, Kexin Yan.

ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CU** – Cornell University; **Cyg** – Cayuga; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **NE Ith** – Northeast Ithaca; **Sen** – Seneca; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 1-6 MNWR thru; max 26 Mud Lock CAYU 16 Jun (PMc), high; 5 Emerson P CAYU 24 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: max 16 MNWR 21 Aug (SSh), high.

TUNDRA SWAN (R3): MNWR 2-4 Jun (mob!); MNWR 3-4 Jul (mob!, ph).

Blue-winged Teal: max 45 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

N. Shoveler: max 60 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

Gadwall: max 75 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Am. Wigeon: max 230 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Mallard: max 1200 MNWR 15 Jun (mob), high.

Am. Black Duck: max 50 MNWR 11 Aug (CF), high.

N. Pintail: max 30 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high for date.

Green-winged Teal: max 180 MNWR MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

Canvasback: 1-2 Mud Lock CAYU 2-3 Jun; MNWR 16 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: Lakefront P ONTA 18 Jul; MNWR 20 Jul; MNWR 3 Aug.

GREATER SCAUP (R3): 2 Sen L SP 11-15 Jun (TL, mob, ph).

Lesser Scaup: 2 Sen L SP 1-23 Jun; Cyg L 2-3 Jun; MNWR 23 Jun.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (R3): last Sen L SP 2 Jun (JMc, KMcGo).

BUFFLEHEAD (R3): Sen L SP 11 Jun (TL); Holiday Harbour ONTA 13 Jun (CJa); Sen L SP 23 Jun (KG); 4 Keuka L, T Jerusalem YATE 26 Jun (MTe).

COM. GOLDENEYE (R3): 1-4 Holiday Harbour ONTA 1 Jun-20 Jul (CJa, ph); 2 Sen L SP 12-15 Jun (mob, ph).

Hooded Merganser: max 11 Hile School Hill Rd Wetland TOMP 3 Jul (CW), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 3 Sen L SP 11-15 Jun (TL, ph), high.

Ruddy Duck: MNWR 11 & 25 Aug, low.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 159 MNWR 12 Aug (CJa), high.

HORNED GREBE (R3): 1-3 Sen L SP 1-23 Jun (mob, ph).

RED-NECKED GREBE (R3): 2 Sen L SP 11 Aug (TL, ph).

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 City of Ithaca 12 Aug; TDry 12 Aug; max 11 TDry 24 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: max 250 MNWR 20 Aug (MSc), high.

Am. Coot: max 405 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Sandhill Crane: max 22 MNWR 4 Aug (MBr), high.
AM. AVOCET (R3): MNWR 1-5 Jun (mob, ph).
Black-bellied Plover: last MNWR 3 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 25 Jul (TL, ph), early; max 10 MNWR 25 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: 4 MNWR 22 Aug; 2 MNWR 28 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 23 Jun (BwF, ph), late; arr MNWR 4 Jul (SP), early; max 55 MNWR 11 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: max 5 T Seneca Falls SENE 14-20 Jul.
Whimbrel: arr Cyg L, T Seneca Falls SENE 18 Jul; MNWR 19 Jul; 2 Clute Memorial P SCHU 21 Jul; MyPt 22 Jul.
Ruddy Turnstone: last MNWR 1 Jun; arr & max 3 MNWR 25 Jul.
RED KNOT (R3): MyPt 30-31 Aug (mob, ph).
RUFF: MNWR 4-10 Aug (mob, ph).
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 13 Jul; max 13 MNWR 26 Jul.
Sanderling: arr MNWR 22 Jul; 2 Cyg L, Aurora 22 Jul; 10 MyPt 22 Jul; max 40 Long Pt SP 22 Jul (JMc); 40 MNWR 23 Jul (TL), high.
Dunlin: last MNWR 9 Jun; arr 5 MNWR 4 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 5 Aug; max 7 MNWR 29 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: last MNWR 23 Jun (DNu), late; arr 2 MNWR 4 Jul; max 200 MNWR 25 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 15 Jun (mob!), late; arr 2 MNWR 26 Jul; max 18 MNWR 2 Jun (JMc, KMcGo), high.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MNWR 25 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 Jul; max 125 MNWR 25 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 14 Jul; max 300 MNWR 4 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 7 MNWR 15 Jul; max 18 MNWR 25 Aug.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 16 Jul (TL!), early; max 9 MNWR 23 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Dunn Field Fishing Access CHEM 15 Jun; max 9 MNWR 16 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last Watkins Glen Central High School 2 Jun; MNWR 2 Jun; arr 4 MNWR 23 Jun; max 500 MNWR date (JMc, LSA), high.
WILLET (R3): MNWR 17 Jul (MGU, PMA, SP!).

Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 22 Jun; max 180 MNWR 26 Jul (AMi), high.
Wilson's Phalarope: last MNWR 8 Jun (mob, ph), late; arr MNWR 12 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: last & max 6 Aurora Bay CAYU 10 Jun (MAI, ID, SD), late and high; arr Taughannock Falls SP 2 Jul.
Ring-billed Gull: max 3000 Sen L SP 22 Aug (TL), high.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: last MyPt 14 Jun (JCu, ID, TM), late; MyPt 9 Jul (JMc), rare in mid-sum.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 Harris P CAYU 29 Aug (TL), high.
Black Tern: max 45 MNWR 17 Jul (MGU, PMA), high.

LOONS – PARROTS

Com. Loon: max 11 Cyg L, Aurora 22 Jul.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 MyPt 24 Aug (JMc), high.
SNOWY EGRET (R3): MNWR 8 Jun (DSH, MTe!).
CATTLE EGRET (R3): MNWR 12-13 Jun (DK, ph; mob, ph).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 25 MNWR 11 Aug (DNi), high.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R3): Fall Creek, Freeville 26 Jun (LLSF, ph); MNWR 21 Jul-28 Aug (mob, ph).
Black Vulture: 2 T Ithaca & TDry 22 Jul-30 Aug (mob, ph).
Turkey Vulture: max 100 Taughannock Falls SP 4 Aug (Chi), high.
Osprey: max 17 MNWR 4 Jul (CW), high.
BARN OWL (R3): T Thurston STEU 30 Jun (DO!); T Thurston STEU 20 Aug (DB!).
Belted Kingfisher: 8 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 28 Jul (JeCo), high.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 TDan 17 Aug (WEv); 8 BLNA 30 Aug (EL), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Caswell Road Grasslands TOMP 7 June (CuHa, DW); arr BLNA 5 Aug (KR!), early.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Summerhill State Forest CAYU 3 Jun; arr NE Ith 29 Jul (KR!), early; max 3 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 26 Aug (LK), high.
Acadian Flycatcher: max 7 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 14 Jul (JMc, LSA), high.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr CU 23 Aug.
Blue Jay: max 47 Boggy Bottom TOMP 21 Aug (WB), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 16 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 21 Jul (CW), high.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 24 Bonavista SP Golf Course SENE 23 Aug (TL), high.
Brown Creeper: max 6 SHSF TOMP 17 Jun (mob), high.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 2 NE Ith 1 Jun, nocturnal.
Swainson's Thrush: max & last 5 NE Ith 1 Jun; arr TDan 19 Jul (WEv, recording), nocturnal, early.
Am. Robin: max 314 T Enfield TOMP 28 Aug (PR), high.
Cedar Waxwing: max 75 Jennings Pd TOMP 24 Aug (WEv), high.
Red Crossbill: Finger Lakes National Forest SCHU 16 Jun (MMu, recording).
Pine Siskin: max 15 T Caroline TOMP 10 Jun (SKe), high; 11 Hammond Hill TOMP 5 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 BLNA 26 Aug (EL), high.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R3): MR 10 Jul (CW!).
Bobolink: max 2000 MNWR 26 Aug (MH), high.
Orchard Oriole: max 7 MyPt (JMc), high.
Worm-eating Warbler: LPBP 12-17 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Buttermilk Falls SP 15 Jun; last 2 T Big Flats CHEM 5 Aug.
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): SW 12 Aug (NB, MaC!, JMc).

GOLDEN-WINGED X BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (R3): TDan 26 Jun (PMc, ph).
“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER (R3): SW 11 Aug (AGC, ph).
Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 LPBP (AD, KRo), high.
Prothonotary Warbler: max 3 MNWR (CW), high.
Tennessee Warbler: arr NE Ith 15 Aug.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3): SW 30 Aug (JFr!).
Cape May Warbler: last MR 4 Jun (CW!), late; arr Bonavista SP Golf Course 18 Aug (TL), early; max 3 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 19 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.
N. Parula: last SHSF TOMP 1 Jun; Roy H Park Preserve 13 Jul (mob, YK, ph); arr Palmer Woods TOMP 23 Aug (JeCo), early.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Mundy Wildflower Garden TOMP 12 Aug; max 3 Palmer Woods TOMP 23 Aug (JeCo), high.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 2 T South Bristol ONTA 4 Jun.
Pine Warbler: max 5 MR 1 Jul (CW); 5 TDan 29 Jul (MH), high.
Prairie Warbler: max 7 LPBP 16 Jun (RBu, NK), high.
Canada Warbler: max 12 SHSF TOMP 17 Jun (mob), high.
Wilson's Warbler: arr CU 21 Jun.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 CU (mob), high, nocturnal.
BLACK-HEADED X ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (R3): T Rathbone STEU 10 Aug thru (JFa, NS, ph).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2018 was about average regarding temperature and slightly drier than normal. July was warmer than the long-term norm but had about two inches more rain than average. August was two degrees cooler than normal but had almost two and a half times as much rain as average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Seven birds, including five juveniles, were seen there. This was the second year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh. There were perhaps ten

blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region, so it is not a very common breeder in the Region.

Conveniently visible from a viewing platform at Pharsalia State Forest, two adult Sandhill Cranes and two recently hatched colts were reported and photographed on 26 June. However, the colts were not seen after that date, but later three adults were seen together in the area from 5-6 August. In previous NY Breeding Bird Atlas projects begun in 1980 and 2000, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes breeding in the Region.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there were several reports of Sanderlings in late July. From 22-23 July, Sanderlings were reported in Broome, Chenango, and Otsego Counties. For the past ten years there have been no reported July sightings of Sanderling from our Region in eBird. Then on 23 July 71 Least Sandpipers were seen and photographed in a Sherburne marsh. The cause of this sudden surge in July shorebird sightings is unknown. On 21 August a Ruddy Turnstone was spotted at Dorchester Park, and the next morning a Short-billed Dowitcher was also seen there by an observer who was searching for the Ruddy Turnstone. From 19-20 August, first one, then two Black Terns were also observed perched on a jetty at Dorchester Park. Lastly, a Baird's Sandpiper was photographed at a pond in Chenango County on 31 August.

In late June a family of bathing Eastern Screech-Owls was photographed by a trail-cam set up near a stream at Broome Community College. This was a rare look at a behavior most of us had not seen before but must happen fairly frequently! In the village of Johnson City, there was a report of breeding hawks, which turned out to be a family of Merlins nesting in a tall spruce. This was a different location from last year's breeding pair in Broome.

In contrast to the many sightings of Red Crossbills last year, there was only one sighting of a Red Crossbill, but this observation had an audio recording as well as a photograph. The recording was analyzed by Matt Young and found to be an Appalachian or Type 1 variety. Pine Siskins were reported in good numbers in June and early July and may have been breeding in the Region, especially in Tioga County.

Possible breeding Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Broome and Tioga in mid-June. A Nelson's Sparrow was seen on 19 August at Upper Lisle Park in Broome by Dave Nicosia.

Good numbers of breeding warblers were seen at Tuller Hill State Forest, which included nine Mourning Warblers and seven Hooded Warblers on 22 June. In total, 27 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which is the same number as reported seen in the last year's summer report and in the fall report for the last three years. The warbler species reported changes somewhat, but the total number of species has remained the same.

In summary, 182 species were reported, with some interesting rarities and behaviors for the Region. If there are a reasonable number of reports, I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers when reporting the number of reports in the Region. There were 33,745 observations

in eBird for our Region, so I want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BoPd – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CaGr** – Carantouan Greenway, TIOG; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusR** – Susquehanna R, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle P, BROO.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 4 Delaware Ri DELA 13 Jun, late, ph.

Brant: 30 Otego OTSE 5 Jun, flyover.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 New Berlin CHEN 26 Jul; 10 T Candor TIOG 31 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: 3 Kilroy Rd Pd Oxford CHEN 31 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 MHL 3 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 48 reports throughout Region.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 41 reports throughout Region.

Com. Nighthawk: max 20 William Hill P Johnson City BROO 23 Aug; 11 Sidney DELA 27 Aug; 8 T Candor TIOG 30 Aug; 11 other scattered rep in late Aug.

Chimney Swift: max 47 Binghamton BROO 2 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 518 lines in eBird, many from feeders.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 6 BoPd 23 Jul, 2 ad, 4 juv; 5 SHM, 4 Jul, 2 ad, 3 juv, ph.

Sora: MHL 15 Jul; BoPd 5-6 Jul.

Com. Gallinule: 7 SHM 25 Aug, 2 ad, 5 juv, ph; BoPd 22 July & 27 Aug; UL 10 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 26 Jun (mob), 2 ad, 2 juv, ph; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 5-6 Aug, 3 ad; *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: DorP 31 Jul -1 Aug, only rep.

Semipalmated Plover: max 8 TriCities Airport BROO 13 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: DorP 21 Aug, only rep, *intro*.

Sanderling: William Hill P Johnson City 22 Jul; SHM 23 Jul; 2 T Springfield OTSE 23 Jul; 3 DorP 21 Aug; *intro*.

Baird's Sandpiper: Kilroy Rd P CHEN 31 Aug (MD), ph, *intro*.

Least Sandpiper: max 71 SHM, 23 Jul, ph, *intro*.

Pectoral Sandpiper: SHM 13 Aug; DorP 31 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: DorP 22 Aug, ph.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 15 William Hill P Johnson City BROO 17 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 SHM 3 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SHM 4 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr SHM 11 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: DorP 15 Aug.

Great Black-backed Gull: Cortland CORT 16 Jul.

Caspian Tern: max 4 DorP 8 Aug.

Black Tern: 2 DorP 19-20 Aug.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 3 Pepacton Res DELA 29 Jul -23 Aug.

Am. Bittern: MHL 14 JUN; Oxford CHEN 3 Jul; CaGr 19 Aug.

Least Bittern: CaGr 17 Jun; 3 MHL 15 Jul, mob.

Great Egret: max 5 Wilber L OTSE 4 Aug; 27 rep, many from the Chenango & Susquehanna Rivers BROO.

Black Vulture: 4 scattered rep. from OTSE & DELA.

Osprey: approx. 50 rep throughout Region.

Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.

N. Goshawk: T Windsor BROO 4 -12 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 scattered rep of singles.

E. Screech-Owl: 3 SUNY Broome BROO 29 Jun, ph.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CHEN 12 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: max 9 Round Pond Rd BROO 22 Aug.

Merlin: max 4 Johnson City BROO 12 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 Binghamton BROO 16 Jul, many rep of resident downtown pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: Downsville DELA 14 & 25 Aug; Oxford CHEN 23 Aug; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Finger Lakes Tr CORT 1 Jun; Vestal BROO 8 Jun; DELA 29 Jul; OTSE 12 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Backus Rd OTSE 8 Jul; rep singles TIOG & CHEN Jun and Jul.

Horned Lark: 2 MHL 2 Jun, ph.

Purple Martin: max 3 Tom Dunn Rd Oxford CHEN 23 Aug; 3 other rep singles TIOG & CHEN Jun and Jul.

Marsh Wren: max 6 MHL 2 Aug; 4 BoPd 30 Jun.

Red Crossbill: New Michigan SF CHEN 29 Jul, Type 1, ph, recording, only report.

Pine Siskin: max 8 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 10 Jun; 27 other rep mostly from TIOG Jun and early Jul.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 T Candor TIOG 15 Jun; T Barker BROO 9-12 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: UL 6 Aug, ph; King St BROO 29 Aug.

Nelson's Sparrow: UL 19 Aug (DN), *intro*.

Orchard Oriole: UL Jun 2-3; LHNC Jun 4.

"Brewster's" Warbler: T Candor TIOG 24 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 9 Tuller Hill SF CORT 22 Jun; 5 New Michigan SF CHEN 15 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 7 Tuller Hill SF CORT 22 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: max 5 Mase Cold Wetland Preserve DELA 31 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Warren Rd DELA 2 Jul.

Bay-breasted Warbler: UL 19 & 31 Aug; Pharsalia SF CHEN 22 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: CaGr 23 Aug; LHNC 25 Aug; King St BROO 29 Aug; Oxford CHEN 31 Aug.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Overall the summer season was warmer than normal and featured an average amount of precipitation, but the statistics were not uniform across the Region. Eastern and northern portions received substantially less rainfall. Correspondingly, water levels on Adirondack lakes and creeks were noticeably down. In Syracuse, the average temperature for June was 65.6°F, a degree lower than normal. In June the total rainfall in Syracuse was 3.5", which is almost exactly the average. July and August were both approximately 2.5° warmer than normal and in Syracuse featured near average rainfall, 4.25" in July and 2.96" in August. In northern Herkimer County, Gary Lee reported that the water levels on Big Moose Lake and Stillwater Reservoir were the lowest seen in decades. Fortunately, low water didn't seem to hamper resident Common Loons, which experienced relatively good breeding success. By July, water levels in wetlands and streams were low in the southern and eastern parts of the Region. As early as mid-July, Delta Lake was drawn down and mudflats prevailed. Respectable numbers of shorebirds took advantage of the habitat, but only for a few short weeks. Water levels at Delta began increasing, and by the start of August, the flats were much reduced and shorebird numbers diminished and, reportedly, never rebounded even after the lake levels fell again.

In the north, the fruit crop was affected by drought, most notably the blackberry crop, which was largely desiccated. Apples, crabapples, and cherries were more resilient. In other parts of the Region, the fruit crop was particularly bountiful. Wild grapes, elderberries, viburnum, and dogwood berries were much in evidence. Mast production was fairly uniform throughout the Region's forests, with acorn and nut crops generally poor to nonexistent, and seed production, good to very good. Samaras were abundant on roughly a third of the ash trees and the same was true with most other maple family members. Catkins covered birch branches in forests and fields. Cone crops on conifers were poor, with most spruce trees producing virtually nothing. Norway Spruce was the exception in some areas. Some pine species were slightly more prolific, particularly Scotch Pine and Red Pine. Hemlock cone production was generally very poor. All told, the Region's mast is likely robust enough to tempt half-hardy songbirds and perhaps some winter finches to remain with us for a while.

A lone Snow Goose was seen on 25 June at Three Rivers WMA. The goose was flying north but apparently struggling. Perhaps it was old or

otherwise physically compromised. A high count of 60 Wood Ducks at Delta Lake on 19 July included many recently fledged young. That was one of several indications that Wood Ducks experienced a good breeding season in the Region. A female Northern Pintail remained at the dam site on the Oswego River at Phoenix for more than two weeks in early August. There were no reports of Blue-winged Teal during the breeding season, but the species was encountered in relatively low numbers in late August as they began staging. In Utica on 29 July, a non-breeding male Greater Scaup was seen in the company of Canada Geese. The group was swimming and feeding within a fenced-in water impoundment at an industrial brown site. The duck was diving and apparently feeding normally but was never seen in flight, so its full range of abilities was never ascertained. Although relatively low high counts of Wild Turkeys in the Region's eBird data don't reflect it, the species had a relatively good breeding season. Hens with poults were commonly encountered in a variety of habitats and as they crossed roads throughout much of the Region.

A maximum count of eight Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Howland Island on 9 June was notable, but it was the outlier. The next highest count was only two. Black-billed Cuckoos were more frequently encountered, but high counts didn't exceed two. We have learned to look to the resident Peregrine Falcons in Utica to gauge the strength of local cuckoo populations. For five years now, when providing for nestlings and fledglings, the male Peregrine dependably preys upon cuckoos of both species. The ease with which he procures them within his hunting territory indicates that the Region's supply of cuckoos is higher than one might glean from other data sources. Many of the cuckoos caught are stored on a high row of shallow ledges on the State Office Building in downtown Utica. The cuckoos, along with other prey species, are most often stored with their tails pointing out, which makes them less likely to blow off in high winds. For us, it also makes them easy to identify and count. During the June-July portion of the breeding season, at least 20 cuckoos were taken by the falcons.

High counts of migrating Common Nighthawks didn't make it out of middle-single digits, and there were no reports of the species between 2 June and the second week of August, when they start to migrate. Three reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will came from a known breeding area in the Town of Salisbury in Herkimer County. Perhaps a lack of effort was responsible for the dearth of reports from the traditional summer location along the north shore of Oneida Lake. Chimney Swifts were reported in expected areas, but their flock sizes were low. High counts were 40 and 20 from Dolgeville and Skaneateles Lake, respectively. On 9 June a maximum of 28 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was tallied as they visited the many nectar feeders at the Stillwater Hotel in the Adirondacks. All the Region's expected rail species were found this period but not in exceptional numbers. A high count of six Virginia Rails at Woodchuck Hill Field Forest Preserve near Fayetteville on 16 July included three fledglings. The two American Coots reported at Howland Island on 26 August was our only sighting of that species for the season.

On 7 August at the West Barrier Bar County Park near Fair Haven, Deborah Dohne observed and photographed three **American Avocets**. The rarities flew in tight formation over shore before diverging from the shoreline and heading southeast over the bay. They were not seen again. This sighting was only the seventh Regional record for the species. Shorebird numbers and species diversity were about average for the Region, but there were some notable occurrences. **Piping Plover** was confirmed breeding near Sandy Pond. Alison Kocek found two banded adults with four banded chicks on 29 June. Matthew Brown observed and photographed a banded adult and four fledglings on 25-26 July. This is encouraging and hopefully represents the start of reestablishment of a breeding population on the Lake Ontario shoreline in Oswego County. There were few reports of Upland Sandpipers this period. All occurred within a few miles of each other in the Town of Deerfield, south of Poland in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. None was reported after 8 June. Although it's not unusual for **Whimbrels** to be seen in the Region during spring migration, the species is much less commonly encountered in the summer and fall. This period several were found at Fair Haven between 17 July and 22 August. A high count of five Whimbrels was reported on 24 July. Small numbers of **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Red Knots** were also found both at Fair Haven and Sandy Pond in late July and August. Although the majority of the common sandpiper species were reported only in modest numbers, there were a few decent high counts. At Fair Haven on 22 July, 125 Sanderlings were tallied. That number was then dwarfed by the **350** Sanderlings Matthew Brown counted at Sandy Pond on 25 July. 125 Semipalmated Sandpipers found at Delta Lake on 26 Jul was notable, as were the 12 White-rumped Sandpipers counted at Sandy Pond on 14 August. Gregg Dashnau reported 13 Short-billed Dowitchers at the West Barrier Bar County Park on 17 July. It was a particularly good season for **Willetts**, with multiple sightings along the Lake Ontario shoreline. On 9 July, Chris and Sally Holt photographed six Willetts as they fed along the shore. Two close birds were found at Oswego on 24 July and enjoyed by many. On 17 August Deborah Dohne observed and photographed four Willetts as they perched with gulls on the breakwall at West Barrier Bar County Park.

At the same location on 22 August, two **Parasitic Jaegers** were seen soaring and chasing after gulls. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana spotted a second cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** perched on a breakwall at Fair Haven on 21 July. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are uncommon visitors in the Region during the summer period, although immatures of the species show up with more frequency than adults. Reports of Black Terns came from Selkirk Shores State Park (five on 16 June) and Fair Haven (six on 22 August). No close surveys of the Oneida Lake Common Tern colony were reported to eBird, but sightings anywhere on the lake in summer are presumed to be birds from this colony.

In northern Herkimer County in the Adirondacks, Gary Lee monitored 23 breeding pairs of Common Loons on 12 Lakes. They produced a total of 14

chicks. Lee reported that pairs on South Lake and Honodaga Lake lost their nests and, at the latter site, a banded adult male was killed by a boat. Reports of American Bitterns came from only six locations and all involved single birds. Least Bitterns were found in nine, mostly expected areas. All sightings were of single birds including one expired individual seen on 1 July. That bittern had been stored in the male Peregrine Falcon's afore-mentioned larder in Utica, the top story ledges on Utica's State Office Building. Interestingly, the bittern had a dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo stored on top of it!

On 26 August, Chris Wood spotted a rare **Snowy Egret** in flight over the northwest portion of Howland Island, continuing a good showing in our area by the species. There have been at least 30 previous reports of Snowy Egret in Region 5. Sightings of (usually) one Black-crowned Night-Heron at Onondaga Lake continued from 2 July through the end of the period. The species status as a breeder in the Onondaga Lake area is uncertain. While aboard a boat on the Oneida River near Brewerton on 10 July, Dorothy Wadlow observed a single adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** perched on a bank. The observer described the bird well and was familiar with both night heron species. It was not relocated.

In mid-summer, a few relatively large concentrations of Turkey Vultures were reported. On 18 July, 74 were tallied at Fair Haven, and on 5 August 95 were seen in Canastota, where they are attracted to the many perches provided by a cell phone tower. There were only 20 reports of Northern Harrier this period. On 1 June, an adult Northern Goshawk carrying prey was observed and photographed in Sangerfield. That was the only confirmed record of the species for the period. Historically, N. Goshawks nested in State forestland in that area. A maximum of 20 Bald Eagles was counted at Derby Hill on 21 July. On 13 June, an injured fledgling Bald Eagle was rescued at a nest site in Hamilton, Madison County. The young bird was taken to Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center for rehabilitation. Monitoring what comes into wildlife rehabilitation centers is often a good method of determining what species are breeding in a region. On 11 July, an orphaned fledgling Red-shouldered Hawk was found at Bernhards Bay on the north shore of Oneida Lake, and taken to Kindred Kingdoms for rehabilitation. There were only a dozen other reports of the species. 41 Broad-winged Hawks migrated over Derby Hill on 25 August.

Only the Region's three most common owl species were reported this season. On 26 June, an Eastern Screech Owl nestling tumbled out of a Utica nest and was brought to Falcon Heart Rescue for rehabilitation. A maximum of eight Red-headed Woodpeckers was found at Fair Haven on 7 July, an excellent number for the area. Most reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from the Lake Ontario shoreline and the vicinity of Oneida Lake. An undated (summer) but reliable report of a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from the town of Kirkland and very close to one of the species' traditional breeding areas. One Black-backed Woodpecker was observed in Old Forge on 11 August.

American Kestrels were reported as breeding in Tully, Rome, and Westmoreland. On 13 July, breeding Merlin were confirmed by Mickey Scilingo near his Constantia property and where the species has bred in previous years. On the 13th, Scilingo could hear nestlings calling from the nest while a parent attempted to escort an Osprey out of its territory. By 24 July, three young had fledged from the nest. Gary Lee reported finding three Merlin nests in the Adirondacks. It remains unknown whether Peregrine Falcons attempted to breed in Syracuse this season. If they did, they didn't use the nest box provided on the State Tower Building. Although there were reports of the usual resident pair being present in downtown, there were no reports of a nesting attempt on another building and no one saw any fledglings. Three Peregrines fledged from the Utica nest between 17-22 June. All juveniles remained on their parents' territory until mid-August.

Olive-sided Flycatcher arrived into the southern part of the Region on 19 August. On 24 August, Ian Davis and Sarah Dzielski observed 22 Eastern Kingbirds at Chittning Pond in Sangerfield. Reportedly the birds were feeding en masse around the edge of the water. While kayaking 4.5 miles around Howland Island, Jay McGowan and Livia Santana tallied (among other things) 43 Warbling Vireos. The next highest count was eight at Verona Beach State Park on 7 August. Some observers noted that Warbling Vireos were conspicuously absent from migrant mixed flocks in late August. The first Philadelphia Vireo was reported on 20 August. On 8 July, three Canada Jays were reported by Will McPhain near Inlet in northern Herkimer County. Like Black-backed Woodpeckers, Canada Jays are expected in the boreal habitat of northern Herkimer County, but are seldom reported.

There were relatively few reports of Cliff Swallows, and all came from areas south and west of Oneida Lake. Reports of modest-sized breeding colonies came from East Syracuse and Cicero. There were indications that Red-breasted Nuthatches were on the move this summer. Although counts were almost uniformly small, the species was observed in many unusual locations. The lack of spruce cones in northern areas likely contributed to the irruption. A maximum number of eight Red-breasted Nuthatches was tallied in Fabius on 1 July. Breeding season reports of Winter Wrens primarily came from the Adirondacks, Tug Hill, and the southern highlands of Madison and Onondaga Counties. The data suggests a continued decline of breeding populations at lower altitudes. There were very few reports of Swainson's Thrush this period. A few reports came from northern Herkimer County, where the species normally breeds. One report involved a migrant seen at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary on 28 August. For a few years now, it seems that Northern Mockingbirds were being found only in areas located south and west of Oneida Lake. This summer there were a smattering of sightings in the east and even as far north as Old Forge. A pair was confirmed nesting in downtown Utica in late June. Those mockingbirds had a nest in an ornamental conifer located in a hotel's side yard. The adult female was highly protective of her nest and occasionally harassed pedestrians on the

sidewalk. The mockingbirds usually limited their mobbing behavior to street-level antagonists, but more than once one of the adults was seen diving at a juvenile Peregrine Falcon perched high upon a radio antenna set atop the roof of the 13 story hotel.

On 5 July, while paddling the Moose River near Old Forge, Sam Heinrich reported hearing at least two Red Crossbills in what seemed to be appropriate habitat. As it happened that would be our only crossbill report for the season. Pine Siskins were reported in small numbers in high elevations. There were only three reports of Grasshopper Sparrows this period and none occurred after 5 July. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported at two locations but only consistently at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland, where they are known to breed. In the latter part of the breeding season, one Clay-colored Sparrow was noted rendering a convincing Chipping Sparrow-type song. There were only two reports of Vesper Sparrow this summer. More encouragingly, the numbers of Eastern Towhees seem to be up. A maximum number of 15 was tallied at Green Lakes State Park on Independence Day. Very good numbers were reported in several other locations. A pair of towhees recognized by behavioral quirks returned a second year to breed at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary. As is the case with many unbanded songbirds, it's often hard to determine if they breed with the same mate in consecutive years.

On 19 June, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was among birds netted in a banding project at Baltimore Woods Nature Center. From mid-August through the end of the period, numbers of migrating Bobolinks were relatively high over parts of the Region. 74 flew over Three Rivers WMA on 13 August and 62 flew over the McKoon's Road wetlands near Richfield Springs on 25 August. Orchard Orioles were especially numerous at Green Lakes State Park this period, with a high count of 11 tallied on 13 July. The species was confirmed breeding for the first time in several years at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary. Again, this summer there were relatively few reports of Louisiana Waterthrush, and most came from the highlands in the Region's south and far north. There were no confirmed reports of Golden-winged Warblers this period. Blue-winged Warbler numbers continue to slip downwards. Maximum numbers were only four for that species. There remains a great amount of appropriate habitat for Blue-winged Warblers in the Region, and so its decline likely stems from myriad other causes. On 9 June, McGowan and Santana found eight Prothonotary Warblers while kayaking around Howland Island. Included in that number were two pairs at nest holes. Megan Westervelt observed a male Prothonotary Warbler coming in and out of a tree cavity at Delta Lake on 10 June. Based on the male's behavior it was conceivable that a female was inside the nest, but no subsequent visits were made to verify breeding. This was the first time since the original Breeding Bird Atlas Project in the 1980s that the species was suspected to be breeding at Delta. Alison Kocek found an early Palm Warbler on 26 July in the scrubby dunes at Sandy Island Beach State Park. A maximum number of five Cape May Warblers was counted by Bill Purcell at his Hastings property on the last day of August.

McGowan and Santana found an amazing total of 31 Cerulean Warblers at Howland Island on 9 June. There were less than a handful of sightings elsewhere in the Region. Northern Parulas were not hard to come up with in the northern part of the Region this year, at least according to some reporters. A maximum number of 10 was tallied in Old Forge on 5 July. Migrant Parulas began showing up in more southerly areas on 27 August.

This season a total of 211 species was reported, which is five above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: Sandhill Crane, **American Avocet**, **Piping Plover**, **Whimbrel**, Ruddy Turnstone, **Red Knot**, **Willet**, Parasitic Jaeger, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Black Tern, **Snowy Egret**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Red Crossbill, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and Prothonotary Warbler.

Summer 2018 produced 52,958 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 356 people.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Manlius, ONON; **Hast** – Hastings, OSWE; **HI** – Howland I, CAYU; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor, **SB** – Sylvan Beach; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango, MADI; **Skan** – Skanateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature

Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VB** – Verona Beach SP and vicinity; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL _ HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: TR 25 Jun, possibly injured, only rep.
Canada Goose: max 250 DL 23 Jul.
Mute Swan: max 9 FH 30 Aug.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 SNC 3 Jun; TR 5 Jun; last 16 Jun; only reps.
Wood Duck: max 60 DL 19 Jul; 48 UM 26 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: max 34 DL 25 Aug; 14 SP 26 Aug; few reps.
Gadwall: MNWR east 24 Aug, only rep.
Mallard: max 342 OLC 27 Jul.
Am. Black Duck: max 12 Little Falls 28 Aug.
N. Pintail: Phoenix 31 Jul – 17 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: first 2 Memphis 4 Aug; max 18 DL 25 Aug.
Redhead: 7 MNWR 5 Jun, only rep.
Greater Scaup: Utica 29 Jul (MP).
Lesser Scaup: WP 5 – 8 Jun, only rep.
Hooded Merganser: max 8 Richfield Springs 2 Jul.
Com. Merganser: max 21 OF 5 Jul.
Red-breasted Merganser: DL 10 Jun, only rep.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 SP 2 Jun; reports of singles from 6 other locs.
Ruffed Grouse: max 7 OF 18 Jul – 2 Aug; 6 SH 2 Jul.
Wild Turkey: max 24 Kirkville.
Pied-billed Grebe: 7 SSSP 16 Jun; max 23 MNWR east 24 Aug.
Rock Pigeon: max 72 Syr 9 Aug.
Mourning Dove: max 43 OnonL 24 Jul.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 8 HI 9 Jun; 2 GLSP 3 Jul.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 GB 6 Jun & 2 GLSP 3 – 4 Jul & 2 WP 6 Jul & 2 Hast 15 – 29 Jul & 2 SFNS 18 Jul.
Com. Nighthawk: max 6 TR 20 Aug; 4 Syr 24 Aug; low numbers.
E. Whip-poor-will: 2 Salisbury 2 Jun – 4 Jul, only loc.
Chimney Swift: 20 Skan 16 Jun; max 40 Dolge 5 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 28 Stillwater Reservoir, ADK 9 Jun, at hotel feeders; 6 HI 15 Jun.

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 6 Fayetteville 16 Jul & 6 Richfield Springs 25 Aug; relatively low

numbers.

Sora: Madison 9-11 Jun; HI 15 Jun; SP 15 Aug; Warren 25 Aug; only reps.
Com. Gallinule: 4 Volney 25 Jul; 6 Madison 5 Aug; max 17 MNWR east 24 Aug.
Am. Coot: max 2 HI 26 Aug; no reps away from HI & MNWR east.
Sandhill Crane: 2 West Monroe 17 Jul; max 12 MNWR east 26 Jul (DD); TR 10 Jun.
AMERICAN AVOCET (R5): 3 FH 7 Aug (DD! ph), 7th Reg rec.
Black-bellied Plover: arr FH 22 Jul; DL 2 Aug, only rep away from LOS; max 4 FH 14 Aug & 4 SP 24 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 SP 14 -15 Aug, reps from SP only.
Semipalmated Plover: last Altmar 6 Jun; arr DL 23 Jul; max 12 DL 2 Aug; 10 Herkimer 25 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER: max 6 SP 29 Jun (AK), 2 ad & 4 y, all banded; 2 ad & 4 fl SP 25 – 26 Jul, (AK, MB, ph).
Killdeer: 32 OnonL 17 Aug; max 35 SHTF 19 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Deerfield 1 – 8 Jun, only loc.
Whimbrel: arr FH 17 Jul; max 5 FH 24 Jul (DD); all reps from FH.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr DL 22 Jul; 6 SP 25 Jul; max 7 FH 7 Aug (DD).
Red Knot: arr & max 6 FH 22 Jul; SP 26 Aug; only locs.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr SP 11 – 13 Aug; MNWR east 24 Aug; only reps.
Sanderling: arr 125 FH 22 Jul; 150 OswH 23 Jul; max 350 SP 25 Jul (MB); great numbers.
Dunlin: FH 3 Jun, only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2 DL 23 Jul; 2 FH 17 – 22 Aug; 2 OnonL 22 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: last Holland Patent 28 Jun; arr OLC 16 Jul; max 16 FH 22 Jul; 14 DL 23 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last SP 21 Jun; arr SP 13 Aug; max 12 SP 14 Aug (MB), good number.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 10 DL 26 Jul; 4 SP 14 Aug; few reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 SP 21 Jun; arr OLC 16 Jul; 45 OnonL 24 Jul; max 125 DL 26 Jul.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 13 FH 17

Jul (GD); 2 DL 26 Jul; 3 SP 25 Aug; singles at one oth loc.

Am. Woodcock: max 6 TR 25 Jun; 2 Belgium 11 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Deerfield 10 Jun; 2 Dolge 22 Jun; few reps.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 5 OLC 24 – 26 Jul; 4 Jamesville 25 Jul; 4 SP 11 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr WP 13 Jul; max 11 West Eaton 20 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Eaton 16 Jul; max 12 DL 26 Jul; 7 MNWR east 24 Aug.

Willet: arr & max 6 SP 9 Jul (CSH, ph); FH 23 Jul (GD); Dolge 22 – 24 Jul; 2 Oswego 24 Jul (JG, mob); 4 FH 17 Aug (DD, ph); good showing.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 FH 17 Jul; 4 OnonL 24 Jul; max 7 SP 25 Jul.

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 FH 22 Aug (GD, BP, DW), only rep.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr SB 5 Jul; 10 DL 26 Jul; max 19 SP 26 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1800 OswH 18 Jul.

Herring Gull: max 200 OswH 22 Aug; 157 FH 30 Aug; pr produced y for first time in many years on 4th Lake, ADK (GL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: FH 21 Jul (JM, LS), unusual in summer.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 6 SB 24 Jul & 6 SP 19 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 115 FH 22 Jul; max 420 SP 11 Aug (JM, LS), good number.

Black Tern: 5 SSSP 16 Jun; max 6 FH 22 Aug; only locs.

Com. Tern: max 110 SP 11 Aug; 72 Brewerton 22 Aug; see *intro*.

Com. Tern/Forster's Tern: 3 OnonL 8 Jul.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: OnonL 13 Jun; max 7 OF 18 Jul; all but one rep from ADK; 22 prs produced 14 y HERK, ADK (GL).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 500 SP 11 Aug.

Am. Bittern: Deerfield 1 Jun; Dolgeville 30 Jun; SSSP 16 Jul; TR 20 Aug; only 2 oth reps of singles.

Least Bittern: Hamlin Marsh 1 – 7 Jun; DeWitt 7 Jun; UM 8 Jun; TR 9 Jun; HI 15 Jun; Utica 1 Jul, stored prey of resident Peregrines, *intro*; 4 oth reps of singles.

Great Blue Heron: max 75 SNC 3 Jun, rookery; 35 SP 11 Aug.

Great Egret: max 9 MNWR east 5 Jun & 9 DL 26 Jul; 8 Belgium 29 Jul; 8 OLC 9 Aug; widespread.

SNOWY EGRET (R7): HI 26 Aug (CW).

Green Heron: max 11 WP 15 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 OnonL 2 Jul, singles OnonL thru; Belgium 28 Aug.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R7): ad Brewerton 10 Jul (DWa).

Turkey Vulture: 74 FH 18 Jul; max 95 Canastota 5 Aug.

Osprey: max 6 Oswego 22 Jul; 5 OLC 27 Jul – 22 Aug; widespread.

Bald Eagle: Madison 13 Jun (JS), injured fledgling taken to KK; max 20 DH 21 Jul; 8 SP 18 Aug; 11 DH 25 Aug.

N. Harrier: 2 Erieville 6 Jul; less than 20 reps of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 TR 19 Jul; max 3 SFNS 24 – 25 Aug; relatively few reps.

Cooper's Hawk: max 3 Clay 25 Jul; 2 VBSP 30 Jul – 2 Aug; BLNC 20 Jul.

N. Goshawk: Sangerfield 1 Jun, only rep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Bernhards Bay 11 Jul (JS), orphaned fledgling taken to KK; max 2 Williamstown 24 Aug; only 11 oth reps.

Broad-winged Hawk: 4 DH 12 Jul; max 41 DH 25 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: Rome 22 Jun (DS), orphaned nestling taken to FHR; New Hartford 12 Aug (DS), injured nestling taken to FHR; max 84 DH 25 Aug.

E. Screech-Owl: Utica 26 Jun (DS), nestling falls from nest; 2 HI 29 Jul; 2 Warren 25 Aug; singles, 12 oth locs.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Clay 4 Jun; 2 Pompey 14 Jun; 2 Salisbury 19 Jun; 2 Noyes Sanctuary 10 Jul; only 7 oth reps.

Barred Owl: max 4 GLSP 10 Jul; 3 Nick's Lake, ADK 18 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: 6 OF 5 Jul; 6 DL 19 Jul; max 9 DB 30 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 8 FH 7 Jul; 2 VB 1 Aug; 3 Cleveland 4 Aug; reps from 2 other locs.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 SH 11 Jun; max 8 HI 15 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 4 SFNS 12 Jun – 10 Jul; max 5 Durhamville 7 Jul & 5 SH 13 Jul.

Black-backed Woodpecker: OF 11 Aug, only rep.

Downy Woodpecker: max 12 CM 18 Jul; 7 Rome 5 Aug.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 HI 9 Jun; 6 Dolge 8 Jul.

N. Flicker: 13 SFNS 21 Aug; max 15 SH 23 Aug.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 HI 9 – 15 Jun & 4 OF 5 Jul.

Am. Kestrel: 3 Tully 6 Jul, confirmed br; Rome 9 Jul (DS), orphaned nestling taken to FHR; Westmoreland 26 Jul (DS), orphaned nestling taken to FHR; 4 SH 7 – 26 Aug; max 5 GLSP 12 Aug; 4 Bville 13 Aug.
Merlin: max 4 Const 24 Jul, nest; 3 Pulaski 26 Jul; 3 nests in HERK, ADK (GL).
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Utica 1 Jun – 18 Aug, three fledged from nest; singles, 4 oth locs.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Syr 2 Jun; arr WP 19 Aug; only 3 oth reps.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 15 HI 9 Jun; 11 Syr 31 Jul; 10 VB 7 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: reps from 8 locs.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 2 SNC 3 Jun; singles WH 9 Jun – 8 Aug; only reps.

Alder Flycatcher: 11 TR 3 Jun; 4 SFNS 10 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: 6 DeWitt 7 Jun; 6 HI 15 Jun..

Alder/Willow Flycatcher: max 3 HI 8 Jul.

Least Flycatcher: max 8 Redfield 6 Jun; 4 Moss Lake, ADK 16 Jun; 4 SFNS 21 Aug.

E. Phoebe: 6 Dolge 9 Jul; 9 SH 25 Jul.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 7 HI 9 Jun; 5 Rome 9 Jun; 6 VB 22 Jun; max 13 CM 26 Jul.

E. Kingbird: max 22 Sangerfield 24 Aug; 14 Richfield Springs 25 Aug.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 HI 9 – 22 Jun; 3 WH 30 Jun.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 OF 19 Jun & 4 SH 19 Jun; reps from 15 oth locs.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Belgium 20 Aug; 2 SH 23 Aug; 2 VB 30 Aug; reps from 2 oth locs.

Warbling Vireo: max 43 HI 9 Jun; 8 VB 7 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: 20 OF 1 Jun; max 31 Redfield 6 Jun; 21 HI 9 Jun.

Canada Jay: OF 8 Jul, only rep.

Blue Jay: max 35 SFNS 23 Aug; 20 Belgium 23 Aug.

Am. Crow: max 108 DB 30 Jul.

Fish Crow: 2 OF 8 Jul; max 3 Syr 25 Jul; 2 Bville 3 Aug; Phoenix 31 Jul – 9 Aug; low numbers.

Com. Raven: 6 Elbridge 9 Jun; 6 HI 9 Jun; max 15 Ava 25 Aug.

Horned Lark: 3 Waterville 4 Jun; max 10 SHTF 28 Aug; singles at 2 other locs.

Purple Martin: 14 Cicero 25 Jul; 10 Belgium 20 Aug; 9 TR 26 Aug.

Tree Swallow: 51 SP 18 Aug; max 70 Sangerfield.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 13 Little Falls 8

Jul; max 49 HI 11 Aug.

Bank Swallow: 20 Fulton 10 Jun; 20 Sterling 9 Jul; max 40 FH 27 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: 10 Phoenix 10 Jun; 5 Syr 10 Jun; max 14 Cicero 18 Jul (DW); singles & small num 8 other locs.

Barn Swallow: max 150 FH 27 Jul; 98 West Winfield 30 Jul.

Black-capped Chickadee: 18 Syr 19 Jul; max 24 SH 13 – 31 Aug.

Tufted Titmouse: 6 Cazenovia 14 Jul; max 8 SP 26 Aug.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Fabius 1 Jul; 7 SH 28 Aug.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 GLSP 23 Jun; 11 SH 31 Aug.

Brown Creeper: max 5 HI 9 Jun; 2 Skan 26 Jun; 2 Boonville 25 Aug.

House Wren: 9 Clay 22 Jun; max 10 New Hartford 29 Jun.

Winter Wren: max 4 OF 11 Aug; most reps from ADK.

Marsh Wren: max 10 HI 9 June; 8 Madison 5 Aug.

Carolina Wren: max 4 SH 25 Jun; 3 Manlius 27 Jun; 3 Syr 13 Aug.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 18 HI 9 Jun; 4 TR 19 Jun; 4 DB 4 Aug.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 SH 13 Jul; max 4 OF 11 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: OF 17 Jun, only report.

E. Bluebird: max 14 Central Square 23 – 24 Jul; 11 HI 26 Aug.

Veery: max 17 HI 9 Jun; 8 SSSP 16 Jun; 11 VB 22 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: OF 1 Jun – 18 Jul; SFNS 28 Aug; only reps.

Hermit Thrush: max 10 Rome 22 Jun; 7 Williamstown 12 Jul.

Wood Thrush: max 14 HI 9 Jun; 13 GLSP 4 – 10 Jul; 8 WH 7 Jul.

Am. Robin: max 35 Syr 30 Jun; 33 UM 26 Jul.

Gray Catbird: max 25 CM 20 Jun; 20 GLSP 23 Jul; 16 Chittenango 28 Aug.

Brown Thrasher: max 5 GLSP 10 Jun – 7 Jul; 4 Earlville 27 Jun.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Utica 26 Jun, br; max 3 Syr 17 – 22 Aug; 2 Oswego 22 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: 65 Richfield Springs 25 Aug; max 70 SFNS 31 Aug.

House Sparrow: max 60 Clay 3 Jul.

House Finch: 8 Fayetteville 30 Jul; 11 Dolge 12 Aug; max 15 Syr 22 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 19 Dolge 12 Aug; best numbers HERK.

Red Crossbill: 2 OF 5 Jul, only rep.
Pine Siskin: 3 OF 1 Jun; 8 SH 8 Jun; 3 Dolge 3 Jul.
Am. Goldfinch: max 100 DB 4 Aug; 48 SP 31 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS _ CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: max 15 GLSP 4 Jul; 8 Hast 18 Jul; 7 SH 31 Aug.
Chipping Sparrow: max 35 Syr 19 Jul; 20 VB 8 Aug.
Clay-colored Sparrow: max 3 SFNS 5 Jun (MP), br; GLSP 8 Aug; only locs.
Field Sparrow: 11 TR 3 Jun; max 17 GLSP 23 – 30 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: Williamstown 19 Jul; GLSP 8 Aug; only reps.
Savannah Sparrow: 6 Richfield Springs 25 Aug; max 8 New Woodstock 27 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 TR 16 – 20 Jun; Norway 24 Jun; New Woodstock 5 Jul; only reps.
Song Sparrow: 42 TR 8 Jun; max 50 HI 9 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: 17 Bville 13 Jul; 16 CM 26 Jul; max 20 VB 31 Jul.
White-throated Sparrow: max 10 OF 5 Jul; most reps from ADK.
Dark-eyed Junco: 10 OF 29 Jul; max 21 Little Falls 19 Aug.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Baltimore Woods Nature Center 19 Jun, MAPS banding (AK).
Bobolink: max 74 TR 13 Aug; 37 Sangerfield 24 Aug; 62 Richfield Springs 25 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: 3 Hamilton 23 Jun – 7 Jul; max 5 GLSP 13 Jul; reps from only 7 locs.
Orchard Oriole: 5 SFNS 18 Jul, br; max 11 GLSP 13 Jul.
Baltimore Oriole: 10 Fayetteville 9 Jun; max 20 HI 15 Jun.
Red-winged Blackbird: 150 TR 13 Jul; max 1800 MNWR east 29 Jul.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 18 Cold Brook 24 Jun; max 30 HI 8 Jul.
Com. Grackle: max 500 SFNS 30 Aug; 355 Tully 31 Aug.
Ovenbird: 14 HI 9 Jun; max 16 SH 21 Jun; 14 Rome 22 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Orwell 6 Jun; 2 Boonville 14 Jun; 2 Manlius 24 Jun; reps from only 3 oth locs.
N. Waterthrush: max 5 Hubbardsville 9 Jun; 3 TR 9 Jun.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 4 Erieville 20 Jun; 3 Hast 20 Jul; 4 HI 26 Aug.

Golden-winged/Blue-winged Warbler: singles, 5 locs.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 OF 5 Jul; 2 OLC 30 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: max 8 HI 9 Jun (JM, LS), 2 prs PR br; DL 10 Jun, (MW), PR br.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Richfield Springs 25 Aug; 4 other reps.
Nashville Warbler: max 7 OF 5 Jul; 2 Williamstown 13 Jul – 9 Aug; 2 SH 13 Aug; 2 Hast 31 Aug.
Mourning Warbler: max 4 SH 1 Jun & 4 Redfield 6 Jun & 4 WH 30 Jun.
Com. Yellowthroat: 19 GLSP 30 Jun; max 25 OF 5 Jul; 16 VB 2 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: 2 WH 5 – 30 Jun; 2 SFNS 10 Jun; max 8 Kirkland 14 Jul.
Am. Redstart: 11 Redfield 6 Jun; max 48 HI 9 Jun; 19 CM 20 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: arr Hast 19 Aug; 4 OLC 27 Aug; max 5 Hast 31 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: 2 SH 1 Jun; max 31 HI 9 Jun (JM, LS), good number; singles at 4 other locs.
N. Parula: max 10 OF 5 Jul; Brewerton 27 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: 5 Sangerfield 1 Jun; max 12 OF 5 Jul.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Hast 23 Aug; max 2 HI 26 Aug; 2 Hast 27 Aug; 2 SFNS 31 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 10 OF 1 Jun; 6 Sangerfield 1 Jun; 6 Redfield 6 Jun.
Yellow Warbler: 45 HI 15 Jun; 30 CM 20 Jun; 17 OLC 24 Jul.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 15 OF 5 Jul; 9 SH 24 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: OF 2 Jun; Syr 3 Jun; arr OLC 25 Aug; 3 other reps.
Bay-breasted/Blackpoll Warbler: Barneveld 21 Aug; SFNS 23 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 OF 1 Jun; 3 SH 1 Jun; most reps from ADK.
Palm Warbler: SP 26 Jul (AK), early.
Pine Warbler: max 4 TR 1 Jun; 3 Great Bear Recreational Area 10 Jun.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 12 OF 19 Jun; 8 Lake Julia 21 Jun; 6 Rome 22 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: Happy Valley 7 Jun; 2 GLSP 16 Jun; Georgetown 16 Jun – 13 Jul; SFNS 19 Aug; only reports.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 6 OF 1 Jun; 4 SH 1 June & 31 Aug.
Canada Warbler: max 3 OF 1 Jun & 3 SH 9 Jun.
Wilson's Warbler: last SNC 2 Jun; arr & max 2 Hast 23 Aug; 2 oth reps.

Scarlet Tanager: 6 HI 15 Jun; 6 GLSP 23 Jun;
max 7 Camillus 9 Jul.
N. Cardinal: 12 Fayetteville 1 Jun; 14 CM 20
Jun; max Clay 28 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 6 Dolge 5 Jun; max
15 HI 15 Jun; 6 Rome 19 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: 6 GLSP 23 Jun; max 14
Richfield Springs 25 Aug.



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Both temperature and precipitation were close to average for most of the Region in June. July and August were very warm, averaging 3-5 degrees above normal for most of the Region, but precipitation was about normal both months. One of the surprises of the season was that, despite roughly average precipitation this season and normal or above normal precipitation for most of the previous six months, many areas away from the Region's largest lakes and rivers were very dry.

Water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River were significantly lower than the record high levels from the spring and summer of 2017, but were still high enough during the early and mid-summer to severely limit shorebird habitat. Lake levels dropped enough by late July to expose a modest amount of shoreline, where generally small numbers of shorebirds were seen including several Regionally rare species. On 26 July Matthew Brown photographed a juvenile **Piping Plover** that was banded at an Oswego County nest earlier in the summer, apparently the only sighting of this endangered species in Jefferson County this year, and one of very few sightings in the county since the successful nesting at Lakeview WMA in 2015. On 28 July a group of visiting birders found a **Willet** at El Dorado, and on 25 August Tony Shrimpton saw a Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone at the same location. Unfortunately, as has become the norm along the Jefferson County shoreline, shorebirds did not linger at any given site for very long, and most of the rare shorebirds were not seen by anybody who chased them. In fact most visits to El Dorado and other lake sites turned up very few shorebirds and sometimes none at all.

Sites away from the immediate Lake Ontario or St. Lawrence River shorelines were very dry all season. Many ponds and wetlands were lower than anybody could remember seeing in many years, and mudflats and shallow wetlands were uncharacteristically common and widespread. Small numbers of shorebirds were noted at many such sites, and, although it seemed like more shorebirds should have been present in some of these wetlands given the ideal conditions, it is likely that so much habitat was spread out over such a large area

that there was no reason for shorebirds to be concentrated anywhere. One exception was the Stone Mills Pool at Perch River WMA, where vast mudflats attracted large numbers of shorebirds that were unfortunately often too distant from any accessible vantage point for easy identification. Yellowlegs of both species were especially abundant here, but the most unusual species were a Stilt Sandpiper on 28 July, probably the same individual Tom Burke and Gail Benson found at nearby Perch Lake on 26 July, and a Wilson's Phalarope on 31 August.

Colonial water birds continue to exhibit a great deal of change on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. For a few years it seemed like DEC efforts to control Double-crested Cormorant numbers were at least slowing down population increases in the Eastern Lake Ontario basin, but since a court order stopped depredation efforts cormorant numbers have resumed their increase. The Little Galloo colony had more nests than in any year since 2011, and record numbers of cormorant nests were on St. Lawrence River islands. Gull Island, which until recently had been the only island in the eastern end of Lake Ontario with nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons, had no nests for the second consecutive year, and the night-heron rookery seems to have been abandoned. Perhaps some of these night-herons moved to the Murphy Islands colony on the St. Lawrence River, where the 118 nests counted by DEC was about double the number documented the past few years. The 2700 Caspian Tern nests DEC counted on Little Galloo Island was another record, but Common Tern nest counts on the St. Lawrence River were down for the second consecutive year after several good years.

Tent caterpillars were widely reported to be abundant this year so it wasn't too surprising to hear numerous cuckoos of both species in early June, and the season's tally of 23 Yellow-billed Cuckoos was well above normal. As many as 10 Black-billed Cuckoos per day were heard calling on Fort Drum early in June, but soon after that cuckoos seemed to stop vocalizing, and the season's tally seemed low given the number that were conspicuous early in the summer.

Golden-winged Warblers receive a great deal of attention in Region 6, but Blue-winged Warblers continue their inexorable expansion north. The Indian River Lakes region in recent years has seemed like the last hope in northern New York for a healthy Golden-winged Warbler population with minimal Blue-winged Warbler influence, but the five Blue-wings compared to 23 Golden-wings reported from the Indian River Lakes this season is, while not a large sample, a higher ratio of Blue-winged Warblers to Golden-winged Warblers than has been reported from the immediate area in past years. This, combined with a high count of three Blue-winged Warblers that Ben Dixon found in Dekalb on 12 June, none of which showed any visible indication of hybridization in a part of the St. Lawrence Valley where pure-looking Blue-winged Warblers have remained scarce, illustrates the continuing expansion of this species in Region 6. What remains something of a mystery is why Blue-winged Warblers seem to be increasing at such a slower rate north of about

Antwerp compared with lowland areas just a short distance to the south, where they surpassed Golden-winged Warblers in abundance several years ago.

Grassland birds are typically the main draw to birders visiting Region 6 from elsewhere, and many such visitors were rewarded this season. Henslow's Sparrows were reported from three locations, with a maximum of 11 at Perch River WMA, but at least three at Chaumont Barrens were the easiest to see and were observed by many after being initially reported by Greg Dashnau. Short-eared Owls nested in the Region again this year, with one pair at Fort Drum and another at Ashland Flats WMA, the latter seen by many observers. A group of Rochester birders observed another Short-eared Owl near Chaumont Barrens on 8 July, but this was the only report from this frequently birded area all season, so it is unclear whether it represents a third nesting site. The 33 Sedge Wrens reported this season was the highest tally since 2009 and included a maximum count of 23 at Fort Drum on 8 July. Many birders saw at least one Sedge Wren in a Canton field that was mostly mowed about 5 July, but where one male continued for at least a month in a small fragment of the field that was not mowed. Only one Upland Sandpiper was reported away from Fort Drum this season.

As is often the case a couple of birds were noticed in unusual locations, although not as many as last summer. Gerry Smith found two **Fish Crows** in Watertown on 21 July, the only report of this species in several years. Fish Crow was reported as possibly breeding in three Watertown-area blocks during the second Breeding Bird Atlas, but there were no more reports until Gerry's this summer. Perhaps more attention needs to be paid to crows in the Watertown area or elsewhere along the Black River to determine whether there are local breeders. Another species that may be overlooked as a breeder in lowland areas of Region 6 is Philadelphia Vireo, which appears to be mostly restricted to the Adirondacks. A Philadelphia Vireo returned to a Fort Drum territory for the second year, and on 25 July a bird that sounded like this species was heard in another spot on Fort Drum, but unfortunately was singing from an off-limits area and could not be seen to be sure it wasn't a Red-eyed Vireo.

The summer season's species tally was 212, a relatively high total for Region 6 during summer although not as high as last year's record-tying count. Given the increase in attention Region 6 has received from birders in the eBird era, such tallies are probably going to continue in the future, and it seems reasonable to expect even higher tallies in the coming years.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens preserve, T Clayton; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El Dorado Preserve, T Ellisburg; **FiC** – Fish Creek WMA; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation; **FL** – Fisher’s Landing, T Alexandria; **FrC** – French Creek WMA; **IRL** – Indian R Lakes; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KPSP** – Kring Point SP; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LGI** – Little Galloo I; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA, T Ellisburg; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA; **PtPen** – Point Peninsula; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP; **RRt** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SLR** – St. Lawrence R; **StGW** – St. Lawrence Grassland and Wetland Management District, T Dekalb; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WEP** – Winona Experimental Forest, T Ellisburg; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WI** – Wellesley I; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 2 T Brownville 6 Aug (LE), rare but increasingly regular in summer.

Mute Swan: max 4 WI 4 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: multiple reports FD, PRWMA, ULLWMA, WHWMA & Hunneyman Road T Redwood; increasing.

Wood Duck: max 150 WHWMA 24 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: 2 AFWMA 6 Jun; PRWMA 12-28 Jun; T Hammond 15 Jun; 2 T Potsdam 23 Jun; ULLWMA 11 & 27 Jul; only reports before Aug; many reports late Aug, incl max 125 PRWMA 31 Aug.

N. Shoveler: AFWMA 15 Jul (SK), only report before 25 Aug; max 2 FL 27 Aug.

Gadwall: max 6 PRWMA 22 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: singles PRWMA, ULLWMA, & PtPen Jul; max 3 PRWMA 26 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: Jun-Jul max 4 ULLWMA 6 Jul & L Bonaparte 26 Jul; many more reports late Aug; max 18 PRWMA.

N. Pintail: arr PRWMA 18 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: WHWMA 9 Jun; ULLWMA 11 Jul; only reports before 27 Jul; max 60 WHWMA 25 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 87 ULLWMA date, where nesting common; 2 WHWMA 12 Jul, only report away from ULLWMA before late Jul.

Bufflehead: m ULLWMA thru 19 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: max 13 PRWMA 15 Aug.

Com. Merganser: max 35 ED 31 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: 6 WHWMA 12 Aug (BB), only report.

Ruddy Duck: ULLWMA 7 Aug (JB), only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 44 ULLWMA 16 Aug.

Red-necked Grebe: ULLWMA 19-20 Jun (JB, EW), rare in summer.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 23 ind 20 locations, more than usual.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 10 FD 3 Jun; about 35 reports elsewhere, surprisingly low given a tent caterpillar year, *intro*.

Com. Nighthawk: 2-5/day FD thru; PRWMA 24 Jun, only report away from FD before Aug; migr 18 Aug thru; max 32 FD 27 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: max 59 FD night 29-30 Jun.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 5 FiC 20 Jun.

Sora: only 6 reports from 5 locations; max 2 AFWMA 25 Jun.

Com. Gallinule: max 13 PRWMA 31 Aug.

Am. Coot: PRWMA 16 Jun & ULLWMA 11 Jul.

Sandhill Crane: 2 WHWMA thru (BD) but nesting not confirmed; likely migrants T Watertown 6 Jun (BM) & WI 31 Aug (CF); FrC WMA 23 Jun (NL).

Black-bellied Plover: 16 rep 19 Aug thru; max 14 ED 25 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: FL 27 Aug (CF), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 24 WHWMA 6 Aug.

PIPING PLOVER: banded juv from Oswego County nest LWMA 26 Jul (MB, photos!), only report, *intro*.

Killdeer: max 50 PRWMA 15 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 5-6 territories FD Jun & Jul; T LaFargeville 4 Jul (LE), only other rep before Aug; flight calls T Canton 16 Aug (JB).

Ruddy Turnstone: ED 25 Aug, only report.

Red Knot: ED 25 Aug (AS, ph!), rare R6.

Stilt Sandpiper: Perch L 26 Jul (GB, TB); likely same ind PRWMA 28 Jul (JB); only reports.

Sanderling: 7 rep 26 Jul thru; 1 over ULLWMA marsh 16 Aug; unusual loc; max 9 ED 31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: PRWMA 31 Aug, only report.

White-rumped Sandpiper: PRWMA 26 Aug; WI 27 Aug; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12 PRWMA 15 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 17 RMSP 27 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 rep PRWMA 16-26 Jul; max 6 PRWMA 26 Jul; no other reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 7 T Watertown 5 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Ogdensburg 7 Jul; max 3 T Canton 28 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 arr AFWMA 20 Jun (RB), early; max 90 PRWMA 15 Aug.

WILET (R6): ED 28 Jul (JA, JC, AM, ph!).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr PilPt 7 Jul; max 35 PRWMA 18 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: PRWMA 31 Aug (JB), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 25 Grindstone I 4 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: no count LGI this year; 1662 nests Murphy Islands.

Herring Gull: max 1156 nests LGI.

Great Black-backed Gull: no nests L Ontario or SLR.

Caspian Tern: 2700 nests LGI 6 Jun (IM), record high.

Black Tern: max 20 AFWMA 2 Jul.

Com. Tern: 1048 nests SLR similar to 2017 but fewer than 2014-2016 (LH).

LOONS - PARROTS

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2769 nests LGI, highest count since 2011 (IM); **3491 nests** New York & Canadian islands SLR, record high; *intro*.

Am. Bittern: max 6 FD 3 Jun.

Least Bittern: 13 rep 9 loc JEFF & STLA; better than most recent years but still underreported.

Great Egret: max 89 PRWMA 15 Aug (JB), apparent record high count JEFF.

Green Heron: max 8 AFWMA 28 Jul.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 118 nests Murphy Islands, record for loc; none Calf Island for second year after apparent displacement by cormorants.

Turkey Vulture: max 68 CV 1 Jul.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 11 rep.

Cooper's Hawk: 11 rep.

N. Goshawk: 7 rep 5 loc.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 6 rep 5 loc IRL area; only 4 rep elsewhere.

E. Screech-Owl: FD 2 Jun; 2 juv T Lowville 1 Jul; PRWMA 26 Aug; only reports.

Snowy Owl: 2 T Lyme thru at least 6 Jun, one electrocuted on power line (CW, mob).

Short-eared Owl: pr fledged y Jun AFWMA (mob); another juv on terr FD 29 Jun; unclear whether CB 8 Jul (mob) another terr.

N Saw-whet Owl: T Adams 5 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 14 FD 3 Jul; T Antwerp 3 Jun; KPSP 23 Aug, only reports away from FD.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 3 T Dekalb 9 Jul, continuing to increase in St. Lawrence Valley.

Merlin: 14 rep throughout.

Peregrine Falcon: sev rep T Watertown 6 Jul thru, breeding likely; Aug reports from FD, L Bonaparte, & PRWMA.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Tug Hill WMA 15 Jun; 5 additional nesting loc SE STLA; migr arr FD 20 Aug, still present same loc 24 Aug; max 4 FD 27 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 4 MM 10 Jun; migr arr Trout L 12 Aug.

Alder Flycatcher: max 24 FD 1 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: terr m same location FD as 2017 thru 16 Jul, rare outside Adirondacks; T Colton only other Jun or Jul report; migr arr CV 13 Aug.

FISH CROW (R6): 2 T Watertown 21 Jul (GS), *intro*.
Sedge Wren: 3 singing m T Canton field 10 Jun, dropped to 1 m after most of field mowed around 5 Jul (JB, mob); CB 12 Jun (JS, KS); FrC WMA 16 Jun (NL); mult rep at least 2 loc PRWMA (ST, TT, KH, NL); max 23 FD 8 Jul (JB); 2 Otter Creek Preserve 17 Jul (SB, DD, CJ); StGW 21 Jul (JB).
Carolina Wren: 4 reports.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 3 ULLWMA 24 Jun & 30 Aug.
Swainson's Thrush: Brasher SF 13 Jul, rare before Aug outside Adirondacks & Tug Hill; migr arr T Canton 18 Aug.
N. Mockingbird: fewer FD than recent years.
Red Crossbill: about 20 rep throughout R6 thru 16 Jul, mostly of birds heard overhead.
Pine Siskin: max 21 Tooley Pond Road, T Clare & Clifton 10 Jul.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 24 FD 3 Jul.
Vesper Sparrow: max 65 FD 25 Jun.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 37 FD 3 Jul.
Henslow's Sparrow: 5 m FD June; max 11 m PRWMA June (IM, ET); 3 m CB 5-6 Jul, at least 3 fl 9 Jul (GD, mob).
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 8 MM 21 Jun.
Bobolink: flocking up by 8 Jul, when single flock 110 FD.
Orchard Oriole: T Rutland 12 Jun; T Lowville 1 Jul.
Rusty Blackbird: 2 T Fine 17 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: WEP 12 Jul, only report.
Golden-winged Warbler: 23 IRL area Jun; max 6 FD 6 Jun.
Blue-winged Warbler: 3 T Dekalb 12 Jun high for so far north; 5 IRL area, where modestly increasing, *intro*; max 9 FD 13 & 20 Jun.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 9 FD Jun; 3 St. Lawrence Valley Jun.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: different locations FD 7 & 8 Jul (JB); CB 18 Jun (JS).
Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 20 Aug.
Mourning Warbler: max 12 MM area 10 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: max 7 WEP 12 Jul; WI 1 Jul, north of usual range (DA).
Cape May Warbler: last spring migrant FD 6 Jun, late; fall arr T Hammond 18 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: max 7 Lonesome Bay SF 2 Jun.
N. Parula: last spring migr FD 1 Jun; fall migr arr Murray 1 18 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: obvious migr arr FD 20 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 20 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last spring CB 5 Jun; fall arr ED 30 Aug.
"Yellow" Palm Warbler: max 10 MM 8 Jul; additional breeding reports from Horseshoe Bog & Hitchins Pond.
"Western" Palm Warbler: migr arr WHWMA 19 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: max 23 FD 23 Jun.
Wilson's Warbler: 3 arr FD 20 Aug.



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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After a warmer than average May, June was at or below average except in the north of Region 7, where it was no more than 1°F above average. Precipitation for the months varied from 3 to 4 inches in Hamilton and Essex Counties, a departure from normal of from 1 to 2 inches. In Franklin and Clinton Counties, the northern half of Region 7, precipitation ranged from 4 to 5 inches, which represented a departure of up to two inches more than normal. July was dry throughout Region 7. Rain totals, up to two inches below normal, did not exceed

three inches anywhere. The month was also unusually warm, registering temperatures from 3° to 5° above normal everywhere except in the high peaks area, where it was only 1° to 3° above normal. At least one area of Clinton County recorded a departure of +6°. The unusually warm and dry weather continued throughout August. Precipitation totals did not exceed three inches anywhere in the Region, at least an inch below average. Once again the average temperatures were from 3° to 5° above normal throughout except in the high peaks region, where the range was only 1° to 3° hotter.

The water level of Lake Champlain began the season at a little more than 97.6 feet. At this level the mudflats at the Chazy Riverlands were flooded. They remained underwater until the very end of the spring shorebird migration, when a small, newly exposed area attracted a smattering of peeps on 9 June. From that time on the lake level dropped through the entire season in a nearly perfect curve that at the end of August approached 94.2 feet almost asymptotically. This perfectly reflected the dry months of July and August and exposed the mudflats at the Chazy Riverlands precisely at the wrong time between the spring and fall migrations. By early August, most of the mudflat area was dry and by the end of the month the grasses were ankle high. These lake levels at Noblewood Park were, if anything, an improvement. Most of the shorebird activity of the early fall migration occurred there.

A female **Spruce Grouse** with five chicks was found on Keese Mills Road in Franklin County, one of the only spots where this species is known to breed in Region 7. **Sandhill Crane** bred for the third year in a row at Saranac Lake. A **Brown Booby** landed on the mast of Tom Whitney's sailboat and "stayed for a really long time" while posing for photos and videos. A **Common Loon** survey by Gary Lee in Hamilton County found successful pairs on at least eight lakes, with as many as three on Raquette Lake. The discovery of a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** pair feeding young in a nest cavity was the first confirmation of breeding of this species in Clinton County.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; **BG** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BM** – Blue Mt Rd; **BR** – Bull Rock Rd; **Con** – Constable; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CZ** – Chazy; **ET** – Elizabethtown; **GM** – Giant Mt; **HB** – Hoisington Brook; **KB** –

Kings Bay; **KV** – Keene Valley; **KM** – Keese Mill Rd; **LA** - Lake Alice; **LC** – La Chute; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LL** – Long L; **LM** – Lyon Mt; **LPd** – Long Pd; **MF** – Miner Flat Rock; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MR** – Moose R Plains, **MtD** – Mt Defiance; **NP** – Noblewood P; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PC** – Putts Creek WMA; **PH** – Port Henry; **PtF** – Point au Fer; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **PU** – Peru; **SB** – Stevenson Bay; **SC** – Scotion Creek; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SR** – Saranac R Mouth; **TL** – Tupper L; **TMa** – Ti Marsh; **WF** – Whiteface Mt.

WATERFOWL- HUMMINGBIRDS

Canada Goose: 6ad, 11y AP 8 Jun (BK), CO-FL.

Wood Duck: 50 TMa 20 Aug (GC); 40 LA 23 June (SR), CO-FL.

Blue-winged Teal: CR 29 June; NP 13 Aug (CV).

Gadwall: CR 29 Jun.

Am. Wigeon: CR 7 Jun.

Am Black Duck: 4 Ti 21 Aug (TB).

Green-winged Teal: 4 SC 31 Aug (NO).

Ring-necked Duck: 2 Essex 7 Aug (CV).

Lesser Scaup: CR 9 Aug (SR).

Com. Goldeneye: 2 AP 26 Aug (VH).

Hooded Merganser: 2SR 31 Aug (CV).

Com. Merganser: 1a, 12c CH 14 Jul (SJ), CO-FL.

Red-breasted Merganser: 10 NP 18 Aug (MM).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 Essex 7 Aug.

Ruffed Grouse: 7 LA 23 June (SR), CO-FL.

SPRUCE GROUSE: 6 KM 19 Jul (PM), CO-FL.

Wild Turkey: 20 BR 26 Aug (MC).

Pied-billed Grebe: AP 8 Jun.

Red-necked Grebe: SB 13 Aug (SR), early.

Black-billed Cuckoo: KM 19 Jul (PM); CP 8 Aug (G&MC).

Com. Nighthawk: 2 MF 20 Aug (NO).

E. Whip-poor-will: 6 MF 20 Aug (NO).

Chimney Swift: 4 TMa 11 Aug (GC), 16 Essex 21 Aug (SR).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CH 16 Jul (NO); CH 17 Jul (BK), CO-FL.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 2 AP 8 Jun (BK); 3 TMa 11 Aug (GC), CO-FL.

Com. Gallinule: CR 9 Jun.

SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 2ad, 2y TL 30 Jun (AR); 2ad, 2y TL 23 Jul (GB), CO-FL, ph.

Black-bellied Plover: 4 NP 18 Aug (MM).

Am. Golden Plover: NP 18 Aug (MM).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 CP 9 Aug (SR).

Ruddy Turnstone: 7 NP 25 Aug (AB).

Sanderling: NP 13 Aug (CV); 8 NP 25 Aug (GC).

Baird's Sandpiper: NP 27 Aug (LM).

Least Sandpiper: 2 CP 12 Jun; 3 CP 9 Aug (SR).

Pectoral Sandpiper: HB 20 Aug (ED).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 30 CR 9 Jun.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: HB 20 Aug (ED).

Short-billed Dowitcher: NP 21 Aug (SR).

Am. Woodcock: 2 PB 5 June (TS).

Wilson's Snipe: 3 AP 8 Jul (J&PT).

Spotted Sandpiper: 7 CP 9 Aug (SR).

Solitary Sandpiper: NP 21 Aug (SR).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 12 NP 13 Aug (CV).

Greater Yellowlegs: CR 9 Jun.

Red-necked Phalarope: CP 16 Aug (SR)

Bonaparte's Gull: 198 NP 21 Aug (SR).

Little Gull: NP 13 Aug (SR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: CP 13 Aug (SR).

Great Black-backed Gull: SR 31 Aug (CV).

Caspian Tern: 27 CP 9 Aug (SR).

Com. Tern: 20 NP 25 Aug (AB).

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 4 CH 30 Aug (SJ); RL 3/5 pair CO-FL.

BROWN BOOBY: LL 25 Aug (TW), ph.

Double-crested Cormorant: 125 CP 16 Aug (SR).

Am. Bittern: CR 5 Jun.

Least Bittern: SC 26 Jun (NO); 2 AP 2 Aug (SR).

Great Blue Heron: 23 TMa 11 Aug (GC).

Great Egret: 5 TMa 11 Aug (GC).

Green Heron: 8 TMa 11 Aug (GC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: AP 8 Jun.

Black Vulture: 4 PC 25 Aug (SR).

Turkey Vulture: 19 TMa 20 Aug (GC).

Osprey: 5 CR 28 Jul (BK), CO-NY.

Bald Eagle: TMa 20 Aug (GC).

N. Harrier: 2 LA 23 June (SR).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: SC 10 Aug (NO).

Cooper's Hawk: BR 29 Aug (MC).

N. Goshawk: ET 19 June (GC); KM 19 Jul (PM).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 PH 12 June (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: SC 10 Aug (NO).
Red-tailed Hawk: TMa 20 Aug (GC).
E. Screech Owl: CP 9 Aug (SR).
Great Horned Owl: AP 8 Jun.
Barred Owl: 3 Chazy 9 Jul (GR), CO-FL.
N. Saw-whet Owl: MF 20 Aug (NO).
Belted Kingfisher: 6 SC 8 Jun (NO).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: AP 9 Jun (SR, ED), CO-FY, CLIN first.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 BR 2 Aug (MC), CO-FL.
Hairy Woodpecker: AP 8 June (BK), CO-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BM 25 Aug (JM).
N. Flicker: 9 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 BR 2 Aug (MC), COFL.
Am. Kestrel: SC 11 Jul (NO).
Merlin: SC 10 Aug (NO).
Peregrine Falcon: WF 19 Aug (KW).

FLYCATCHERS - SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Essex 11 Aug (DM).
E. Wood-Pewee: CH 18 Jun (NO).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 7 LM 16 Jun (JS).
Alder Flycatcher: 2 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Willow Flycatcher: 2 AP 21 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: 3 Con 30 Jun (TL).
E. Phoebe: CH 26 Jun (NO), CO-NY.
Great Crested Flycatcher: SC 8 Jun (NO).
E. Kingbird: 5 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Yellow-throated Vireo: CP 16 Aug (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 BM 25 Aug (JM).
Philadelphia Vireo: MR 11 Jun (KS).
Warbling Vireo: 8 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Red-eyed Vireo: 4 NP 31 Aug (MM).
Canada Jay: 10 KM 19 Jul (DM).
Blue Jay: 6 PtR 4 Aug.
Fish Crow: Peru 5 Aug (CV).
Com. Raven: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Purple Martin: 7 CP 2 Aug (SR).
Tree Swallow: 5 AP 8 Jun, CO-FY.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 CP 13 Aug (SR).
Bank Swallow: 59 CP 16 Aug (SR).
Cliff Swallow: CR 8 Jun (CW).
Barn Swallow: 31 CP 13 Aug (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: WF 19 Aug (KW).
Tufted Titmouse: 6 Chazy 18 Jul (BP).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 MM 24 Aug (SR).
White-breasted Nuthatch: 2 MM 24 Aug (SR); AP 21Jun, CO-FL.
House Wren: 4 Chazy 9 Jul (GR).
Winter Wren: 7 LM 17 Jun (JS).
Marsh Wren: 3 AP 13 Jun.

Carolina Wren: PB 5 June (TS).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: TMa 20 Aug (GC); 2 CP 25 Aug (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: SPB 15 Jul (PA).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 KM 19 Jul (DM).
Veery: 9 Con 30 Jun (TL).
Bicknell's Thrush: 4 WF 12 Aug (SG).
Swainson's Thrush: WF 12 Aug (KW).
Hermit Thrush: BR 2 Aug (MC).
Wood Thrush: Con 30 Jun (TL).
Am. Robin: LA 23 Jun (SR), CO-FL.
Gray Catbird: Keene 26 Aug (J&PT).
Brown Thrasher: WM 25 Aug (GC).
N. Mockingbird: CP 2 Aug (SR).
Cedar Waxwing: 5 Chazy 4 Aug (GR).
Evening Grosbeak: Kees 18 Jun (JP).
Purple Finch: 2 KM 19 Jul (DM).
Red Crossbill: 2 KV 16 Jun (TK).
White-winged Crossbill: 2 GM 12 Jun (DT).
Pine Siskin: NP 31 Aug (MM).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALS

E. Towhee: 3 MF 25 Jun (KA).
Chipping Sparrow: 4 CP 16 Aug (SR), CO-FY.
Field Sparrow: BR 2 Aug (MC).
Savannah Sparrow: CR 4 Aug (GR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: WF 12 Aug (SG).
Swamp Sparrow: 4 AP 2 Aug (SR).
White-throated Sparrow: 3 SLB 11 JUL (SF).
Bobolink: 23 CR 7 Jun.
E. Meadowlark: CR 11 Aug.
Baltimore Oriole: CP 16 Aug (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: WF 25 Aug (KC).
Rusty Blackbird: Ap 4 Aug (GR).
Com. Grackle: AP 8 Jun, CO-CF.
Ovenbird: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 MM 12 Aug (SR).
N. Waterthrush: SC 11 Jul (NO).
Blue-winged Warbler: WR 12 June (RB).
Black-and-white Warbler: CH 16 Aug (NO).
Tennessee Warbler: 3 CP 1 Aug (SR).
Nashville Warbler: 5 LM 16 June (JS).
Mourning Warbler: 2 FR 26 June (SR).
Com. Yellowthroat: NP 25 Aug (GC); 4 BR 2 Aug (MC), CO-CF.
Am. Redstart: PC 25 Aug (SR).
Cape May Warbler: 2 MM 24 Aug (SR).
N. Parula: PC 25 Aug (SR).
Magnolia Warbler: CP 16 Aug (SR).
Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 MM 24 Aug (SR).
Blackburnian Warbler: CP 22 Aug (MC).
Yellow Warbler: 3 AP 10 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: MM 24 Aug (SR).

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 WF 12 Aug (SG).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: CP 8 Aug
G&MC).
Palm Warbler: 12 BB 10 Jul (AB).
Pine Warbler: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4 FR 26 June (SR).
Prairie Warbler: MtD 19 June (DD).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 15 LM 15
Jun (HM).
Canada Warbler: WF 12 Aug (SG).
Wilson's Warbler: BR 26 Aug (MC).
Scarlet Tanager: MM 24 Aug (SR).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CP 8 Aug
(G&MC); 4 BR 2 Aug (MC), COFY.
Indigo Bunting: CP 25 Aug (SR).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather for June 2018 was marked by normal temperatures and a small deficit in the average rainfall. Albany recorded a high temperature of 97°F on the 18th and 94° on the 30th, but no prolonged heat occurred. Daily rainfall totals were one-half inch or less. July 2018 featured well-above normal temperatures, with a five-day heat wave to open the month. Temperatures ended up 4.7° higher than average. Precipitation was slightly higher than the norm, with most of it falling in the last ten days of the month. August 2018 was also very warm, at 5.0° above average, and the rainfall surplus was 0.74" at Albany. Overall it was a very humid, at times oppressive, summer.

Common Nighthawk reports were steady through the end of August, but overall numbers seemed to be down. The nighthawk watch at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve had very diminished numbers, with a high count of 31 birds on 29 August. The maximum reported number was 103 in Saratoga Springs on 19 August. The previously reported Chuck-wills-widow near West Mountain, Warren County, continued to be detected in late June into early July. Several observers obtained audio recordings of the vocalizations. Eastern Whip-poor-will numbers appeared to be stable across the area, with the notable bright spot the resurgence of calling birds at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.

Shorebird numbers were down from recent seasons, with the wetter than normal conditions leading to higher water levels and less available habitat in this already shorebird-challenged Region. There were a couple of highlights however. A **Ruddy Turnstone** appeared at Cohoes Flats on 24 July and lingered for three days. On 25 August John Roosenberg found a **Baird's Sandpiper** in the grassy margins of a farm pond near Cobleskill. The bird stayed in the area for several days. Two more **Baird's Sandpipers** were discovered at Cohoes Flats on 30 August. They stuck around until the following day. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was observed by David Harrison at Cohoes Flats on 7 August. He and two other birders obtained diagnostic photographs of the bird, which still retained much of its alternate plumage. There are no previous

eBird records of the species in Region 8, so it was certainly the first report in some time for the area.

Two juvenile Little Blue Herons appeared this year at Lock 2 on the Hudson River near Mechanicville, following consecutive years with a single juvenile present. The shallow, marshy backwater along the margins seems to be a magnet for wading birds during post-breeding dispersal. Many Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, and Great Egrets are seen there annually, and Snowy Egret has been found previously as well. An additional juvenile Little Blue Heron appeared at Nassau Lake, Rensselaer County on 19 August, seen by Naomi Lloyd.

A Snowy Egret made a one day appearance at Cohoes Flats on 1 June, first observed by Zach Schwartz-Weinstein. Rich Guthrie had a group of four Snowy Egrets along the Hudson River north of Athens, Greene County on 24 July, and a single bird seen from the New Baltimore side of the river on 23 August. Naomi King discovered an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at a small suburban pond near Defreestville on 2 August.

A Snowy Owl spent the Spring-Summer seasons in central Saratoga County, one of approximately thirty Snowy Owls to have been recorded "summering" in the United States in 2018 (S. Weidensaul, pers. comm.) The bird appeared to be in good health and was eating well, with regurgitated pellets regularly observed beneath one of its favored perches. A more detailed report may be forthcoming from the observer.

Paul Novak found an **Acadian Flycatcher** at the new Doodletown WMA in Columbia County on 12 June. He was conducting an avian point count as part of the NYS DEC Young Forest Initiative. **Sedge Wrens** were present this breeding season in at least four distinct locations in the vicinity of the Washington County Grasslands. The species seems to favor that area when found in our Region but can go undetected for years at a time. The last reports were from 2010 and 2012. Clay-colored Sparrow was present again this year in the Grasslands as well, with as many as three reported along the SF Trail there. Hooded Warbler continues its slow northward range expansion into Region 8, with singing males reported from the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and from a riparian corridor near Canajoharie in Montgomery County.

Bob Yunick provided a detailed account of his Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (JL) at 1250' elevation, five miles west of Corinth, Saratoga Co, NY:

“The breeding season at JL was in two words: **very disappointing** in so many respects.

Purple Finch – a disastrous season! Ad were **late in arriving** on 5/13 and few in number: only 5 banded and 2 returns, **all m** in May. First ad/f banded 6/16 (very late); total banded in Jun was 26 only 10 of which were f, and 18 returns captured (10 m/8 f). **First imm banded 7/8** (late) and **only 5 were banded** by 7/29; 5 ad (3 m/2 f) banded and 9 returns (5 m/ 4 f) captured in Jul.

So, to date from 5/13 to 7/29 a total of **43 ad/m and 24 ad/f** have been captured from which **only 5 imm have been banded** suggesting a serious breeding failure. Imm Purple Finches should be swarming at these feeders by late Jul, while on 7/29 I ran my 5 ½ mist nets for 3 hrs catching 4 ad/m and 3 ad/f, but not a single imm. A manuscript I have in press for *North American Bird Bander* covering 47 years of banding 13,256 finches and 3240 recaptures as returns attributes their population decline at JL to climate change. The optimal cool breeding climate they require has disappeared. The 5 imm referred to above were banded on 7/8, and *no additional imm were banded in Aug*, a month of usual abundance, making this a record low year in 49 years of banding at JL. One ASY/m banded on 8/4 was the only PUF1 banded in Aug; 3 return ASY/fs (one 5yrs old) and a repeat SY/m were the only other captures for the month. I conducted 4 banding sessions in Aug using 5 ½ mist nets for 2-4 hrs each session: 8/4, 8/11, 8/18 and 8/31.

Ruby-thr Hummer – as of 7/29 no imm were yet seen or banded, normally they appear before then. Ad were scarcer than usual and sugar water consumption low: **13 banded in May and 9 in Jun**, last on 6/29. Also, **10 returns** were captured for a **total of 32 birds**. Four trapping sessions of 1-2 hrs each on 7/6, 7/13, 7/20 and 7/27 produced no captures. At best 2 m and 1 f were seen occasionally at the 3 feeders. First banded HY was a m on 8/10, then a f on 8/17; one ad F banded 8/10 and 8/26, and ad m 8/17.

I weigh the sugar water in the feeders to determine daily consumption. Historically it peaks in late-May/early Jun, giving a good indicator of the seasonal abundance of the breeding population. This year it peaked at 122g/day on 5/25, well below average and nowhere near the record of 1070 g/day in 2003, when 185 hummers were captured over the entire season.

Blk-c Chickadee – **no ad or imm were banded in Jun/Jul**, which is very unusual. Only 2 return birds were captured in Jun. The extraordinary cone crop of the previous summer/fall appears to have had a major impact on this species. On my small half acre lot at JL, thousands of cones fell from the white pines on the property, perhaps the biggest crop since I've been there from 1970. From 7/1/17 to 6/30/18, I captured a **record low** total of **9 chickadees** (7 banded and 2 returns). Over the past 48 yrs the 7/1 to 6/30 total has ranged from 16 to 388 per year, average 152. Chickadees were very scarce at the feeders in Jun and totally absent in Jul. A modest appearance began in mid-Aug with 2 ad banded and an ad return captured 8/18; and another ad return along with the first HY banded on 8/31.

Red-br Nuthatch – perhaps due to the record cone crop, this irruptive species was similarly affected. **Two very newly fledged imm were banded 6/16 and another on 6/30**, not recaptured thereafter. An ad/f banded on 4/18/18 and recaptured 4/27, 5/28, 6/24, and 7/14 was probably their mother. **Otherwise, I banded no R-b Nuts from 5/21/17 to 4/18/18 (nor caught any previously banded ones)**. A similar modest stirring, as with the chickadees, of 2 ad/m banded 8/31.”

199 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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

ABBREVIATIONS

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

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: max 75 Blockhouse P SARA 3 Jun.

Mute Swan: max 3 Germantown COLU 21 Jun.

Wood Duck: max 53 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: max 2 Wright's Ferry Launch, Putnam WARR 27 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 4 Mine Kill SP SCHO 31 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 2 Amy's P WASH 30 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: migrants arr Colonie ALBA 9 Aug; max 103 Spring Run Trail SARA 19 Aug.

CHUCK WILL'S WIDOW: last West Mt Ski Area WARR 7 Jul.

E. Whip-poor-will: max 4 West Mt Ski Area WARR 29 Jun.

Chimney Swift: max 250 CF 12 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 7 BCM 13 Jun.

Sora: reported from nine locations regionwide.

Com. Gallinule: max 5 Corbin Hill Rd SCHO 6 Aug.

Black-bellied Plover: max 2 CF 13 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 21 CF 14 Aug.

Killdeer: max 27 CF 19 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: max 2 Ft Edward WASH 9 Jun, 25 Jun; Schenectady Co Airport SCHE 20 Jun.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (R8): one CF 24-26 Jul (TW), *intro.*

Sanderling: max 2 CF 23 Jul; L Taghkanic SP COLU 24 Jul.

Dunlin: Round Lk Pres SARA 20 Jul, only report.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (R8): two CF 30 Aug (TW); one nr Cobleskill SCHO 25 Aug (JR), *intro.*

White-rumped Sandpiper: one CF 22 Jul, 30 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 CF 30 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: one CF 21 Jul, 14 Aug; Great Sacandaga L FULT 21 Jul.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (R8): one CF 7 Aug (DH), *intro*.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 10 Wrights Loop SARA 7 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 CF 14 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 CF 23 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 21 CF 26 Jul.
Caspian Tern: max 6 Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial P WASH 25 Aug.

LOONS - PARROTS

Am. Bittern: max 3 S Cambridge WASH 13 Jul; Corbin Hill Rd SCHO 21 Jul.
Least Bittern: max 3 BCM 13 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: max 38 Bear Swamp Pres heronry ALBA 24 Jun.
Great Egret: max 18 TR 26 Aug.
Snowy Egret: max 4 nr Athens GREE 24 Jul.
Little Blue Heron: 2 juv Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 28 Jul-28 Aug.
Green Heron: max 12 nr Athens GREE 15 Jul.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: nr Cambridge WASH 15 Jul; nr Athens GREE 11 Aug; Halfmoon SARA 14 Aug; nr Schuylerville SARA 23 Aug; Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 24 Aug.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Defreestville RENS 2 Aug (NKi), *intro*.
Black Vulture: max 45 Greenport COLU 1 Jul.
Osprey: max 5 Ft Edward WASH 14 Jul.
N. Harrier: max 4 Ft Edward WASH 19 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 4 Stillwater SARA 16 Jun.
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 nr Schaghticoke RENS 16 Jul; Milton SARA 19 Jul.
Am. Kestrel: max 12 T Root MONT 16 Aug.
Merlin: max 3 Bolton Landing WARR 31 Jul.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Dunn Memorial Bridge RENS 12 Jun; North-South L Campground GREE 21 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

E. Wood-pewee: max 10 Spruce Mt SARA 2 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 6 Plateau Mt GREE 10 Jun.
Acadian Flycatcher: Doodletown WMA COLU 12 Jun, only report.
Alder Flycatcher: max 5 Garnsey Pk SARA 15 Jul.
Willow Flycatcher: max 14 BCM 12 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 7 Mt Tom SF WASH 24 Jun.
E. Phoebe: max 8 multiple loc.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 15 BCM 9 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Hudson Crossing P SARA 6 Aug.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Spruce Mt SARA 2 Jun; Cherry Plain SP RENS 3 Jun; Mountaintop Arboretum GREE 15 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 11 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.
Com. Raven: max 6 Pine L FULT 10 Jun; Elka P GREE 14 Jun; Coveville SARA 12 Jul.
Horned Lark: max 2 CF 19 Jul.
Purple Martin: max 30 Round L Pres SARA 28 Jul.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 37 Waterford SARA 5 Jul.
Bank Swallow: max 140 nr Schaghticoke RENS 27 Jun.
Cliff Swallow: max 25 Florida MONT 29 Jun.
Barn Swallow: max 80 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.
Brown Creeper: max 5 Mountaintop Arboretum GREE 15 Jun.
Winter Wren: max 10 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.
Sedge Wren: 2 Dowmont Rd WASH 12 Jul; New Swamp Rd WASH 14 Jul.
Marsh Wren: max 15 BCM 6 Jun; Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 9 Jun; Schodack Creek RENS 26 Jun.
Carolina Wren: max 8 Normanskill Farm ALBA 20 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 7 nr Schuylerville SARA 9 Jun.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 5 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 West Kill Mt GREE 10 Jun.
E. Bluebird: max 16 Prospect Cem SARA 15 Jul.
Veery: max 18 Malta Tech Pk SARA 3 Jun; Schodack I SP RENN 21 Jun.
Bicknell's Thrush: 4 Plateau Mt GREE 10 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: max 7 West Kill Mt GREE 10 Jun.
Wood Thrush: max 17 Milton SARA 19 Jul.
Gray Catbird: max 27 Schodack I SP RENN 21 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: max 5 Prattsville GREE 17 Jun.
N. Mockingbird: max 12 The Crossings ALBA 28 Jun.
Cedar Waxwing: 80 Hudson Crossing P SARA 21 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: Broadalbin FULT 25 Jul; CRM 10 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 9 Providence SARA 20 Aug.

Red Crossbill: max 12 Mt Tom SF WASH 24 Jun.

Pine Siskin: max 13 Mountaintop Arboretum GREE 7 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: max 17 L Taghkanic SP COLU 30 Jun.

Clay-colored Sparrow: one FtEG 7 Jul.

Field Sparrow: max 17 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 2 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Saratoga Co Airport SARA 7 Jun; Stuyvesant COLU 3 Jul.

Savannah Sparrow: max 16 OCA 17 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 4 Dowmont Rd WASH 21 Jul.

Song Sparrow: max 35 Normanskill Farm ALBA 20 Jul.

Swamp Sparrow: max 25 BCM 6 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 12 Edinburg SARA 7 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 12 Grafton RENS 12 Aug.

Bobolink: max 150 FtEG 14 Jul.

E. Meadowlark: max 5 SNHP 12 Jun.

Orchard Oriole: max 5 SNHP 26 Jul.

Baltimore Oriole: max 45 APBP 24 Jul, bird banding.

Ovenbird: max 30 Black Mt RENS 17 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: max 3 Alander Mt Trail COLU 18 Jun; reports from 5 add loc in ALBA, COLU, & GREE.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 3 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: max 3 Spruce Mt WASH 23 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 5 L Taghkanic SP COLU 27 Jun.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Garnsey P SARA 15 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 Spruce Mt WARR 16 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: migr arr Henry Hudson P ALBA 20 Aug; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 24 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 2 four loc GREE & WARR; migr arr APBP 23 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 2 Jewett GREE 1 Jul.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 23 SNHP 14 Jul.

Hooded Warbler: max 2 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 9 Jun; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 17 Jun; reports from 4 add loc in ALBA, COLU, GREE, & MONT.

Am. Redstart: max 31 Schodack I SP RENN 21 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: migr arr Peebles I SP SARA 19 Aug; White Ck WASH 20 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 3 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.

N. Parula: max 5 Piseco Rd FULT 16 Jun; migrants arr Saratoga Spa SP SARA 25 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: max 8 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: migr arr APBP 23 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 15 Spruce Mt SARA 2 Jun.

Yellow Warbler: max 18 nr Schaghticoke RENS 22 Jun; Hudson Crossing P SARA 6 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 10 APBP 5 Jun; Galway SARA 8 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 8 Plateau Mt GREE 10 Jun.

Palm Warbler: migr arr Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial P WASH 20 Aug; APBP 23 Aug.

Pine Warbler: max 10 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 25 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: max 5 APBP 5 Jun; FR 8 Jun; nr Hillsdale COLU 13 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20 Hunter GREE 2 Jun.

Canada Warbler: max 2 BMB 7 Jun; Lassellville SF FULT 17 Jun; Grafton RENS 1 Jul; migr arr Providence SARA 20 Aug; Peebles I SP SARA 20 Aug; Henry Hudson P ALBA 20 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: migrants arr APBP 21 Aug; BMB 26 Aug.

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Hemlock Trail SARA 15 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 7 Grafton RENS 12 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: max 7 APBP 12 Jun; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 16 Jun.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season had about average temperatures but was wetter than normal. June's temperature averaged 67.7°F, .1° above normal. There was a high temperature of 98° on 18 June and a low of 46° on 12 June, and 4.14" of rain, .29" below normal. July averaged 74.9°, 1.9° above normal. The high temperature of 94° occurred on 3 July, and the low of 51° on 7 July. There was 6.82" of rain, 2.17" above normal. August averaged 74.9°, 3.8° above normal. The high temperature for the month was 93°, recorded on 29 August and the low of 55° on 24 August. Total precipitation of 8.52" was 4.32" above normal. A significant event occurred on the weekend of 21 July when a series of fronts came through the Region from the south. These fronts brought thunder storms with high wind and heavy downpours, and the storms may be what brought several interesting birds to our area. The summer was an eventful period throughout the Region.

Two **Sandhill Cranes** were found in the Orange County Black Dirt Region by Ray Duffy on 23 June and remained in the area, being seen periodically through 11 August by many.

On 4 August Matt Zeitler found a **Whimbrel**, also in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. Though the bird remained for just the day, it was seen by many observers. On 2 August Tom Burke and Gail Benson found a **Whimbrel** at Marshland Conservancy.

Willets were found breeding at Marshlands Conservancy and were joined on 2 August by a **Western Willet** found by Tom Burke and Gail Benson.

Late August found a series of **Laughing Gull** reports along the Hudson River well north of its usual range. A bird was found by in Wappingers Falls on 13 August by Debbie van Zyl, another 25 August in Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie by Addie Smock, and three on 26 August at the Saugerties Light House by Mary James.

On 23 July, the author found an **Anhinga** while kayaking for shorebirds at Morningside Park in Sullivan County. The bird was huddled in a tree, soaking wet from several downpours that had occurred throughout the morning. Several birders were able to view the bird before it departed late in the afternoon. Coincidentally, the bird returned on the morning of 29 July, but only remained for an hour. This was a first county record and the fourth for the state.

On 2 August the author found a first year **Little Blue Heron** at the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. It was seen by several birders before taking off late in the afternoon. On 30 August Bill Fiero found a first year **Little Blue Heron** at Stewart State Forest which might possibly be the bird seen previously in Sullivan County.

On 26 July, Matt Zeitler found a **Glossy Ibis** at the Liberty Marsh. The bird remained in the area through 5 August and was seen by many.

A **Roseate Spoonbill** was found at the Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 21 July on the New Jersey side of the refuge. It wasn't until 29 July that the bird finally made a foray across the border into Orange County and was seen by Matt Zeitler. Several other birders were fortunate enough to see the bird in New York during its brief flights into the state. It was last seen on 5 August by Karen Miller, flying north through Orange County.

The **Henslow Sparrows** found by Joe DiCostanzo at the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in late May continued throughout the summer and were last seen on 31 July. The pair was observed nest building and they are thought to have bred, though no young were seen.

Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay got word of **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills State Park, and reported them on 2 June. They were last reported on 26 June. A maximum of three was observed and breeding of one pair is suspected.

Finally, **Dickcissels** were found in the Orange County Black Dirt Region by Linda Scrima, the first on 14 July and the second on 20 August. One of the birds was photographed well.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza; **BWMA** – Bashakill WMA; **CPP** – Croton Pt P; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; **GV** – Great Vly WMA; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail; **KP** – Kingston Pt; **LM** – Liberty Marsh; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy; **MP** – Morningside P; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region; **PP** – Piermont Pier; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR.

WATERFOWL – DOVES

Blue-winged Teal: LM 29 Jul (JMc, LScr).

Northern Pintail: MP 30 Aug (JH).

Ruffed Grouse: Black Rock Forest 21 Jun (AA, LA); 3 Livingston Manor Rotary P 24 Jun (AD); 2 Hartwood 9 Jun (VB); Warwarsing 19 Jun (PD); Mohonk Preserve 21 Jun (SLa, MN); Peekamoose Road 26 Aug (AMo).

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 SFSP 20 Jun (AW); Rock Tavern 29 Jun (AA); max 11 Liberty Marsh 14 Jul (VH).

RAILS - LARIDS

Clapper Rail: 2-3 MC 1 Jun-25 Aug (GB, MBo, ASw).

Virginia Rail: SHSR 3 Jun (SF, KF, GB); max 5 LM 7 Jun (JCi), mob); 3 GV 20 Jul (PSch); max 8 MP 28 Jul (JH); Dutchess Rail Trail 18 Aug (DvZ, ASw).

Sora: max 2 SHSR 3 Jun (SF, KF, mob); SGNWR 3 Jun (TP, mob); BWMA 21 Jun (MMc); 2 LM 8 Jun (LScr).

Common Gallinule: max 8 BWMA 1 Jun (JH, mob); GV 11 Jun (CSp), 5 LM 6 Jun (CP); SHSR 8 Aug (KA); 2 Harlem Valley Rail Trail 6 Aug (AMa); Pine Hill Road 14 Aug (KA).

American Coot: max 5 LM 5 Aug (DT).

Sandhill Crane: 2 LM 23 Jun (RD, mob); 10-11 Aug (MZ, LScr), *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: max 9 OCBDR 21 Aug (LScr, SMu, mob).

American Golden-plover: max 4 OCBDR 21-31 Aug (LScr, MZ, JH, mob).

Semipalmated Plover: Strever Farm 23 Jul (CP); Kingston Pt 28 Jul (PSch); MP 29 Jul (JMc, LSa); 8 PP 1 Aug (EE); 9 CPP 25 Aug

(LT); max 10, OCBDR 25 Aug (AA, LA); AP 3 Aug (JH, SB).

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Blue Chip Farms 13-16 Jun (ASw, DvZ, mob); 2 OCBDR 18 Aug (LSc, MZ).

Whimbrel: OCBDR 4 Aug (MZ, mob); MC 2-3 Aug (GB, ASw, TB), *intro*.

Red Knot: MC 3 Aug (GB, TB).

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 OCBDR 14 Aug (MZ, LScr, mob).

White-rumped Sandpiper: OCBDR 19 Aug (MZ, LScr, mob).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 OCBDR 31 Aug (CSp, KMc, KA).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 9 Ulster County Fair Grounds (CK), 2 Denniston Road 22 Jul (MD); 2 MP 1 Aug (JH); PP 2 Aug (EE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 8 MP 23 Jul (JH); 6 KP 28 July (PSch); 20 OCBDR 18 Aug (LScr); 5 CPP 27 Aug (ASw, mob).

Sanderling: 2 PP 23-24 July (EE, KR); 12 Kingston Pt 23 Jul (MD, PSch); OCBDR 13 Aug (MZ).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 MC 3 Aug (GB, BSt); PP 4 Aug (EE); OCBDR 14-18 Aug (MZ, LScr, mob); MP 22-23 Aug (JH, mob).

Wilson's Snipe: SGNWR 4 Jun (DO); 2 OCBDR 13 Aug (MZ); 2 GV 31 Aug (PSch).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 LM 14 Jul (VH); 2 Wallkill Valley Rail Trail 22 Jul (MD); Rockland Lake SP 2 Aug (CC); 2 AP 14 Aug (JH); 12 OCBDR 17 Aug (KA); Espus Meadows Light House 18 Aug (MD); 3 Sleightsburg Spit 19 Aug (DF); 2 CPP 20 Aug (LT, BSt); MP 25 Aug (JH, KMI); PP 25 Aug (LP, ME); 3 MC 30 Aug (GB).

Willet: 2 MC 2 Jun-3 Aug (GB, TB, ASw, JMo, mob); MC 2 Aug (“Western” Willet) (GB, TB).
Greater Yellowlegs: Rondout Res 1 Aug (JH); LM 3 Aug (KMcGa, KMc, IG); PP 4 Aug (EE); 2 EGR 10 Aug (GB); Esopus Meadows Light House 11 Aug (DWe); MP 13 Aug (JH); Shaupeneak Ridge 16 Aug (WT); CPP 20 Aug (LT) 3 OCBDR 17 Aug (KA).
Laughing Gull: Croton Boat Launch 8 Jun (MJa); Wappingers Falls 13 Aug (DVZ); PP 16 Aug (LB); Waryas P 25 Aug (ASm); 3 Saugerties Light House 26 Aug (MJa); 9 EGR 31 Aug (GB), *intro*.
Caspian Tern: MC 3 Aug (GB); 2 PP 29 Aug (CC, KR); KP 31 Aug (JMa).
Black Tern: CPP 1 Aug (FD); 7 OCBDR 13 Aug (MZ); 7 Esopus Meadows Light House 17-18 Aug (PSch, WT, MD, JY).
Common Tern: 18 Rye Town P 11 Jun (GB, TB); 4 EGR 1 Jul (GB, TB); 5 MC 15 Aug (DJ).
Forster’s Tern: 3 (2 ad, 1 juv) MC 9 -15 Aug (GB, TB).

LOONS – PARAKEETS

Red-throated Loon: MC 5 Jun (JMo).
ANHINGA: MP 23 Jul (JH, SB, BNo, KMc, KMi, CSp, KA, RG); 29 Jul (JH), *intro*.
American Bittern: max 2 BWMA 1 Jun (JH, GL, SB); max 2 LM 3 Jun (TP, SM, mob); SFSP (TP, MBra); Hudson R 19 Jun (SRo); Pearl R 10 Jul (LSca); Saugerties 19 Jul (LVV).
Least Bittern: 2 BWMA 1 Jun (JH, SB, KMi, mob); Constitution Marsh 7 Jun (MD); SGNWR 17 Jun (PSch, CSp); Lake Oniad 21 Jul (MP) 11 John Burroughs Sanctuary 28 Jul (MD); PP 18 Aug (JT).
Great Egret: 5 EGR 1 Jul (GB); 23 Jul MP (JH); 14 BWMA 3 Aug (JH, mob); 3 Denniston Road 8 Aug (CSp); 5 Sleightburg Spit 17 Aug (DO); 3 West Point Foundry Preserve 18 Aug (RB, KB); Dennings Pt 24 Aug (AL); 3 CPP 25 Aug (LT); SFSP 25 Aug (BF); 2 Kingston Pt 26 Aug (DWe, DF); 3 Constitution Marsh 30 Aug (RB).
Little Blue Heron: CPP 29 Jul (BSt); MC 31 Jul (Bni); 2 PP 1 Aug (KR), BWMA 2 Aug

(JH, SB, KMi, AB); SFSP 30-31 Aug (BF, CSp, KA).
Glossy Ibis: LM 26 Jul-5 Aug (MZ, JMc, LSa, RG, mob), *intro*.
ROSEATE SPOONBILL: LM 29 Jul-5 Aug (MZ, AG, KMc, IG, KMi), *intro*.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Historic Site 1-9 Jun (CF, mob); Muscoot Farm 3 Jun-2 Jul (GL, ASw, mob); 4 Weston Road Swamp 7 Jun (DWa); Lake Osiris Road 9 Jun (BF).
Monk Parakeet: 5 Aiello Park 11 Jul (SCar).

FLYCATCHERS – FINCHES

Olive-sided Flycatcher: SFSP 1 Jun (CH); Harriman SP 2 Jun (MJa); SGNSR 2 Jun (DP, EW); Thompson Pd Preserve 8 Jun (JCo); Rockefeller SP Preserve 7 Aug (VH); 2 BWMA 16-17 Aug (JH, KMi, SB); SHSR 25-27 Aug (KMi, KA); SFSP 25 Aug (SRa); SFSP 31 Aug (BF).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: SGNWR 2-3 Jun (BW, HJK, WS, JTe); OCBDR 23 Aug (KA).
White-eyed Vireo: Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 1 Jun (TJ); Nimham Mountain Multiple Use Area 2 Jun (SRI, PLe); Tamarack L 3 Jun (DK); SFSP 9 Jun (CB); North County Trailway 11-12 Jun (GB, Bni); Ulster County Fairgrounds 13 Jun (KS); SFSP 22 Jun (AA, LA); Harriman SP (FD).

OLD WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: LM 14 Jul (VH).
Grasshopper Sparrow: CPP 1 Jun (LT); max 10 SGNWR 7 Jul (MBri, mob); CPP 29 Jul (JK); 2 OCBDR 15 Aug (LScr).
Henslow’s Sparrow: 2 SGNWR 1 Jun-31 Jul (TB, GB, DK, mob), *intro*.
Yellow-breasted Chat: max 3 Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP 2-26 Jun (SMi, PLi, mob); SFSP 14 Jun (BF); Rock Tavern 16 Jul (AA), *intro*.
Kentucky Warbler: SFSP 14 Jun (JW).
Dickcissel: OCBDR 14 Jul (LScr); OCBDR 20 Aug (LScr), *intro*.



REGION 10 - MARINE

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The summer started out within near-normal ranges of temperature and precipitation in June, a bit drier toward the city than in the rest of the Region. In late June, we flipped to the warm and humid pattern that would be with us all summer. The first day of July brought a high of 95°F, recorded at Islip and in the city, with high humidity. July and August showed temperatures slightly to well above normal, respectively, and were significantly wetter than normal. Central Park got over 8.5" of rain in August, and Islip over 6", both well above normal but still illustrating how different the weather can be from east to west within the Region. Islip recorded its fourth warmest August and fifth warmest summer on record, according to a climatologist with the NE Regional Climate Center based at Cornell. There were no significant storms or weather events. (Weather data taken from the NOAA National Weather Service site.)

Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	71.7°	71.4°	+0.3°	68.3°	68.4°	-0.1°
Jul	77.6°	76.5°	+1.1°	75.5°	73.9°	+1.6°
Aug	78.1°	75.2°	+2.9°	76.7°	72.8°	+3.9°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	3.11"	4.41"	-1.30"	3.81"	4.27"	-0.46"
Jul	7.45"	4.60"	+2.85"	2.98"	3.43"	-0.45"
Aug	8.59"	4.44"	+4.15"	6.15"	3.98"	+2.17"

As is often the case in Region 10 during summer, seabirds were a major source of interesting records. In addition to several highly productive offshore trips, there were major flights along the ocean beach during late June and an unusual incursion of shearwaters and jaegers into the easternmost parts of Long Island Sound during late July. This activity in the vicinity of Great Gull Island was punctuated by the appearance of a long-staying **Bridled Tern** and appeared

to be related to abundance of Menhaden and other fish in the waters off Long Island's southern and eastern shores.

Ocean vantages along the Suffolk County shore were once again very productive for migrating pelagic species. For the second time, a **Cape Verde Shearwater** was reported, seen well and described in detail by observers of a major flight of Cory's Shearwaters and other seabirds at Robert Moses State Park. Given the rarity of this taxon at the Hemispheric scale, it is understandable that reports lacking photographic support might be viewed with caution, but the observers wish to bring these observations to the attention of seabird researchers and have submitted details to NYSARC.

The offshore trips were spectacularly successful and featured such highlights as **South Polar Skua, Bridled Tern, White-faced, Leach's, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, Trindade and Black-capped Petrels**, and much more. The combination of well planned and executed dedicated pelagic trips and increased monitoring by seabird biologists is vastly and rapidly expanding our understanding of bird occurrence along the edge of the continental shelf break.

A major Laughing Gull colony in Great South Bay, Suffolk County, has been suspected for several years, based on the routine early arrival of adults in breeding condition and the early appearance of recently fledged juveniles in the area. The colony was confirmed this year when large creches of juveniles were discovered and photographed on a marsh island. Remarkably, this is just the second major colony on Long Island, despite the decades of persecution endured by the large colony in Jamaica Bay.

Arctic Terns were very well reported this year, after several lean years following the record-setting summer 2013. The occurrence of this enigmatic species varies greatly from year to year, apparently in part because of fluctuations in actual abundance in the Region, but also in part because of subtle variations in the condition of the ocean inlets where observers seek Arctic Terns. The Common Tern and Black Skimmer colony at Nickerson Beach, Nassau County, was particularly productive for Arctic Tern this year, and savvy observers also recorded the species as far west as Queens, as well as at several sites in Suffolk County. Clearly, there is nothing unique about Moriches Inlet in attracting this species. But despite the apparent potential for its occurrence near any ocean inlet, the species has been nearly absent in some recent years, and it is consistently mis-identified many times each year.

The Captree June Count was conducted on 9 June, for the fourth consecutive year since its resumption in 2015. This CBC-style count provided valuable data concerning many common species and breeders in southwestern Suffolk County. Common, widespread species tend to receive less attention from observers, but history proves that they often show dramatic changes in status over the decades. It is hoped that the counts generated by focused efforts such as the June Count will be more interpretable and comparable from year to year than the frequently vague counts obtained from less than enthusiastic eBirders striving to satisfy the Top 100's Complete-No-X-Checklist mandates.

Valuable surveys of breeding forest birds were conducted by Stephane Perrault at the Greentree property in Manhasset, Nassau County, and by Ken and Sue Feustel at several of the larger protected areas in Suffolk County. It may be worth emphasizing, for readers unfamiliar with the details of Long Island's ecological idiosyncrasies, that many species that are widespread and common as breeders in adjacent areas are peculiarly scarce, local, or absent as breeders on the coastal plain (South Shore) of Long Island. Eastern Phoebe and Swamp Sparrow are two obvious examples, so it was gratifying to receive data regarding potential breeding activity from coastal sites for both of these species. In this same vein, Warbling Vireo was scarce and local along the South Shore as recently as two decades ago, but this species has, for reasons that remain completely mysterious, ascended into ubiquity there (exemplified by 29 on 9 June in a small portion of southwestern Suffolk County on the Captree June Count).

Blue Grosbeaks seem to be increasing as breeders in a variety of contexts (e.g., pine-oak savannahs and brushy areas) on Staten Island and Long Island. Summer Tanager, in contrast, remains quite rare and local. Yellow-throated Warblers are now expected each year along the lower Connetquot River in Suffolk County, but birders ought to seek them at additional stations in appropriate habitat. Grassland breeders seem to be losing ground, in terms of both the number of occupied stations and the size of maximum counts. American Crow, once abundant and ubiquitous in the Region, has diminished to a degree that is shocking to long-time observers. Double-digit counts are mostly a thing of the past, except in a few favorable sites in eastern Long Island, and the species is now greatly outnumbered by Fish Crow in most parts of the Region in all seasons. At the same time, Common Raven has increased, and it is not unusual now for a field trip to detect *brachyrhynchus* last among the three *Corvus*—or even not at all.

Early flights of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Myrtle Warbler were noted widely, and even Pine Siskin was recorded in August. Experience has taught that these such events are correlated with irruptions of these and other forest breeders later in the fall. Significant waves of southbound migrants were noted at migration monitoring sites (e.g., Central Park, Coney Island Creek Park, Breezy Point, Robert Moses State Park, and Great Gull Island) on 5, 10, and 23 August, as well as other dates.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **Bpt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CB** – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CJC** – Captree June Count 9 Jun, PjL compiler, covering Captree CBC area; **CLP** – Clove Lakes P, RICH; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRESLI** – Coastal Research & Education Society whale watch trips out of Montauk; **CRSP** – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **DP** – Democrat Pt, Robert Moses

SP, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **GA** – Gabreski Airport, Westhampton, SUFF; **GBP** – Goethal’s Bridge Pd, RICH; **GGI** – Great Gull I, SUFF; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; **G-WC** – 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; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mash** – Mashomack Preserve, SUFF; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MBI** – Moriches Bay and Inlet, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **OIn** – Old Inlet, Brookhaven, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **OP** – Orient Pt, SUFF; **OPCP** – Orient Pt County P, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RSF** – Riverhead sod fields, SUFF; **SBNW** – Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **Timber Pt** – Timber Pt Golf Course, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **Werth** – Wertheim NWR, SUFF.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 2 Nissequogue R SP 23 Jun (J. Lafferty, mob, ph.) thru 28 Jun (mob, ph.); one remained thru 14 Jul (S. Mutchnick, ph.); second SUFF record.

Snow Goose: ad Jam Bay thru (mob, ph.)

Canada Goose: 708 CJC, similar to last year.

Mute Swan: 122 CJC, similar to last two years.

Wood Duck: 2 CJC, low.

Blue-winged Teal: southbound migr arr 17

Aug BPt (A. Roman-Munoz).

Northern Shoveler: PBP 14 Jul (P. Horan), only summer rep away from Jam Bay, where a few summered; 50 arr Jam Bay 25 Aug (ACo).

Gadwall: 8 CJC.

Eurasian Wigeon: male Jam Bay 3 Jun (P. Horan, EZ, ph.).

Mallard: 193 CJC.

Am. Black Duck: 3 CJC.

Ring-necked Duck: pr FMCP 3 Jun (J. Keane, ph.); m APP—Restoration Pd 23 Jun (A. Bacchiochi).

Greater Scaup: 3 W. Sayville, SUFF 9 Jun (CJC: BF, BBo, MMcB, TS, ph.) & 26 Jul (R. Ogden, ph.); f JBSP 6 Jul (AGu et al., ph.); m BFB 20 Jul (G. Keri, ph.); f Long Beach, NASS 22 Jul (R. Baum, D. Burton).

Lesser Scaup: pr Santapogue Creek, SUFF 9 Jun (CJC: PM) & 21 Jun (S. Mutchnick).

King Eider: Shinn 22 Jun (GB, TWB), continuing and joined by another 1 Jul (R. Zucker et al.); last date for 2 was 31 Jul (GB, TWB); one thru.

Common Eider: summered widely, inc small flocks; sites included Jones In, Moriches In, Shinn, Montauk, and GGI.

Surf Scoter: singles and duos summered more widely than usual: Oakwood Beach, RICH, W. Rockaway In, E. Rockaway In, Jones In, Fire I In, Moriches In, Shinn, Amagansett, SUFF, Fisher’s I; 1 CJC.

White-winged Scoter: singles and duos reported widely: BPt, Jones In, Fire I In, OIn, Shinn, MB, Amagansett, SUFF, MP, OP, and Fisher’s I; 1 CJC.

Black Scoter: many reps of 1-4 along outer coast: BPt, Jones Inlet, Fire I Inlet, Moriches Inlet, Shinn, Amagansett, SUFF, and MP.

Long-tailed Duck: 1-2 at sev sites: CVP, PlumbB, Jones In, Fire I In, OIn.

Bufflehead: GKP 9-14 Jun (K. Rossi et al.); MPB 2-10 Jun (I. Conte et al.); Werth 12 Jun (R. Shea).

Hooded Merganser: Squire Pd, SUFF 9-10 Jun (S. Mutchnick, ph.); Cold Spring Harbor, NASS 20 Jun (L. Melliny); South Fork Natural History Museum, Bridgehampton, SUFF 21 Jun (AnW); Werth 4 Jul-20 Aug (EZ et al.); BZ 1-31 Aug (T. Olson).

Red-breasted Merganser: small numbers widespread: GKP, CVP, Jam Bay, Pearsall’s Hassock, NASS, OIn, Moriches In, Tiana Bay, SUFF.

Ruddy Duck: many reps Jam Bay; others PP thru; APEC 1 Jun-7 Jul (M. Ryan et al.); KP 2 Jun; CP 15 Jun (B. Elbert); Jerome Res., BRON 30 Jun (D. Karlson).

Northern Bobwhite: no convincing reports of wild birds; 1 CJC.

Ring-necked Pheasant: persistence of wild populations east of NYC doubtful, except at Fisher's I.

Wild Turkey: present RICH and BPB, then almost completely unreported east to ca. Yaphank, SUFF; one near Stony Brook, SUFF 3 Jul (E. Runnells, M. Schrimpf), a lone exception; many reports from Yaphank eastwards through pine barrens and both LI Forks.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Jam Bay 14 Jun; Blydenburgh P, SUFF 18 Jul (V. Pellegrino); arr CLP 16 Aug (G. Bouqio).

Horned Grebe: Agawam L, SUFF 13 Jun (F. Durso), m in breeding plumage.

Red-necked Grebe: no reports.

Rock Pigeon: max 200 CP 5 Jun (R. Ehler); 87 CJC.

Mourning Dove: single-site max 85 Rockaway Beach, QUEE 25 Aug (CF); 139 CJC.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 CJC.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 CJC.

Common Nighthawk: no reports suggestive of breeding; arr 3 SBNW (where monitored) 14 Aug (PD); 189 there 25 Aug (PD), max; other high counts: 17 HSP 23 Aug (K&SF); 19 CMB 28 Aug (TS).

Chuck-will's-widow: Quogue, SUFF thru 1 Jul, from spring; 4 Fire 1 Pines, SUFF 16 Jun (DF).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: all reports were from known breeding sites: Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, SUFF, CRSP, Riverhead-Westhampton pine barrens, Napeague; 2 CJC.

Chimney Swift: max 219 SBNW 27 Aug (PD et al.); 42 CJC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 6 CJC.

RAILS-LARIDS

Clapper Rail: 4 CJC.

Virginia Rail: only three reports: High Rock P, RICH 1 Jul (CB); 2 Brookhaven Hamlet, SUFF; Arshomomaque Preserve, SUFF sev dates, traditional site.

Sora: arr Jam Bay 12 Aug (M. Passman).

Common Gallinule: Oakwood Beach, RICH 5 Jun, 7 & 26 Jul (ACi et al.), only reports.

American Coot: singles summered PP and Jam Bay.

Sandhill Crane: ca. GBP 23 Jun (P. Paul).

American Oystercatcher: 46 CJC.

Black-bellied Plover: 3 CJC; max 127 OIn 25 Aug (BBo, TS).

American Golden-Plover: arr JBWE 24 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 900 NB 11 Aug (K&SF).

Piping Plover: 19 CJC; max 41 JBSP 31 Jul (EZ).

Killdeer: 22 CJC; max 57 RSF 19 Aug (EZ).

Upland Sandpiper: FBF 11 Aug (J. Malbin), only report.

Whimbrel: 1 CJC; max 13 Scallop Pd Preserve, SUFF 17 Aug (DR).

Hudsonian Godwit: GKP 16 Aug (J. Miller, ph.); Jam Bay 24 Aug thru (M. Passman, mob, ph.); JBWE 30 Aug (B. Anderson et al.).

Marbled Godwit: 3 PlumbB 12 Aug (D. Paul, P. Paul, ph.); Moriches In 16-26 Aug (S. Stewart, mob, ph.); OIn 25 Aug (BBo, TS, ph.), followed by 6 there 28 Aug (A. Perkins); JBWE 31 Aug (BF et al., ph.).

Ruddy Turnstone: max northbound 400 Shinn 2 Jun (B. Bull).

Red Knot: high counts include: 105 JBSP 25 Aug (K&SF); 248 OIn 25 Aug (BBo, TS); 107 MBI 10 Aug (JBo, C. Cady, PJL, SSM).

RUFF: HSP 22 Jul (L. Nasta, ph.), f plum.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 50 Jam Bay 25 Jul (PJL, SSM).

Sanderling: 55 CJC; max 2500 BPt 16 Aug (IG).

Dunlin: 1 CJC; singles and duos summered MBI and other favorable sites.

Purple Sandpiper: 2 JBWE 16 Aug (P. Maslow, ph.), probably summered.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Chandler Estate, SUFF 17 Aug (A. Perkins); FBF 25-28 Aug; Yaphank, SUFF 22-24 Aug (B. Bull et al.); 2 Southold 25 Aug (M. Higgiston, E. Schwinn); MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR).

Least Sandpiper: max 150 Jam Bay 6 Aug (N. O'Reilly).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 34 MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR); Miller Field, RICH 30 Aug (ACi); HSP 30 Aug (PJL et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 15 Jam Bay 7 Aug (DGo, TJ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 CJC; max 1500 Jam Bay 7 Aug (DGo, TJ).

Western Sandpiper: few reports by season's end and no more than 2 per site, e.g., 2 MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR, ph.).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 CJC; max 513 CCP 20 Jul (K&SF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Jam Bay 31 Jul (ABk); 1-2 there thereafter; Idlewild P, QUEE 17 Aug (E. Patterson, A. Patterson); only reps.

American Woodcock: max 3 FBF 28 Jul (H. Lopes); 3 Gilgo, SUFF 20 Jul (P. Paul, SSi).

Wilson's Snipe: arr G-WC 5 Aug; Randall's I, NEWY 12 Aug; only reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: bred GGI (JDIC, J. Layman, ph.); has declined greatly as a breeder in the Region; max 12 CMB 11 Aug (TS).

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 MPB 19 Aug (H. Lopes).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 60 Jam Bay 26 Aug (E. Eden), low.

"Eastern" Willet: 62 CJC; max 175 CCP 23 Jul (R. Baum, D. Burton).

"Western" Willet: 15 MBI 15 Jul (PJL, SSM, PWC), early for so many; max 18 MBI 29 Jul MMcB, PM, TS).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 CJC; max 55 Bridge Creek, QUEE 25 Aug (CF).

Wilson's Phalarope: HSP 4 Jun (PJL, ph.); Jam Bay 21 Jul (S. Gopalokrishnan, C. McRae, M. Schoenitz, ph.), East Pd; Jam Bay 28-29 Jul (PJL, SSM), West Pd.

Red-necked Phalarope: 4 off MP 15 Aug (CRESLI); 21 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Hudson Valley Shelf, SUFF 20 Jul (R. Herman, M. Fuirst, ph.).

POMARINE JAEGER (R10): Top of the Claw, SUFF 14 Jul (DR, JSh, AnW, ph.); 2 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 CJC (PJL et al.); max 9 GGI 12 Aug (PJL, SSM), *intro*.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (R10): 2 The Claw 14 Jul (DR, JSh, AnW, ph.).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 2 Jam Bay 14 Jul-15 Aug.

Laughing Gull: 359 CJC; major nesting colony confirmed Great South Bay (SSM, SPe, et al., ph.), second major colony on LI.

Ring-billed Gull: 10 CJC; max 180 Randall's I, NEWY 19 Aug (J. Drucker).

Herring Gull: 249 CJC; max 614 Great South Bay, SUFF 24 Jul (SSM).

Iceland Gull: no reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 22 CJC, new max for count; max 36 SPCP 3 Jun (MMcB).

Glaucous Gull: OIn 17 Jul (S. Sullivan, EZ).

Great Black-backed Gull: 113 CJC; max 650 MBI 16 Aug (K&SF).

BRIDLED TERN: Hudson Canyon 19 Jul (R. Herman, M. Fuirst, ph.); GGI 3-16 Aug (JDIC,

SSi, mob, ph.), adult attending tern colony; 2 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al, ph.).

Least Tern: 116 CJC; max 450 OIn 26 Jun (EZ).

Gull-billed Tern: many reports traditional sites around Jam Bay and Jones In, NASS; max 4 NB 30 Jun, 6 & 22 Jul; all others: 2 CB 9 Jun (CJC, MN, S. Meyerheinrich); MBI 17 Jun (PJL, SSM, ph.) & 23 Jul (R. Baum, D. Burton); MB 23 Jun (A. Gilbert); OIn 6 Jul (EZ, S. Sullivan, ph.).

Caspian Tern: max 4 Plumb Beach 17 Aug (T. Preston).

Black Tern: max 5 CCP 28 Aug (SF).

Roseate Tern: 15 BPt 24 Jun (ABk, ph.), many for site; up to 8 per day NB, many for site; 9 DP 27 Jun (SSM); 6 CJC; 7 OIn 16 Jun (DR); up to 7 per day MBI; up to 3 per day Shinn; MB 29 Jul (SSM); 2 Amagansett, SUFF 25 Aug (AnW); no more than 3 per day ca. Montauk, low; max 2 at Sammy's Beach, SUFF 14 Jul (E. Schumann, low; many reports from OP, e LI Sound, and GGI, where colony was estimated at 4,000 (JDIC et al.); 8 CMB 2 Jul (TS), many for site.

Common Tern: 346 CJC 9 Jun (PJL et al.); colony at GGI estimated at 20,000 (JDIC et al.).

ARCTIC TERN (R10): best year since 2013; reports of ca. 26 documented individuals included here, organized by site; **BPt:** SY 12 Jun (P. Paul, ph.); SY 13 Jun (ABk, ph.); 2 SY & 2 TY 24 Jun (P. Paul, ABk, ph.); **NB:** ad 6 Jun (K&SF, ph.); different ad 10 Jun (SSM et al., ph.); different ad/TY 15 Jun (P. Paul, ph.); distinctive TY 16 Jun (SSM et al., ph.), also 19-20 Jun (A. Honeywood, Z. Schwartz-Weinstein, ph.); ad/TY 17 Jun (TH, P. Paul, M. Yuan, ph.); new ad/TY 18 Jun (J. Landesberg, ph.); SY 24 Jun (B. Elrick, G. Surya, ph.); SY 25 Jun (SSM et al., ph.); **OIn:** 2 SY 16 Jun (DR, ph.); **Moriches In:** SY 9 Jun (ABk, ph.); different SY & TY 10 Jun (PJL, SSM, PM, TS, ph.); different SY plus prev. day's TY 11 Jun (MMcB, ph.); new TY 15 Jun (KF, ph.); TY 21 Jun (EZ, ph.); 2 SY 24 Jun (PJL, SSM, PM, TS, ph.); SY 8 Jul (JGI, J. Haas, S. Baldinger, ph.); **Triton Lane, SUFF:** SY 28 Jun (DR, ph.); *intro*.

Forster's Tern: 61 CJC; max 150 MB 29 Aug (M. Grasso, DR), always a favored site for high counts, long before breeding resumed on LI.

Royal Tern: still scarce and local along western oceanfront before mid July; 2 NB 17 Jun (TH, ph.), notably early for NASS and suggestive of potential breeding; 23 Jun BPt;

max 151 On 28 Aug (A. Perkins), now consistently favored vs. MBI, previously the focus of high counts.

SANDWICH TERN: Triton Lane, SUFF 9 Jun (ACo), ad bas; BPT 13 Jun (ABk, ph.), ad alt; NB 19 Jun (DF et al., ph.), SY; RMSP 22 Jun SSM et al.; Moriches In 30 Jun (MMcB, ph.), ad alt.

Black Skimmer: 8 CJC; ca. 450 NB mid Jun.

LOONS-PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 3 CJC.

Common Loon: 4 CJC.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: max 470 Hudson Canyon pelagic 20 Aug (DGo et al.).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: Hudson Canyon 19 Jul (R. Herman, M. Fuirst, ph.).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (R10): max 6 Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.); singles inshore Amagansett, SUFF 22 Jul (ACo) and MBI 25 Jul (EZ et al., vid.) very unusual.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 5+ Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.); 7 Hudson Canyon 29 Aug (F. Durso).

TRINDADE PETREL: near Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 8+ Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.); 2 Hudson Canyon 29 Aug (F. Durso).

Cory's Shearwater: 8 CJC; max 1600 GGI 25 Jul (J. Layman); 750 RMSP 22 Jun (SSM et al.), major flight inshore.

CAPE VERDE SHEARWATER: RMSP 22 Jun (PJJ, SSM, et al.), details to NYSARC, *intro*.

Sooty Shearwater: 8 CJC; max 1000 RMSP 22 Jun (SSM et al.).

Great Shearwater: max 3000 GGI 24 Jul (J. Layman).

Manx Shearwater: max 6 Amagansett, SUFF 7 Jul (AnW) & 6 e LI Sound 29 Jul (N. Bonomo, F. Gallo, P. Rusch).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER (R10): 2 Hudson Canyon 6 Aug (DGo, TJ); Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.), one Hudson Valley Shelf 20 Aug (DGo et al., ph.).

BROWN BOOBY: ca. 10 mi. s Fire I Light 30 Jul, ad reported independently by M. Fuirst and C. Witek.

Northern Gannet: 7 CJC; max count 12 RMSP 3 Jun (DF) & 10 Sailor's Haven, Fire I, SUFF 24 Jun (E. Maitra); small numbers along ocean front thru; more notable were 1-2 e LI

Sound near GGI on numerous dates 25 Jul-25 Aug (JDiC et al.).

Double-crested Cormorant: 306 CJC; colony Argyle L, Babylon, SUFF; still a very local breeder in Region.

Great Cormorant: 1-3 various sites e LI thru; 5 MP 19 Aug (D. Auld), consistent with late Aug arrival of immes in Region.

Brown Pelican: widely reported on and near outer coast 5 Jun-11 Aug; 5 Cedar Grove Beach, RICH 17 Jul (ACi, S. Wollney), max RICH; 8 BPT 16 Jul (P. Paul), max QUEE; 2 NB 20 Jun (M. Zito) & 2 JBWE 27 Jul, max NASS; 5 MBI 29 Jul (PM, MMcB, TS), max SUFF.

American Bittern: no reports.

Least Bittern: River Rd., RICH 15, 29 Jul.

Great Blue Heron: 3 CJC; max 19 BPt 12 Aug (J. Fiorito).

Great Egret: 75 CJC; max 151 Willow Pd, Hewlett Bay P, NASS 12 Aug (BF, SpE).

Snowy Egret: 36 CJC; max 142 Willow Pd, Hewlett Bay P, NASS 12 Aug (BF, SpE).

Little Blue Heron: max 7 Oakwood Beach, RICH 28 Jul (CB) & 7 Shirely Marina, SUFF 28 Jul (EZ).

Tricolored Heron: reported from Jam Bay, Lawrence Marsh, NASS, OMNSA, Lido Beach, NASS, Captree I, SUFF, Brookhaven Hamlet, SUFF, and Shinn; almost all singles—numbers much reduced from past decades.

Cattle Egret: Timber Pt 17 Jun (mob); CR 25 Jun (ACi); GKP 7 Jul (ACi); Miller Field, RICH 25 Jul (E. Johnson); G-WC 19-21 Aug (mob).

Green Heron: 10 CJC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 CJC; max 22 CMB 29 Jun (TS) & 22 Jam Bay 14 Jul (CF), low.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 10 Old Place Creek, RICH (CB) & 10 Brookville P, QUEE (E. Becher).

Glossy Ibis: 33 CJC; max 78 Jam Bay 9 Jul (J. McManus, J. Rothman).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Captree I, SUFF 14 Jul (PJJ, SSM), ad in fading alt plum.

Black Vulture: max 4 Bucks Hollow, RICH 6 Jun (E. Johnson); CRSP 16 Jun (K. Thompson), only report east of Staten Island.

Turkey Vulture: 2 CJC, new to count; max 12 Calverton 25 Aug (J. Sep).

Osprey: 111 CJC, new count max.

Northern Harrier: a few Jun reports ca. Jones In and MBI; migr arr widely ca. 24 Aug.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Makamah Preserve, SUFF 12 Aug (C. Klein); Southold Village,

SUFF 10 & 28 Jul (J. Sep); Shelter I, SUFF 27 Aug (M. Scheibel); only reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 4 CJC; widely reported all counties.

Bald Eagle: widely reported all counties except for Queens; no longer unexpected anywhere in Region at any date.

Red-shouldered Hawk: nested successfully ca. CRSP (CJC, KF, PJJ, et al., ph.), rare breeder on LI.

Broad-winged Hawk: a few migrants PBP late Aug (R. Aracil et al.); Northport 26 Aug (N. Klein), only LI report.

Red-tailed Hawk: 15 CJC.

Barn Owl: max 3 PBP 24 Aug (R. Aracil).

Eastern Screech-Owl: 7 CJC.

Great Horned Owl: 2 CJC.

Snowy Owl: Owl's Head P, KING 5 Jun (R. Ellard, ph.), unus date; Riker's I, QUEE 1 Jul (fide Wild Bird Fund), possibly the same individual.

Barred Owl: VCP 29 Aug, only rep.

Belted Kingfisher: 1 CJC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 CRSP 31 Jul (K&SF), family.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 55 CJC; max 33 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe), high density.

Downy Woodpecker: 25 CJC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 13 CJC.

Northern Flicker: 22 CJC.

Pileated Woodpecker: sw Staten Island 5 & 29 Jun (ACi).

American Kestrel: max 6 21-22 40th Ave, NEWY 18 & 21 Jun (A. Ferlito), illustrative of the species' shift to urban settings as a Regional breeder.

Merlin: singles widely reported late Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 CJC; max 5 OMNSA 1 Jun-31 Jul (M. Farina); 5 Captree I, SUFF 12 Aug (JBo, PJJ, SSM).

Monk Parakeet: 10 CJC; max 40 No. Woodmere P, NASS 24 Jul (D. Lichter).

FLYCATCHERS-FINCHES

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 29 CRSP 9 Jun (KF; total 63 for CJC).

Eastern Kingbird: 29 CJC; max 80 RMSF 24 Aug (Z. Millen et al.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 2 Jun (E. Gaillard, G. Henry); CLP 7 Jun (CB); arr CP 5 Aug (J. Drucker); none e of QUEE.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 32 CJC.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 2-3 Jun; arr Captree I, SUFF 26 Aug (PJJ); PBP 30 Aug (R. Aracil, J. Drucker).

Acadian Flycatcher: CP 9 Jun (J. Russell), only report.

Alder Flycatcher: CP 7 Jun (D. Soares); VCP 10 Jun (N. O'Reilly); arr CP 20 Aug (J. Drucker et al.); G-WC 22 Aug (K. Topping).

Willow Flycatcher: 38 CJC.

Least Flycatcher: arr CP 15 Aug.

Eastern Phoebe: 2 CJC, very local breeder South Shore of LI.

White-eyed Vireo: 7 CJC.

Yellow-throated Vireo: reported from 8 probable breeding sites, all NASS & SUFF.

Warbling Vireo: 29 CJC.

Red-eyed Vireo: 103 CJC.

Blue Jay: 107 CJC.

American Crow: 37 CJC; almost all reports in single digits; 17 Scallop Pd Preserve, SUFF 17 Aug (DR), max among single-site counts that we could be sure involved careful ident.

Fish Crow: 93 CJC; max 128 N. Patchogue, SUFF 28 Aug (S. Mutchnick); multiple reports 100+, with counts 10+ routine.

Common Raven: 1 CJC; widely reported form all 7 counties.

Horned Lark: all sites included: 8 JBSP 31 Aug (PD); 5 St. Charles Cem, SUFF 28 Aug (BF); 2 HSP 23 Aug (JGI); SPCP 3, 7 Jun (MMcB; K. Attinger); 3 Miller Place, SUFF 30 Jul (A. Perkins); 1-3 EPCAL many dates; 1-2 GA several dates; Scallop Pd Preserve, SUFF 10 Jun (F. Durso); 2 W. Neck Pt., Shelter I, SUFF (W. Zitek); 1-4 Orient Beach SP; 2 Cedar Pt CP, East Hampton, SUFF 9 Jun (C. Gangemi); 1-3 Sammy's Beach, East Hampton, SUFF.

Purple Martin: 72 CJC; single-site max 66 Great Pd, Southold, SUFF 10 Aug (SA, MN).

Tree Swallow: 128 CJC; max 2100 OPCP 26 Aug (J. Sep).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 5 CJC.

Bank Swallow: max 94 RMSF 18 Jul (SSM).

Cliff Swallow: 1 CJC; 8 PBP 6 Jun (L. Weir); many reps of 1-2 from diverse outer beach sites after cold fronts Jul & Aug.

Barn Swallow: 291 CJC; max 475 MBI 29 Jul (MMcB, PM, TS).

Black-capped Chickadee: 45 CJC.

Tufted Titmouse: 34 CJC.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Far Rockaway, QUEE 21 Jun (D. Lichter), unusual date away from likely breeding sites; early southbound reports include 2 Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 6 Jul (TWB et al.); JBWE 8 Jul (J. Landesberg); Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 9 Jul (G. Zay); E. Quogue, SUFF 12 Jul (DR); FBF 14 Jul (T. Preston);

widely reported from throughout Region 23 Aug and later; *intro*.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 6 CJC; Tobay Beach, NASS 26 Aug (H. Farber), possibly on the move at season's end; also BPT 25 Jun (R. Ellard), unus date for location.

House Wren: 38 CJC.

Marsh Wren: 34 CJC; max 15 Saw Mill Cr, RICH 10 Jun (CB).

Carolina Wren: 72 CJC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 33 CJC; single-site max 13 CRSP 9 Jun (KF); 3 RMSP 23 Aug (BBo, SSM, TS), migrants.

Eastern Bluebird: max 9 GA 5 Jul (TWB et al.).

Veery: 5 CJC; max 8 Inwood P Terrace, NEWY 31 Aug (J. Drucker, N. Souirgi), migrants.

Swainson's Thrush: Governor's I, NEWY 2 Jun (A. Barry); BRY 4-8 Jun, late.

Hermit Thrush: no reports; traditionally a scarce and local breeder in pine barrens.

Wood Thrush: max 16 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe), a Regionally significant breeding population.

American Robin: 436 CJC; max single sites 200 CP 10 Aug; 200 FBF 29 Aug (SSM).

Gray Catbird: 362 CJC.

Brown Thrasher: 12 CJC.

Northern Mockingbird: 90 CJC.

European Starling: 657 CJC.

Cedar Waxwing: 106 CJC; max 250 RMSP 24 Aug (Z. Millen et al.).

House Sparrow: 194 CJC; max 370 Cow Meadow Preserve, NASS 31 Aug (BF), large number.

House Finch: 34 CJC; max 57 Manhasset, NASS 11 Aug (SPe).

Purple Finch: arr RMSP 23 Aug (BBo, SSM, TS); *intro*.

Pine Siskin: arr CP 25 Aug (D. Barrett, G. Henry, W. Perro), early.

American Goldfinch: 74 CJC; max single site 48 Manhasset, NASS 11 Aug (SPe).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 167 CJC; max single site 61 CRSP 9 Jun (KF).

Chipping Sparrow: 87 CJC; max single site 30 EPCAL 3 Jun (A. Deutsch, L. Hertzog).

Field Sparrow: 5 CJC 9 Jun; max 10 EPCAL 3 Jun (A. Deutsch, L. Hertzog); 10 GKP 24 Aug (CB).

Vesper Sparrow: GA 2 Jun-8 Aug, only site, never more than one reported; formerly locally common breeder e. LI.

Lark Sparrow: 2 JBWE 18-21 Aug (mob, ph.); RMSP 18 Aug (KF, ph.), CLP 23 Aug (G. Bouquio); Accabonac Harbor, SUFF 27 Aug (DR, ph.); Randall's I, NEWY 31 Aug (J. Drucker, N. Souirgi, ph.).

Savannah Sparrow: max 10 FKP 7 Aug (ACi), important breeding site in R10.

Grasshopper Sparrow: all sites included: max 39 FKP 7 Aug (ACi), important breeding site in R10; SUFF max 12 EPCAL 9 Jun (S. Sullivan); 2 GA (JGI et al.); Shinnecock Hills GC, SUFF 17 Jun (J. Stocker).

Seaside Sparrow: 70 CJC.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 66 CJC.

Song Sparrow: 168 CJC.

Swamp Sparrow: BRY thru 13 Jun, late; rare breeder South Shore of LI, so the following are notable: HSP 9 Jun (JGI; CJC); 2 Werth 29 Jul (EZ), singing males, one pres two prior dates.

Yellow-breasted Chat: GKP 30 Jul (ACi); CP 10 Aug (mob); GGI 29 Aug (JDI).

Bobolink: max 21 FBF 29 Aug (SSM).

Eastern Meadowlark: reported from only 4 sites this season: max 7 EPCAL 16 Jun (J. Sep); 1-3 GA (JGI et al.); 3 Shinnecock Hills GC, SUFF 17 Jun (J. Stocker); MB 30 Jul (BF).

Orchard Oriole: 5 CJC; max 11 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe); 2 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM), migrants.

Baltimore Oriole: 65 CJC; max 35 Manhasset, NASS 9 Jun (SPe); 13 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM), migrants.

Red-winged Blackbird: 565 CJC; max single site 470 CIC 10 Aug (DGo).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 62 CJC.

Common Grackle: 286 CJC; max 1600 Swan R Preserve, SUFF 28 Aug (S. Mutchnick).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 35 CJC.

Ovenbird: 7 CJC; 12 HLSF 13 Jun (J. Giunta), good count of breeders; first convincing southbound migr CP 10 Aug (C. McLaughlin); max 7 CP 16 Aug (J. Dean).

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 CP 17 Aug (D. Mullins).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr CP 19 Jul (R. Zucker); max 2 CLP 30 Jul (CB) & Manhasset, NASS 11 Aug (SPe).

Northern Waterthrush: BRY 4 Jun; arr CP 18 Jul; high counts include 12 CIC 10 Aug; (DGo); 12 BPT 12 Aug (J. Fiorito); 7 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM).

Golden-winged Warbler: 1-2 CP 15 Aug thru.

Blue-winged Warbler: 14 CJC; max 6 HSP 9 Jun (JGI), CJC; CP & CIC 10 Aug, convincing southbound migr.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 12 CP 16 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: HLSP 17-18 Jun (P. Aitken).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Stony Brook, SUFF 5 Aug (D. Weber); max 2 CIC 10 Aug (DGo).

Nashville Warbler: arr Makamah Preserve, SUFF 12 Aug (C. Klein).

Mourning Warbler: CRSP 9 Jun (CJC, KF), last northbound; arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward).

Kentucky Warbler: no reports.

Common Yellowthroat: 157 CJC; 16 Caumsett SP, SUFF 12 Jun (K&SF), breeders; 31 BPt 12 Aug (J. Fiorito), large number.

Hooped Warbler: no reps on terr; arr CP 18 Aug (R. Serio); CLP 25 Aug (CB); PP 26 Aug).

American Redstart: 8 CJC; 10 HHSP 25 Jun (E. Schumann), good count for breeders; 28 CP 18 Aug (R. Serio); 20 Manhasset, NASS 23 Aug (SPe), large numbers.

Cape May Warbler: Mt. Sinai, SUFF (2 Jun (A. Perkins); arr Werth (EZ).

Northern Parula: Mash 26 Jun (M. Grasso), historical breeding site; arr FBF 28 Jul (H. Lopes).

Magnolia Warbler: several reports thru 3 Jun; CP 1-22 Jul (G. Henry, J. Ward et al.), unus dates; arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward).

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CP 10 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Werth 10 Aug (MMcB); max 2 G-WC 25 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: 264 CJC; 40 RMSP 24 Aug (Z. Millen), good flight.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward); max 8 CP 16 Aug (J. Dean).

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 HLSP 2 Jun (E. Becher); APEC 16 Jun; BZ 26 Jun (T. Olson); arr PP 23 Aug (D. Paul).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 2 CP 10 Jun (D. Barrett, J. Ward).

Palm Warbler: arr G-WC 19 Aug (C. Lawrence, M Silber), early.

Pine Warbler: 22 CJC; single-site max 12 Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, SUFF 28 Jun (EZ).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Governor's I, NEWY 3 Jun (B. Cacace), last northbound; arr CLP 22 Aug (CB) and Jam Bay 25 Aug (L. Albert), early arrivals such as these correlated with irruptions of other boreal breeding species.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 CJC; Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF various dates 3 Jun-6 Jul, from spring; 1-3 birds recorded here in summer since 2011; presumed breeding.

Prairie Warbler: 14 CJC; single-site max 11 West MeadowWetlands Preserve, Stony Brook, SUFF 19 Jun (PD).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 10 Aug CLP (H. Fischer).

Canada Warbler: arr CP 5 Aug (J. Ward); max 12 CP 16 Aug (J. Drucker).

Wilson's Warbler: 2 Jam Bay 2 Jun; arr CP 24 Aug (S. Passlick).

Summer Tanager: Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 9 Jun and 27 & 29 Jul (ACo), only reports.

Scarlet Tanager: 1 CJC; max 4 CRSP 8 Jul (D. Martin) & Blydenburgh P, SUFF 18 Jul (V. Pellegrino).

No. Cardinal: 124 CJC.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: all hints of breeding activity confined to the North Shore of LI except a pair of reports from IHP 3 Jun (A. Barry) and 19 Jul (N. Souirgi); southbound migr arr 16 Aug CP & Jam Bay.

Blue Grosbeak: continues to increase: 6 sites RICH; CVP 2 Jun (AxW) & 11 Jul (T. Preston); Caumsett SP, SUFF 25 Jun (K&SF); Yaphank, SUFF 25 Aug (J. Gaglione, S. Meyerheinrich); and at least three sites around the traditional breeding sites near Calverton, SUFF thru.

Indigo Bunting: 7 CJC; max 11 Manhasset, NASS 23 Aug (SPe).

Dickcissel: arr Oak Beach, SUFF 18 Aug (PJJ, SSM); GGI 23 Aug (JDiC); CP 24 Aug (D. Barrett); 2 RMSP 24 Aug (SSM et al.); CR 26 Aug (ACi); all reps listed.

ADDENDUM

European Goldfinch: RMSP 11 May (SSM, TS), in morning flight with other migrants.

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Trindade Petrel, near Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 20 Aug 2018, © Taylor Sturm.

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; **1S** – first summer; **1W** – first winter; **2S** – second summer; **2W** – second winter; **3S** – third summer; **3W** – third winter; **ad** – adult; **alt** – alternate (breeding) plumage; **Am.** – American; **arr** – arrival or first of season; **avg** – average; **b** – banded; **bas** – basic (winter) plumage; **BBS** – Breeding Bird Survey; **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count; **Com.** – Common; **cont** – continuing; **CP** – County Park; **dep** – departure; **dm** – dark morph; **E.** – Eastern; **f** – female; **FL** – fledgling; **FY** – adult feeding young; **I** – Island; **imm** – immature; **In** – Inlet; **inc** – including; **intro.** – see introduction to report; **juv** – juvenile; **L** – Lake; **lt m** – light morph; **loc** – location; **m** – male; **max** – maximum; **mi** – miles; **migr** – migrating; **mob** – multiple observers; **Mt** – Mountain; **N.** – Northern; **NYSDEC** – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge; **NYSARC** – New York State Avian Records Committee; **P** – Park; **Pd** – Pond; **ph** – photograph or photographed by; **poss** – possible; **pr** – pair; **prob** – probable; **Pt** – Point; **R** – River; **Reg** – Region, Regional; **Res** – Reservoir; **sev** – several; **SP** – State Park; **spec** – specimen; **T** – Town of; **thru** – throughout period; **W.** – Western; **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area; **y** – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

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

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

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

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

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

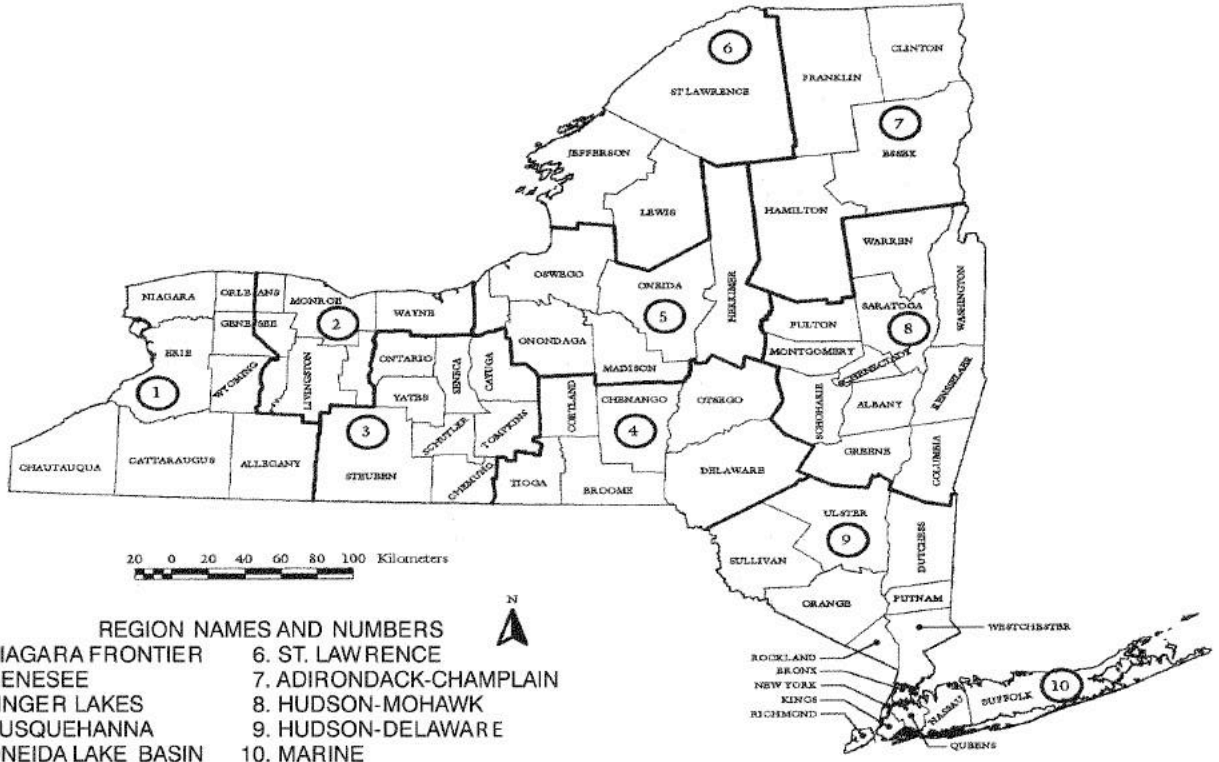
REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February: Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May: Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August: Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November: Deadline is 7 December



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