

The
KINGBIRD

New York State
Ornithological
Association, Inc.

Vol. 57 No. 4

December 2007



THE KINGBIRD (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a peer-reviewed publication of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the State and maintain the official Checklist of the Birds of New York State.

Please note our official website address: <http://nybirds.org>

Memberships are available in the following annual categories: Individual \$22, Family \$25, Supporting \$30, Contributing \$50, The Kingbird Club \$100, Student \$12. Add \$8 to all categories for addresses other than U.S. Life Membership is \$900. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to: New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., P.O. Box 95, Durhamville, NY 13054. INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE KINGBIRD are \$25 to US addresses, \$33 to all others, annually on a calendar year basis only. REQUESTS FOR SINGLE COPIES, REPLACEMENT COPIES, or BACK NUMBERS, (\$5.00 each) to: Tim Baird, 242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779, with checks made payable to NYSOA. All amounts stated above are payable in US funds only.

Postmaster: send address changes to: *THE KINGBIRD*, P.O. Box 95, Durhamville, NY 13054

©2007 New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. All rights reserved.

NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

2007-2008 Officers

President

William Ostrander, 80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14905

Vice-President

Carena Pooth, 22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

Corresponding Secretary

Timothy H. Baird, 242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

Recording Secretary

Brenda Best, 5611 Irish Ridge Rd., Durhamville, NY 13054-4112

Treasurer

William B. Reeves, 19 Brian Lane, East Northport, NY 11731-3810

Directors (Term Expiration Dates)

Jane Graves 2008 Robert Adamo 2009

John Confer 2008 Andrew Mason 2009

Kathryn Schneider 2008 Robert Mauceli 2009

continued on inside back cover



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 57 No. 4

December 2007

pp. 285-360

CONTENTS

Alfred Ott, 1939-2007	286
Western Reef-Heron (<i>Egretta gularis gularis</i>) at Calvert Vaux Park, Brooklyn Alex Wilson	288
Early arrival of Red-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta canadensis</i>) in southeastern New York during summer 2007 Ken Feustel	295
Multiple Acadian Flycatchers breeding in New York City and Long Island during summer 2007 Patricia J. Lindsay	298
Notes and Observations	300
The New York State Ornithological Association's 60 th Annual Meeting. Batavia, NY, 6 October 2007 Brenda Best	302
Highlights of the Season—Summer 2007 Angus Wilson	308
Regional Reports	314
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations and Reporting Deadlines	359
Map of Reporting Regions	360

Editor – S. S. Mitra

Regional Reports Editor – Robert G. Spahn

Cover – Andrew C. Vallely

Circulation Manager – Brenda Best

ALFRED OTT 1939-2007

Alfred Ott, educator, birder, conservationist, passed away suddenly in mid-October. Al was president of the Queens County Bird Club from 2001 to 2003, and continued to be involved as conservation representative and field trip leader. Ian Resnick expressed the feelings of many of us in his e-mail statement:

As Al's successor as president of the Queens County Bird Club, I want to reiterate that Al will be deeply missed by all the area's birders. In addition to being a great birder and a really nice guy, he also helped to get many people involved in preserving the areas that make our hobby so much fun.

Many New York-area nature enthusiasts knew Al as the man who saved Jamaica Bay. When the powers-that-be decided to build an asphalt bike path through the Wildlife Refuge, Al took action, forming the Save Our Sanctuary organization, tirelessly collecting signatures in the Jamaica Bay parking lot, enlisting the support of over 60 other organizations, and explaining to the media, over and over, why the bike path was not in the best interests of the ecological health of the community or the world.

To us, his friends and fellow birders, Al was a mentor and guide, a constant, large presence at Forest Park in the spring, Alley Pond and Kissena Parks in the fall, and anywhere at any time there was an interesting bird to be seen and appreciated. And, often it was Karin and Al who would be watching the bird (or Al watching and Karin reading). Many QCBC and Forest Park birders learned their field marks with Al's help; it always amazed me that no matter where we were—Forest or Jones Beach or Fort Tilden—Al knew the name of every birder and they all knew and respected him.

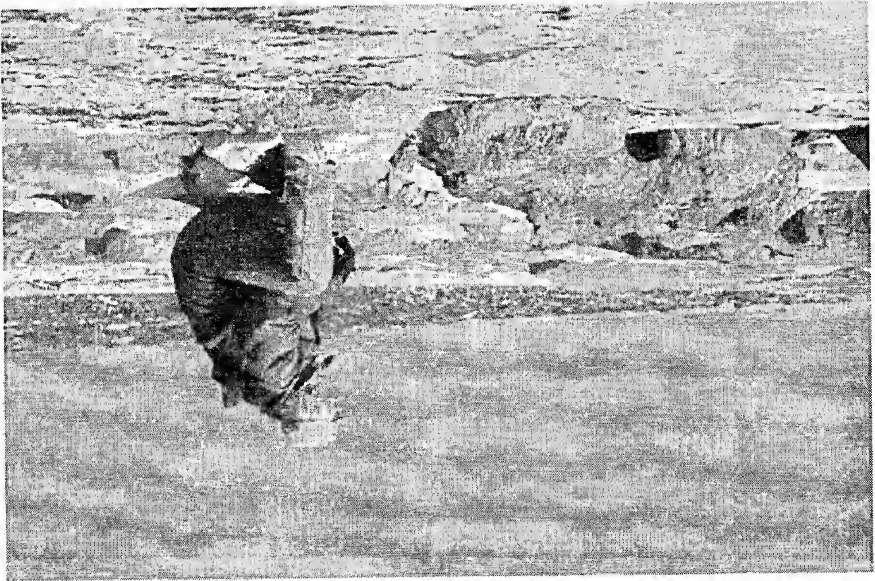
Al continued his conservation work once the bike path initiative was defeated (at least for a while; the current bike path is smaller and less intrusive than the one originally planned, though Al was still not happy about it). His most recent campaign was the fight to preserve Ridgewood Reservoir. If you would like to do something in Al Ott's memory, you can make a contribution to the Ridgewood Reservoir Education and Preservation Project.

Steve Plust, birder and QCBC member has offered to match every \$100.00 that we can collect with \$50.00 of his own up to \$5,000.00. Please send donations to Heidi Steiner, 9 Howard Place, Brooklyn, NY 11215. They should be made out to the Newtown Historical Society and should have Ridgewood Reservoir Project or RREPP in Memory of Al Ott written on the memo line. Your donation will be tax deductible. And, we think it is something that would have greatly pleased Al Ott.

Donna L. Schulman
Editor, *Queens County Bird Club News & Notes*

Reprinted with permission from *Queens County Bird Club News & Notes*.

Al Ott at Point Lookout, March 2005. Photo by Bernie Klemperer.



WESTERN REEF-HERON (*Egretta gularis gularis*) AT CALVERT VAUX PARK, BROOKLYN

Alex Wilson

421 74th St, Brooklyn, NY 11209

alex@digitalmediatree.com

On 8 Jul 2007, while doing some local Brooklyn birding, I encountered an unfamiliar wader that proved to be New York State's first Western Reef-Heron. During its subsequent stay the bird, and also its location, inspired wide-ranging discussions, from knotty questions about taxonomy and vagrancy, to issues of local ecology and conservation.

Early July is one of the slower birding periods around New York City, with local nesters being the main attraction. Spring migration is over, and fall's has yet to gather momentum; it is a good time for some relaxed birding close to home. Or so I thought on that fair summer morning, heading to Calvert Vaux Park at the mouth of Coney Island Creek, a sketchy little plot of landfill I'd only recently begun to explore, having moved to the nearby Bay Ridge neighborhood a couple of years prior.

The heron was noted around 10:00 am in a shallow triangular bay that daily forms a tidal flat. I'd scanned the flat earlier in the morning when the tide was low, using a 10X binocular, and although I'd seen at least five heron species, none was unusual. Now, however, the tide was coming in and trailing its leading edge was a slate colored bird I hadn't seen before. At a glance it appeared to be about the right size and overall color for a Little Blue Heron, but when I got it in the glass, maybe 200 feet away, I saw that it had a pure white chin and upper throat, and when it raised a foot out of the water it was bright yellow.

This suite of characteristics didn't agree with any local heron plumage I was familiar with. It brought to mind a cross between Little Blue Heron and Snowy Egret. In fact the bird was foraging in close proximity to a Snowy, which it matched closely in size, structure and behavior. Color aside, the main difference was in the display plumes, less prominent and less frilly on the dark bird, and on its head coalescing into a single long, whip-like plume. The bill appeared longer and heavier than the Snowy's, though this was exaggerated by the way it's blackish color extended onto the facial skin through the lores, bordered by the white of the chin and traces of white around the eye and across the forehead.

At this point it must be obvious that I am not well versed in exotic herons, or else I might have recognized the bird. The Sibley's eastern guide I was carrying didn't show anything quite like it. Then I recalled a posting from the New York State birding list I'd barely paid attention to a week or so earlier, an anecdotal secondhand report, forwarded from New Jersey, about an unnamed birder who'd seen an unusual heron near South Amboy, NJ, that might have been a Western Reef-Heron. I'd have done well to brush-up on the species, but

there'd been no follow-up and I filed it away as the sort of unverified "heads-up, just in case" type of report that only gets passed along because in birding "you never know."

I certainly didn't know, and I couldn't help wondering about other possibilities like aberrant plumage or even hybridization. Some herons have light and dark morphs, and Little Blue changes from white to dark as it matures, and what did a Reef-Heron look like, anyway? I watched the bird for a while (almost two hours by the camera clock, though the time seemed much shorter in the field,) and was able to take multiple photos using a 12X image-stabilized digital point-and-shoot, capturing (I hoped) all the field marks, and I thought these should be sufficient to make an ID. It is with some chagrin that I must admit to a compulsion to figure the bird out for myself, and it was not until I'd made the short bus ride home and checked various internet and print references that I notified Lloyd Spitalnik of Metro Birding Briefs, NYC's rarities-only listserv, of what I was by then confident was indeed a Western Reef-Heron. A picture I emailed and posted on the web was quickly confirmed by local experts as *Egretta gularis gularis*, a bird not previously recorded in New York State. Then the rare bird rush was on. Unfortunately, by the time other birders got to the park the tide was high and the Reef-Heron had disappeared along with the mud flat.

I was much relieved when the bird was re-found the next morning and seen by many birders (Fig. A, p. 321). It was not seen on the 10th, but returned on the 11th, establishing an inconsistent pattern of sporadic appearances which alternately frustrated and delighted visiting birders until late August, by which time the bird had been extensively discussed and documented, and served to focus attention on a rather unlikely little urban park.

The nominate subspecies of *Egretta gularis* is native to West Africa and has strayed to the Western Hemisphere on a number of occasions. Most records are from the Caribbean, especially Barbados (AOU 1998), and it was only in 1983 that this taxon was first recorded on the North American continent, when one spent much of the spring and summer on Nantucket, MA (Veit and Petersen 1993). That stood as the only record until 2005 when a bird was seen in southeast Newfoundland during June and July (Mactavish 2006). In 2006 there were further sightings in the Northeast: in Nova Scotia 26 Jun-2 Aug (Mactavish 2007); and on both sides of the Maine-New Hampshire border 9 Aug-20 Sep (Ellison and Martin 2007). The Nova Scotia and New England reports from 2006 were generally assumed to be of a single individual, and that likely the same as the Newfoundland bird of 2005.

Although the identity of the Brooklyn bird as a nominate Western Reef-Heron is straightforward, this taxon's status among several Old World members of the genus *Egretta* is in some question. Various experts (e.g., Sibley and Monroe 1990 and del Hoyo et al. 1992) have come up with very different classification schemes in trying to render the relationships, not only between the western and eastern subspecies of Western Reef-Heron, but also among these and several taxa usually ascribed to other species, including Eastern Reef-Heron (*E. sacra*), Dimorphic Egret (*E. dimorpha*), multiple forms of Little Egret (*E.*

garzetta ssp.), and even our own Snowy Egret (*E. thula*). Little Egret has bred successfully on Barbados and represents another potential North American colonizer. Little Egret reports in North America have increased, but the recent discussions brought out the point that while Little Egret is presumably always a white bird, *E. g. gularis* has both a dark and a white morph, with the white form being quite close in appearance to Little Egret, offering an alternate possibility perhaps not sufficiently scrutinized among reports of Little Egrets in North America.

The Brooklyn sighting has led many to assume that this is once again the same individual, a single displaced bird, possibly weather-driven to begin with, perhaps now wintering in the Caribbean and making progressively shorter migrations up the east coast each year, maybe in response to an increasing frustration with breeding prospects in the New World. Some scenario of that sort seems plausible, and probably more likely than that a species heretofore almost unknown in the area should become a regular visitor all at one go. Still, some have pointed to the Cattle Egret's 20th century colonization of North America as a precedent, and it's worth at least considering the possibility of more than one bird in the cluster of sightings over the last three years.

Images from 2005 and 2006 show birds that are not readily distinguishable from one another. The Brooklyn individual looks about the same, but on 15 July sharp-eyed birders with scopes noticed that it is missing the hallux, or hind toe on its right foot. The birds from the last two years had all toes intact, which doesn't necessarily prove anything as the hallux might have been lost during the intervening winter, but it provides a useful mark if the species should reappear somewhere along our coasts in 2008 (of course only a bird with an intact right hallux could definitively be distinguished from the Brooklyn heron, whether or not it had a left hallux, but the other possibilities: left hallux without right, or no hallux at all, might still be interpreted as at least suggestive...).

So New York's first Western Reef-Heron is arguably a slightly used bird, its pedigree ill-understood, and of uncertain origin. But whether it's passed this way before, and whether it came here of its own impetus, or blown by a storm, or even assisted by some ship, the bird attained a certain celebrity of a particularly New York sort, which extended to its habitat of choice as well.

The New York metro area is a rather intense birding environment. The city's favorable location combines with the presence of a large number of highly skilled and knowledgeable observers to produce an ongoing parade of rarities, which are obsessively documented, scrutinized and knocked around on the Internet. Within the boundaries of the world's most iconic city, storied sites like Jamaica Bay and Central Park can on a given day provide birding experiences of the most sublime sort.

Calvert Vaux Park is not exactly sublime. Even so, the unprecedented heron was not found in one of Olmstead's handcrafted landscapes or along Long Island's celebrated barrier beaches; it turned up in a dumpy little park in Brooklyn that few birders even knew about. If they did, it was probably as Dreier-Offerman Park, a name I first heard in connection with a Lark Sparrow that was a one-day wonder in August of 2006. For most of the birders who

descended on the park in search of the Reef-Heron, it was their first visit, and some were less than favorably impressed. Of the many Internet accounts my favorite was from the blogger who stated: "Upon arriving one can only think: boy, this is a hole... Looking around at this desolate post-industrial wasteland I really had to wonder what sort of dedicated nut-job birder would have ever come down here to go birding in the first place."

I'll take that as a compliment.

I believe in neighborhood birding, or what's known as "working your local patch": a regimen of regularly focused attention devoted to sites proximate to the daily doings of one's life. It won't extend your list like chasing after vagrants, but this sort of birding earns an intimacy of place, be it ever so humble, that has its own rewards. Beyond the birds, it forges a marriage of focus and locus, serving to bind us to the land and attune us to the passing seasons and the deeper rhythms of life. And every once in a while you do see something surprising.

Actually, I'm not even all that surprised any more. Wherever I've lived around New York City I've discovered apparently marginal habitat that nevertheless brings in the birds. After finding things like a Red-necked Grebe in the polluted strait between Brooklyn and Queens, or an Ash-throated Flycatcher in the greenway along the Belt Parkway in Bay Ridge, I'm convinced that there are a lot more of these surprises around than ever get noticed.

I started birding Bay Ridge in 2005, mostly at Owl's Head Park, a small hill at the upper end of the Narrows. It can be a great place for migrant flights in spring and fall, but during the winter the adjacent coastal waters became more interesting. Working my way along the shore, I found that there were more birds east of the Verrazano Bridge, and I found myself venturing further, visit-by-visit, along Gravesend Bay, and by last winter to the Coney Island Creek outlet and Calvert Vaux Park.

At least that's what the sign says. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation changed the name of the park to commemorate the underappreciated partner of Fredrick Law Olmstead. Viewing the site it seemed like a strange way to honor the man who arranged the architectural details of such artful landscapes as Central and Prospect Parks.

Most of Vaux Park's 73 acres is landfill from the building of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, deposited near the former site of the defunct Dreier-Offerman Home (for unwed mothers) which lent the park its original name. A Parks Department website claims that the park "has undergone several improvement projects and renovations in recent years" including a 1995 clean-up that removed 60 truckloads of debris and over 80 abandoned cars. Be that as it may, they didn't get it all, or else fresh supplies are still coming in. The tidal cove where the heron was found was once an active boat basin, but it became, literally, a dump, and the falling tide reveals a classic array of urban detritus: machine and automotive parts of all description, including a wide range of tires, along with bed frames, shopping carts, miscellaneous small appliances and assorted lesser trash. Adding to the atmosphere are the rotting hulks of several

derelict wooden barges, reminders of an earlier time when any stretch of city waterfront was home to a vibrant harbor culture that's largely disappeared.

The rest of the park is a work in progress, if not regress. A system of paved paths dissolves into gravel, and though its soccer and baseball fields are well patronized, the margins are totally unkempt. At the bay-ward west end of the park overgrown grasses make for a miniature prairie effect, but elsewhere the dense undergrowth is rank with mugwort, knotweed, ragweed and poison ivy, woven into dense thickets disguising a tumbled terrain of uncertain footing that plunges abruptly near the shoreline. Such paths as can be found through the brush are apt to reveal the sordid remnants of unwholesome nocturnal activities. It's a queasy mixture of fecundity and ruin that may not be to every birder's taste, but the birds themselves seem to like it.

And I liked it, or I liked the birds, enough to keep coming back, from the desolate winter to the blooming spring. There always seemed to be something worth seeing, and I was increasingly impressed with the range of species to be found. Winter's display of diving ducks, loons, grebes and gulls gave way to spring land birds like an early American Pipit, or a day in March with a good 15-20 American Woodcock. Where the parking lot lapsed into gravel, Killdeer appeared. Passerines arrived, and many stayed to nest, including Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Brown Thrasher. Meanwhile the mudflat was attracting a variety of shorebirds and waders, as well as breeding Horseshoe Crabs. Skimmers ploughed the surface of the creek and terns wheeled overhead.

All of which I observed in a handful of visits before 8 July 2007. Once the Reef-Heron arrived, a host of birders descended on the park, exploring its ways, negotiating paths through the homeless encampments, and posting GPS coordinates online for pertinent holes in park fences. And they found a few other birds too. I subsequently compiled as many sightings as I could, and solicited information from local birders to develop a checklist for the site. The result is currently at 157 species, which is derived from a relatively limited pool of reports, but represents a good sample of the broad spectrum of birds that might be expected in our area, as well as a few surprises.

So the misplaced heron brought about an increased appreciation of the possibilities of even our lesser urban parks, and at a time when the ecological future of its chosen neighborhood is very much in flux. The bird made it into the local papers, where its presence was touted by preservationists opposing construction of a waste transfer station planned for virtually next door to the park. It might have become a martyr to the cause when on 27 July three rifle-wielding young men were apprehended by police after birders reported them shooting at herons in the tidal flat. The weapons turned out to be BB guns, and the Reef-Heron was not present that day, but the incident served to remind us that not everyone appreciates nature in the same way. Then, as if on cue, the Mayor appeared, holding a press conference at Calvert Vaux to announce a new round of parks spending, including a 40 million dollar makeover of what he continued to refer to as Dreier-Offerman Park.

Plans for the park (whatever you call it) include an unfortunate amount of artificial turf, and a kayak launch into the tidal basin. There's to be a nature center, and some attempt is made to maintain the unique environment, including the rotting barges, favored heron roosting spots which will stay, not so much because they are picturesque, but for fear their removal would dredge up toxic sediments. Arguing against the park's improvement is a bit like longing for the old, sleazy Times Square, but any serious attempt to make it respectable will doubtless reduce the habitat available to birds, while increasing all the problems that come with human contact. The park has been "improved" before, and plans often change on their way through the bureaucracy, but at a minimum I would expect the diversity of nesting birds to decline with the clearing of the extensive cover, though the location should still be propitious for occasional migrant fallouts and vagrants.

It remains to be seen then what sort of turning point the summer of the Western Reef-Heron may mark for Calvert Vaux nee Dreier-Offerman Park, but if the bird should return next year it might have trouble recognizing the spot. As it was, the Reef-Heron continued to be seen at the park throughout July and into mid-August, but its appearances were fitful, and the question of its alternate haunts led to much speculation and searches of likely sites around the Lower New York Bay area, east to Jamaica Bay and the Rockaways, and south around Staten Island and into New Jersey's Raritan Bay, where the apparent first sighting had been made near South Amboy. A few scattered flybys were reported, if not necessarily verified, but no other regular feeding or roosting locations were discovered before the bird showed up at Great Kills Park on Staten Island near the end of its sojourn. There was speculation about inaccessible spots like Hoffman Island, in the bay about midway between Vaux and Great Kills Parks, but nothing was ever proven.

And then the bird was gone, the last sighting I'm aware of having been reported from Great Kills on 24 Aug.

Given what I've said about there being more birds in more unassuming places than we ever know about, there's no need to suppose that this Reef-Heron, unique as it might be, couldn't have simply gone unnoticed in some other rarely birded spot along the margins of our city. It's even possible that if I hadn't happened to choose that particular park on that particular day the bird would never have been verified at all. None of which detracts from the wonder of an unanticipated visitation from a wanderer between two hemispheres. The bird provided one of the great thrills of my birding career, though it posed more questions than it answered, and in the end taught me more about Brooklyn than Africa. But that's because the Exotic and the Local are interwoven concepts, and when they meet the one illuminates the other, as our Western Reef-Heron illuminated its little corner of Brooklyn in the summer of 2007.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank the many birders from New York and further afield who came to see the Reef-Heron, and whose observations enhanced our understanding of the bird and the site. And a big thanks to Shai Mitra for soliciting this account and contributing his expertise to the taxonomic detail, history of occurrence, and literature cited herein.

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American birds*, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C. 829 pp.
- del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, eds. 1992. *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 696 pp.
- Ellison, W. G. and N. L. Martin. 2007. New England. *North American Birds* 61: 36-41.
- Mactavish, B. 2006. Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon. *North American Birds* 59: 564-565.
- Mactavish, B. 2007. Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon. *North American Birds* 60: 500-501.
- Sibley, C. G. and B. L. Monroe. 1990. *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World*. Yale University Press, New Haven. 1111 pp.
- Veit, R. R. and W. R. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln. 514 pp.



EARLY ARRIVAL OF RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*) IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW YORK DURING SUMMER 2007

Ken Feustel

41 Belton Road, Babylon, NY 11702

feustel@optonline.net

Abstract—In June and early July of 2007 there were a number of sightings of Red-breasted Nuthatch on Long Island and in New York City. These observations are noteworthy for the early dates of arrival and their occurrence at locations that do not have regularly breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches. The early arrival of Red-breasted Nuthatches in Region 10 is often a harbinger of a fall coastal movement.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a generally distributed breeder over much of New York State, its presence dependent on the existence of mature conifer forests. The species' breeding stronghold is the Adirondacks, where it favors spruce or woods featuring a mix of coniferous and deciduous species (Andrle & Carroll, 1988). An irruptive species, the Red-breasted Nuthatch moves south in response to failure of the conifer seed crop. Fall irruptions are typically followed by good spring flights, with breeding on Long Island often following a good spring flight. Away from favored breeding areas, the species is considered rare on LI in summer, with early arrival dates of July to mid-August (Levine 1998). Yunick (1988), in a study of Christmas Bird Counts over the period 1960-1986, found the species' irruptive behavior on Long Island to occur in two year cycles that were less well marked in other areas of the state.

On Long Island, the species has bred in mature Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) in pine barrens and wetland areas of Suffolk County, White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) plantings in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, mixed stands of conifers planted on formerly private estates that are now publicly owned parks and preserves, and planted Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergi*) on the barrier beaches. The breeding status of Red-breasted Nuthatch on Long Island has changed as the species' upstate range has expanded. Griscom (1923) stated that in southeastern New York State the bird was a fall and spring migrant and a rare winter visitant; he knew of no breeding records. By the 1964 publication of John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area*, the species was listed as a rare to fairly common winter visitant, especially on the coast. One possible breeding record from Orient, Suffolk County was not accepted.

During the 1980-1985 NYS Breeding Bird Atlas there were twenty-eight possible, probable, or confirmed breeding records from Richmond (Staten Island), Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. The records were concentrated on the

north shore of Nassau and northwestern Suffolk Counties and the Central Suffolk Pine Barrens. The 2000-2005 NYS Breeding Bird Atlas recorded fifteen possible, probable, or confirmed breeding records of Red-breasted Nuthatch. The species was not recorded as a breeder from the north shore or north fork of Suffolk County, nor from the Jones Beach barrier island—locations that had potential breeding records from the earlier atlas.

During the winter of 2006-2007 Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce on Long Island. Similarly, there were a small number of spring sightings. Table 1 lists Red-breasted Nuthatch observations recorded in Region 10 during June and July 2007. Note that based on Atlas 2000 data, most locations do not have recent breeding records of the species.

Table 1. Observations of Red-breasted Nuthatches in New York City and Long Island, Jun-Jul 2007.

Date	Location/County	#	Observer	Atlas 2000 Status
6/14/07	East Islip (Suffolk)	1	S. Mitra	No breeding records
6/23/07	Montauk (Suffolk)	1	J. Giunta	No breeding records
6/24/07	Great River (Suffolk)	4	K. Feustel	Probable breeder
6/30/07	Quogue (Suffolk)	1	S. Sime	Probable breeder
7/1/07	Napeague (Suffolk)	2	J. Osterlund	No breeding records
7/2/07	Staten Island (Richmond)	1	H. Fischer	No breeding records
7/6/07	Jones Beach West End	1	P. Lindsay	No breeding records
7/10/07	Jones Beach West End	1	P. Lindsay	No breeding records
7/10/07	Fort Tilden (Queens)	1	S. Mitra	No breeding records
7/11/07	Bronx Bot. Gard. (Bronx)	1	R. DeCandidio	No breeding records

The observation of four Red-breasted Nuthatches in Great River took place at Connetquot River State Park, where the writer made weekly trips to the park following roughly the same route each time. On no previous trips up until 24 Jun were Red-breasted Nuthatches seen or heard in the Park. Given the vocal nature of the species, it is unlikely they were missed, making it probable that the birds were recent arrivals.

Early arrival dates for Red-breasted Nuthatches this season were also noted in Bucks County, PA, where Mirabella (electronic communication) noted three or four observations of the species dating back to 18 Jun. In New Jersey, the species was observed at Cape May on 18 Jun and 8 Jul (Cape May RBA, 6/18/07).

Since the June and July observations detailed above, Red-breasted Nuthatches have continued to be observed in areas where they are not known to breed, with sightings at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. (two on 8/14/07), Fort Tilden, Queens Co. (two on 8/12/07), Central Park, New York Co. (one on 8/12/07), again at JBWR (four on 9/2/07), with one at West End,

Jones Beach the same day. The mid and late-summer arrival of Red-breasted Nuthatch in Region 10 has often been an indication of a subsequent fall movement. Based on recent early summer observations of this species, the fall of 2007 should be no exception to this pattern.

LITERATURE CITED

- Andrle, R.F. and J.R. Carroll, eds 1988. Ithaca, NY. The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell Univ. Press. 551 pp.
- Bull, John. 1964. Birds of the New York Area. New York, NY. Harper & Row Publishers. 540 pp.
- Griscom, L. 1923. Bird of the New York City Region. New York, NY. American Museum of Natural History Handbook No. 9. 400 pp.
- Levine, E., ed 1998. Bull's Birds of New York State. Ithaca, NY. Comstock Publishing. 662 pp.
- Mirabella, A. 2007. "Red-breasted Nuthatch". NYSBIRDS-L@cornell.edu (11 July 2007).
- Yunick, R. 1988. An Assessment of the White-breasted Nuthatch and Red-breasted Nuthatch on Recent New York State Christmas Counts. *Kingbird* 38:95-104.



MULTIPLE ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS (*Empidonax virescens*) BREEDING IN NEW YORK CITY AND LONG ISLAND DURING SUMMER 2007

Patricia J. Lindsay

28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706

pjlindsay@optonline.net

During the summer of 2007, breeding of Acadian Flycatchers (*Empidonax virescens*) was proven or strongly indicated at an unusual number of sites in New York City parks and on eastern Long Island. This is noteworthy given the species' recent scarcity and generally irregular history in this Region.

Eaton (1914) described Acadian Flycatcher as a fairly common breeder on western Long Island in the early 1900s, but it soon after disappeared as a local breeder for reasons unknown (Griscom 1923). It began to gradually reoccupy its northeastern range in the late 1950s and 1960s, and by "at least the early 1980s" Jim Ash noted its return to East Hampton, Suffolk Co. (pers. comm.; Lindsay and Vezo 1994). Indeed, the 1980-85 Breeding Bird Atlas confirmed breeding in four eastern Long Island blocks and recorded it as probable or possible in 15 other widely distributed blocks across the Island.

Over the next two decades the species remained extremely local as a breeder in Region 10, and the 2000-05 Breeding Bird Atlas confirmed breeding in only one block, at Alley Pond Park in Queens (Steve Walter). Probable or possible breeding was recorded in 21 other widely scattered blocks during this Atlas. It appeared to have withdrawn from its eastern Long Island stations, and in the past few years there has been very little direct evidence of attempted breeding anywhere in the Region.

During summer 2007, however, breeding activity was noted at no fewer than five sites in four counties, including one on the south shore of western LI, where the species has very rarely been known to breed (S. Mitra pers. comm.). Late lingering, persistently singing individuals were noted at two additional sites, in New York and Queens counties, suggestive of attempted breeding or at least prospecting. A brief synopsis follows.

Staten Island, Richmond Co., recorded its first breeding record in recent history when Howard Fischer found a very active and vocal pair moving through the brush with a fledgling on 29 Jul at Buck's Hollow, in the Greenbelt Area.

Prospect Park, Kings Co., also hosted a breeding pair. On 11 Jun, Ed Crowne heard a bird singing there, and on 27 Jun, Rob Jett and Orrin Tilevitz located a pair with a nest, which was later photographed. Rob visited the site again on 7 Jul and noted that the bird on the nest was moving around restlessly and looking down into the nest, but he could not confirm the presence of nestlings from his vantage. The birds went undetected on 22 Jul.

At Jamaica Bay, Queens Co., several birds were found, and at least one pair nested. The first report was of a singing male found 10 Jun by Michael

Woodruff in the North Garden. This (or another) sang persistently until at least 18 Jul when it was last noted. On 23 Jun Ed Coyle found a pair with a nest in the South Garden and documented it with photographs (Fig. B, p. 322). His visit to the North Garden that same day and on 30 Jun confirmed that at least one additional bird was singing there.

At Hunters Garden in Eastport, eastern Suffolk Co, a pair was present on 3 Jun and later. Two males were heard here on 17 Jun (mob), and at least one territorial bird was still present on 1 Jul (Dave Klauber). At the Grace Estate in East Hampton, Joe Giunta and Betsy McCully observed an adult feeding a fledgling on 24 Jun.

A bird lingered in Forest Park, Queens Co., through the last week of June (fide NY Rare Bird Alert, 29 June), considerably later than most late spring transients. And at Central Park, New York Co., a late lingering individual sang persistently from the Loch area at the north end of the park and was last reported 18 Aug (Tom Fiore). Central Park also had a second bird near the Ramble on 17 and 18 Jun, although this may have been a transient (Tom Fiore).

It is tempting to ascribe this pronounced increase in breeding activity to the still-unfolding phenomenon of southern breeding species expanding into new areas in the northeastern USA (Mitra and Lindsay 2005). But, with only one season of such events to base it on, such a conclusion would be premature. As noted above, the species has a history of abandoning and then reoccupying the Region over time. It is hoped that the present data might contribute to a better understanding of this species' population trends in its regular breeding areas and beyond.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Ed Coyle, Tom Fiore, Howard Fischer, Joe Giunta, and Rob Jett for sharing detailed information regarding their field work. In addition, Ed and Rob shared photos of nesting Acadian Flycatchers.

LITERATURE CITED

- Eaton, E. H. 1914. Eaton, E. H. 1914. Birds of New York, pt. 2. University of the State of New York, Albany.
- Griscom, L. 1923. *Birds of the New York City Region*. American Museum of Natural History, New York. 400 pp.
- Lindsay, P. and T. Vezo. 1994. Cerulean Warbler confirmed breeding and Acadian Flycatcher probable breeding on eastern Long Island. *Kingbird* 44: 108.
- Mitra, S. S. and P. J. Lindsay. 2005 An unprecedented spring incursion of southeastern North American landbirds to coastal New York. *Kingbird* 55: 213-227.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) CANNIBALISM AT ONEIDA LAKE

On 30 Jun 2006, at Oneida Lake, Onondaga County, New York, Jeremy Coleman, Jake FitzRoy, and I witnessed a rare event in the biology of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*): we observed an approximately 8-10 day old chick feeding upon a dead conspecific chick of about 1-2 days age (Fig. G, p. 324). We watched for about 30-45 minutes as the larger chick tried to swallow the dead conspecific, and by the time we had left, it had made very little to no progress on swallowing the chick whole. Although we witnessed the act of cannibalism while it was happening, we did not see how the smaller chick came to be in the mouth of the larger one; that is to say, the chick could have picked up the conspecific off the ground, or the parents could have fed their chick the dead conspecific. We recorded the band number of the chick trying to eat its conspecific, but never again found this chick, alive or dead.

I believe this rare event was related to the unusual weather conditions that were occurring at the time. Two days previous, a large storm produced over 4" of rain at Oneida Lake, which caused a rise in the lake level. The island on which the terns nest is less than two feet high and at a gentle slope, so many nests were therefore quite susceptible to flood damage. From this event, approximately 40% of the island's surface and some 20% of the nests were flooded. This act of cannibalism could have been influenced by the flood because the water was turbid from sediment and many chicks had died from direct and indirect causes (e.g., death from drowning as well as territorial disputes due to movements between territories). As it became more difficult for adults to visualize prey-fish while foraging over the murky lake, a parent may have resorted to feeding a dead conspecific to its chick, as one of the few remaining options for food.

Jared Anthony Grummer

Cornell University Biological Field Station, Bridgeport, NY.

Present address: Department of Biology, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182

grummer@rohan.sdsu.edu

A KETTLE OF TURKEY VULTURES (*Cathartes aura*) IN MID-JUNE ON LONG ISLAND

Eileen Schwinn and I observed a kettle of 11 Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) soaring over the grasslands at the Calverton grasslands (ex-Grumman property, Riverhead Town, Suffolk) for a quarter of an hour starting about 9 am on 12 Jun 2007. Such a sight would not be remarkable in most places in New York State but, until recently, even one Turkey Vulture would be unusual in mid-June on Long Island where there are no breeding records and where, before the last few years, even records of this species in migration were relatively uncommon.

A notable feature of the birds in the Calverton kettle was that many of them were in a battered plumage condition: a wing feather missing here and a tail feather there with a general tendency towards scraggly appearance. This was suggestive of breeding, brooding birds, (which often show feather loss or extensive wear) rather than a flock of late migrants.

Many other observations followed. Up to five Turkey Vultures were regularly seen during the rest of June and July on Route 105, the Westhampton-Riverhead Road, in or next to the Gabreski Airport, Dwarf Pine Plains and Sarnoff Preserve areas. On 17 Jul, Mary Laura Lamont and Carl Starace again saw 11 birds over Grumman. The distance between Grumman and Gabreski is less than eight miles with mostly open pine barrens in between. On 13 Jul 2007, Robert McGrath observed a bird soaring over Grassy Pond in the Peconic headwaters. According to his notes, "this individual had a few wing feathers missing and what appeared to be a featherless area back toward the legs. The bird came in from the south and drifted north and east from over the pond toward in the direction of the grasslands at Grumman." On 26 Jul 2007, he observed three birds over the southwest quadrant of the Dwarf Pine Plains. Again I quote from his notes: "One individual had tattered wing feathers on both wings. And another had what appeared to be a brood patch toward the lower belly area back by the legs."

I should add that Turkey Vulture nests are notoriously difficult to find. In the last Breeding Bird Atlas, Turkey Vulture was recorded almost everywhere in New York State except Long Island, but there were only a handful of confirmed breeding records. Although there is some anecdotal evidence that a few birds were present during previous breeding seasons, the sheer number of 2007 reports suggests a very recent colonization of eastern Long Island with a strong likelihood of breeding. Turkey Vultures certainly belong in that list of southern species whose populations are increasing to the north. It was first recorded as nesting in New York State in 1926 and the numbers increased through the rest of the century. I would venture to guess that, as long as some suitable habitat remains, proven nesting on Long Island is only a matter of time.

Eric Salzman

P.O. Box 775, East Quogue, NY 11942

esalzman@aba.org

The Kingbird 2007 December; 57 (4)

301

**THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION'S 60TH ANNUAL MEETING.
BATAVIA, NY, 6 OCTOBER 2007**

The 60th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA), hosted by Buffalo Ornithological Society, was called to order at 9:44 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed there were 45 delegates from 30 clubs, and a quorum was present. Valerie Freer made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2006 Annual Meeting and Jane Graves seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy reviewed some of our organization's activities over the past year, which included electronically preserving the records of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), updating the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*, beginning discussions regarding wind power, and sponsoring a statewide Whip-poor-will survey.

Reports and Elections:

Brenda Best reported that we currently have 561 annual members and 54 life members. Three clubs did not renew their membership, which gives us 45 member clubs. Since 2003, both the number of individual members and the number of member clubs has declined. Delegates gave several suggestions for improving this.

The Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2006, was issued. Bill Reeves pointed out that only two issues of *The Kingbird* were published in 2006, there were eight Kingbird Club memberships, and that the member club grants fund continues to go unused. The Auditing Committee Report was presented and clearly states that our statements fairly present our financial condition.

Valerie Freer pointed out to delegates that a poster on the Atlas was set up in the meeting room. The Atlas publication was submitted to the publisher on 9/6/07, and is now being copy-edited and reviewed. We hope to have the book out next fall. It will be a hard cover book with color on every page, will be 8 ½ x 11 and about 600 pages. Special thanks go to Jane Graves for checking all citations. An index prepared by Don Windsor is expected next spring. Beginning next fall, there will be a 6-month exhibit at the State Museum of the whole Atlas project. Volunteers are available to give programs about the book.

Shai Mitra, editor of *The Kingbird*, continues to work on the publication backlog and explained the various problems that have been encountered. Tim Baird, editor of our newsletter, *New York Birders*, advises this publication shows the human side of birding and will accept anecdotes, artistic articles, and poetry. With thanks for Carena Pooth and Barbara Butler, a new 2007 edition of the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* showing 467 species is available and

now includes our name change. It has a blue cover, is printed on recycled paper, and is on our website.

Carena Pooth reported there were no major projects regarding our website this year, but coming soon will be a more visible emphasis on conservation.

John Confer reported the activities of the Conservation committee included letters of support to four State Wildlife Grant requests, and several letters to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to comment on various issues. Jerry Lazarczyk volunteered to serve on the Conservation committee.

The ad hoc committee on wind power presented a resolution to the delegates. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Gail Kirch, and was seconded by Bob Mauceli. John Confer explained the background and much discussion ensued. The item of most concern was the setback from lake and ocean edges. Onondaga Audubon Society presented an amendment to change the proposed 2-mile setback to 5 miles. Bob Long made a motion to accept the amendment and Len DeFrancisco seconded. Motion failed with 11 ayes and 17 nays. A vote was then called for the original proposed resolution, and that motion passed with 20 ayes, 6 nays, and 2 abstentions. Len DeFrancisco then made a motion to include Chautauqua Lake with the 2-mile setback, with second by John Ruska. Motion passed with 25 ayes and 3 nays.

Final Resolution – Wind Power

To minimize damage to wildlife and address these broad concerns, NYSOA recommends the following.

- A full, draft assessment of the impact on wildlife, including especially birds and bats must be prepared and submitted by the proposer for review by the appropriate agencies.
- The full, draft assessment must provide an analysis of the cumulative environmental impact due to existing, proposed and reasonably foreseeable energy-related proposals for an area or migratory pathway.
- The review agency must be given the authority to reject an individual proposal if the cumulative effects of several facilities in an ecologically connected area are viewed as too severe.
- The assessment should determine the presence or absence of state or federally listed threatened or endangered species or species of special conservation concern that reside at or near the site for an appreciable portion of the year and determine how those species would be affected by the proposed project.
- The assessment must include thorough surveys of nesting birds, with particular emphasis on at risk species, and those species utilizing flight displays and patterns that may increase the likelihood of collisions. Surveys of wintering birds must be conducted to assess use of the area by raptors, which may hunt in open areas near wind turbines.
- Ridges and shorelines, which are closely followed by some species during migration, are frequently also considered for wind power

development. The risks to birds from wind projects at these locations are so high that they should be avoided completely unless it is demonstrated conclusively that minimal concentration of birds exists at proposed sites. In those locations where there is good reason to suspect there may be a seasonal concentrations of birds, no less than three years of full-time surveys through spring and fall migrations, with appropriate peer review, should be considered adequate to document the absence or low frequency of such concentrations. These locations include: areas within 2 miles of the shorelines of Lakes Erie, Ontario, Champlain, and Chautauqua; barrier beaches and other shoreline areas on Long Island; offshore areas within 2 miles of land in Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean; known migratory routes along ridges and valleys including the lower Hudson River Valley, the Susquehanna River Valley, the St. Lawrence River Valley, the Finger Lakes, Chautauqua Lake, and the Shawangunk Ridge. Other areas may also be identified as similarly crucial to bird movement, and should likewise be avoided.

- The agency must have the authority to reject the assessment on the basis of insufficient or inadequate data.
- The draft, full assessment should be provided to the public in such a time and manner that the public has sufficient time to submit an external review to the appropriate agency or agencies prior to the approval by the agency.
- At a minimum, any project's approval should be contingent on the developer and operator following the most current version of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendations for reducing risk and avoiding bird collisions with towers.
- The agency must certify that the data are sufficient and collected in an appropriate manner.
- Post-construction studies of aerial movement of wildlife and mortality rates must be continued and the results be readily accessible in the public domain. Approved wind power facilities must provide financial support sufficient to fund several efforts to develop predictive models of mortality using the collective data from all wind power sites.

Onondaga Audubon Society presented a Spruce Grouse resolution, which was explained by Bernie Carr. Some changes to wording were made, and a statement to urge funding for post-management monitoring was added. Bernie Carr made a motion to approve the revised resolution, seconded by Jane Graves. Approved unanimously.

Final Resolution – Spruce Grouse

The Spruce Grouse is an endangered species in New York State. Based on the recent research conducted on Spruce Grouse in New York State by Angelena Ross at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and

Forestry (SUNY ESF) and Dr. Glenn Johnson from SUNY Potsdam immediate action to protect this species and its habitat is needed.

The research of Ross and Johnson, along with over 25 years of previous Spruce Grouse research conducted by Dr. Robert Chambers and graduate students R.S. Fritz, P.B. Gradoni, and R.P. Bouta at SUNY ESF clearly illustrates a continued decline in Spruce Grouse numbers in New York. It is time for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to make Spruce Grouse a priority for increased management and conservation.

NYSOA urges the NYSDEC to allocate sufficient funds to finalize and implement the recovery plan for Spruce Grouse in NYS, and to provide funds for monitoring of recovery efforts. NYSOA further urges that biologists from the Endangered Species Unit and at the Regional level be assigned to work on the recovery efforts in cooperation with leading Spruce Grouse researchers, landowners, and conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy.

NYSOA recognizes that NYSDEC is not able to actively manage for Spruce Grouse on state lands because of constitutional restrictions. However, with the recent acquisitions of large conservation easements on timber company lands by the State of New York, the opportunity exists for active habitat management to support the survival of the Spruce Grouse in New York State.

NYSOA urges NYSDEC to consider active habitat management techniques on timber company lands with conservation easements to help ensure that Spruce Grouse persists in New York State.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns much Spruce Grouse habitat on lands it owns north of Tupper Lake and has recently acquired other potential Spruce Grouse habitat. TNC has not pursued active management strategies regarding Spruce Grouse on its lands to date. NYSOA urges that active management techniques be considered to ensure that the Spruce Grouse persist on TNC owned lands.

Jeanne Skelly reports that all NYSARC records, 20,000 sheets of paper since 1977, have been scanned and are now in electronic form. In the last two years, 98% of reports have been electronic.

Bill Ostrander reports that the Stoner award, the Elliott award, and the Eaton award along with two certificates of appreciation will be given this year.

The summary of the first year of the Whip-poor-will monitoring project will be published in *New York Birders*.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Tim Baird, Gail Kirch, and Bill Lee, presented the slate for 2008/09. Officers nominated are President – William Ostrander; Vice President – Carena Pooth; Corresponding Secretary – Timothy H. Baird; Recording Secretary – Brenda Best; and Treasurer – William B. Reeves. Nominated for two-year terms as Directors for the 2009 class are Andrew Mason, Robert Mauceli, and Robert Adamo. John Confer was

nominated to fill the unexpired term ending 2008 vacated by Carena Pooth. There were no nominations from the floor. Dorothy Crumb made a motion that the secretary cast one vote for the entire slate as read, and Tom O'Donnell seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Phyllis Jones continues to collect papers for our archive.

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Rochester Birding Association and Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and is scheduled for September 19-21 at the Rochester Airport Marriott. We still have no host for 2009.

The Nominating Committee for 2008 consisting of Bill Cook, Tom Sarro, and Kathy Schneider (chair) was elected unanimously. The Auditing Committee for 2008 consisting of Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo, and Isaac Grant was elected unanimously.

John Ozard, the NYSDEC representative, presented a handout showing the status of projects for the last year. There is a new administration at DEC, including a new director for the Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

The Board of Directors has been asked to sponsor a New York State Young Birders Club. We would help with their newsletter and with field trips. Young birders aged 12-18 would be involved. More information will be presented at the November board meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by everyone, seconded by everyone, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

The President's Award was given to Jeanne Skelly during the Delegate's Meeting because she was unable to attend the banquet. Jeanne was honored for her work in archiving digitally all the NYSARC records, including text, photos, and video.

Awards presented during the Saturday evening banquet:

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to John and Muriel Stahl who welcomed observers of a Western Tanager and to Norman Klein who hosted a *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird. Len DeFrancisco was recognized for his efforts regarding the proper placement of wind power generators especially near the Ripley Hawk Watch corridor in Chautauqua County.

John J. Elliott Award, given for the best article contributed to *The Kingbird*

each year, was awarded to Yigal Gelb and Nicole Delacretaz for their article “Avian Window Strike Mortality At An Urban Office Building” which appeared in *The Kingbird* Vol. 56 No. 3.

The Eaton Birding Society’s Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award for contributions to New York State ornithology was presented to Willie D’Anna.

The Lillian Stoner Award was given to Theresa Rush, a recent graduate of SUNY Cobleskill, who was nominated by Kevin Berner, a faculty member at SUNY Cobleskill and Director/Research Chair of the New York State Bluebird Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Best
Recording Secretary



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SUMMER 2007

Angus Wilson

4 Washington Square Village, Apartment 2i, New York, NY 10012
gadflypetrel@hotmail.com

The summer months provide a heady mix of nesting species, lingering winter birds and a host of migrants that pass through the state at the tail end of spring and early days of fall. As usual, our crack team of Regional Editors have done a superb job of synthesizing hundreds of reports and their introductory paragraphs are studded with insightful comments reflecting their deep familiarity with each *Kingbird* Region. Rather than try to duplicate their work I will use this Highlights section to share some general observations and perhaps express a personal opinion or two.

EXPANSION & CONTRACTION

There are many lessons to be gleaned from carefully recording birds over the years and one of the most fundamental is that bird populations are rarely static. Some species become more numerous and widespread whereas others decline, in some cases vanishing altogether. From a New York State perspective, the good news from the Summer of 2007 is that two western species, Sandhill Crane and Clay-colored Sparrow, have continued to strengthen their foothold as breeders. The pair of Sandhill Cranes near Savannah, Wayne Co. (Region 2) successfully hatched two chicks, although it seems that only one survived at least into early August. A different pair spent another summer at Watts Flats WMA near Panama in Chautauqua Co. (Region 1), close to the New York/Pennsylvania border. There is a good chance that this second pair might have been nesting or attempting to nest, somewhere in the area, perhaps out-of-sight on private land. In June, up to 4 Sandhill Cranes were noted in the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area in Niagara/Genesee Cos. and on the adjacent Iroquois NWR, Genesee Co. (Region 1). Whether these include, or are different from, the Watts Flats birds is not known but certainly hint at the possibility of additional prospecting or even nesting pairs in the western part of the state. As local birders accumulate more and more summer sightings, we may get a better fix on the secluded spots favored by these spectacular birds.

The core nesting range of Clay-colored Sparrow covers the northern Great Plains, notably Alberta and Saskatchewan. Coinciding with a general eastward expansion into northern Illinois, Michigan, southeastern Ontario and southern Quebec, the first nesting pair for New York was found in 1971 near Alfred in Allegany Co. (Region 1) and was followed by scattering of nesting records

including some mixed pairings with either Chipping or Field Sparrows (Rising 1997, Novak 1998). In the early 1980s, surveys for the first Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) found evidence of potential breeding in northern Franklin Co. and neighboring Jefferson Co., with the greatest concentration in and around the Fort Drum Military Reservation in Jefferson Co. (Region 6). As Regional Editor Jeff Bolsinger explains, Fort Drum remains the stronghold for the species with 19 singing males on 10 Jul 2007. Indicative of continued expansion, Mike Morgante (Region 1) commented on the discovery of several new (presumed) nesting sites away from the Allegany and Cattaraugus strongholds, including six males on private property near Wilson (Niagara Co.). Clay-colored Sparrows were also found at several sites in Region 2 and single sites in Region 4, 5 and 8.

The reasons for the eastward spread of Clay-colored Sparrow are not fully known but their willingness to use disturbed habitats such as abandoned farms and commercial Christmas tree plantations has been floated as one contributing factor (Rising 1997). Indeed, the inaugural nesting pair in Alfred used a commercial pine tree plantation and the combination of small trees and overgrown weeds seems to be the key. Thus in New York, the highest densities of Clay-colored Sparrows are from sandy pine barrens such as found at Fort Drum, as well as weedy openings in conifer plantations or inactive pastureland with scattered low shrub and trees. Coincidentally, this is habitat that often supports Prairie Warbler. General changes in the North American climate might also be playing a part in reshaping the breeding range by altering rainfall patterns and summer temperatures.

While things are looking up for Clay-colored Sparrows and Sandhill Cranes, the future remains gloomy for grassland specialists such as Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink, and Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows, all of which appear to be in a steady and unrelenting decline across the State. Bolsinger comments that Upland Sandpipers have disappeared from several traditional spots in Region 6 as they have done from the lakeshore near Rochester (Region 2), although reports of 9 at the Sky High Sod Farms near Sullivan (Region 5), 10 in Geneseo (Region 2) and 18 at the Seneca Fairgrounds (Region 3) offers some solace. The grasslands around Sharon Springs, Schoharie Co., (Region 8) remained productive for Henslow's, Vesper, Grasshopper, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Another species that is not doing so well is the Ruffed Grouse, especially in the southern portion of the State. Grouse have become extremely difficult to find in Region 10 having little tolerance for urban sprawl and seem to have vanished almost entirely from Long Island were a remnant population had persisted in the more extensive eastern woodlands around Riverhead, Suffolk Co. The 2000-2005 BBA data offers a single positive square for the entire island and shows a severely reduced density of positive squares for Region 9 compared to the first Atlas. Against this depressing backdrop, the belated report of a Ruffed Grouse near East Quogue, Suffolk Co., on 20 May (regrettably without further details) is exciting, but as regional editors Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra stress, undocumented Ruffed Grouse reports need to be treated with caution at this time of year. Young game birds such as Wild Turkey and Ring-necked Pheasant

attain the power of flight shortly after fledging and thus might be mistaken for a grouse. The strength of the report rests on the fact that there have been several reports of grouse in the past few years from this same area of woodland (Hugh McGuinness pers. com.). If nothing else, the East Quogue report offers encouragement to observers exploring the woodlands of eastern Long Island to keep a sharp eye and ear out, especially in winter when the grouse may be more obvious and the specter of fleeing young Turkeys should be less of a problem!

WINTER HANGOVERS

As occurs in most summers, a long list of lingering waterfowl were noted across the state, ranging from Brant, Greater Scaup and Red-breasted Mergansers on the Niagara River (Region 1) to the mid-June Eurasian Wigeon at Montezuma NWR, Seneca Co. (Region 3). Why a few individuals choose to stay through the summer is a mystery but I suspect lingering winter waterfowl often have some underlying pathology (tissue damage from hunters' shot, parasites, etc) that leave them unable (or unwilling) to push further north or northwest with the bulk of the population. One or two lingerers gave hints at breeding. Case in point was a summering Ruddy Duck in Clinton Co. (Region 7), a first summer record for the Region, and the presence of several summering birds at Jamaica Bay NWR in Queens Co. (Region 10), where the species has bred in the past. Considering how common Ruddy Ducks are during the winter, perhaps we can expect more breeding records in the future. The same reasoning might also apply to Northern Shoveler and Redhead, which, like Ruddy Duck, are predominantly western North American species that nested in NYS in moderate to fairly large numbers in the 1960s.

The discovery by Tom Wheeler of a pair of Red-necked Grebes engaged in courtship display on Lowe Lake near Canton (Region 6) was very exciting because the species has never bred in NY before. Unfortunately, the birds seemed to vanish in mid-June, although a bird was seen at the same location in mid-July. Whether this is just coincidence or evidence of attempted breeding somewhere less accessible is open speculation. On the subject of grebes, the arrival of multiple Eared Grebes during mid-late August at two traditional sites separated by the breadth of the state is now a firmly established pattern, quite distinct from the species' usual mode of occurrence in NYS. What is it about the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (or the liquid effluent provided by the good people of Genesee and Queens Counties) that makes these sites so attractive to this species?

The discovery of an adult Snow Bunting by Tom Dow on 20 June at Piermont Pier, Rockland Co., on the Hudson River is absolutely mind-boggling, not least because the pier hosted an Ivory Gull and Snowy Owl earlier in the year. Given this spectacular list, various wags speculated on other arctic species that might show up before the year was out, with Polar Bear as a suggestion that

should give local residents pause for thought. The Snow Bunting remained until 25 June and was carefully studied and photographed by many.

SHOREBIRDS AND TERNS

Shorebird migration was productive in many spots across the state, perhaps reflecting a relatively dry summer. In Region 7, the farmland between the Great Chazy and Little Chazy Rivers, known locally as the Chazy Riverlands, was productive with 15 species including an adult Stilt Sandpiper in early August and the Region's first Forster's Tern, a non-breeding adult, on 6 July. Lake-bound Willets (probably of the Western flavor) were found at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie Co. (Region 1) and Sandy Pond, Oswego Co. (Region 5). A Long-billed Dowitcher photographed at Oak Orchard WMA in Genesee Co. by Jim Pawlicki furnished the first documented summer record for Region 1, although local experts inform me that the species will probably turn out to be regular in western NY if birders spend more time carefully scrutinizing and listening to dowitchers in mid to late August.

Region 10 produced its usual strong showing of shorebirds with the greatest diversity and numbers occurring at Jamaica Bay in Queens Co., and in Suffolk Co. at Cupsogue County Park and adjacent Pike's Beach as well as Mecox Bay, in Watermill. Patricia Lindsay was a finder/cofinder of not one but two Curlew Sandpipers in what turned out to be a very good year on the east coast for this gorgeous Old-World species. Both 'Curlew Sands' posed admirably for the cameras (Figs. E & F, p. 323). A Ruff on the Sky High Sod Farms in Madison Co. (Region 5) rounded out the list of Old World shorebirds. Despite some decent flocks, the numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers seemed lower than normal to me, and perhaps helps to explain the absence of stint sightings despite the best efforts of the Swarovski-wielding cognoscenti.

Finally, it is hard to think of the Adirondack Mountains as fruitful shorebird habitat, but every once in awhile they provide migrants with a needed stop over site. A Whimbrel on a lawn in the town of Inlet, Hamlin Co. (Region 7) on 27 August must have been quite unexpected and provided a first county record.

RARITIES & BIRD OF THE SEASON

An impressive selection of rarities was reported and in many cases, documented with photographs. A Eurasian Collared-Dove in Region 4 at Port Crane, Broome Co. (Fig. C, p. 322) and a number of wandering *Plegadis* ibis, Little Blue and Tricolored herons in western and northern NY deserve mention. Although downplayed in the regional report, an adult male Lapland Longspur flushed multiple times by Dave Tetlow on 31 Aug and 1 Sept in Hamlin, Munroe Co.,

was not only a regional but State record early date by almost a week. Likewise details were lacking for four Brown Pelicans spotted by the same observer flying west at close range along the lakeshore past Hamlin Beach. This was not a 'pelican summer' and there were no reports from anywhere else in the state including Region 10 where sightings are the most regular. Indeed, informal enquires failed to turn up any reports from our lakeshore neighbors in Ontario or Pennsylvania. So the Hamlin pelicans were remarkable indeed. Of course, there have been influxes of Brown Pelicans into the Great Lakes in the past but these are usually accompanied by multiple sightings within the lake system. I sincerely hope that descriptions and pertinent details for all of these great birds make their way to NYSARC where they will be added the permanent archive for the benefit of current and future birders. Nowadays, it really isn't too much work for anyone with access to a computer and a few minutes to spare to put together a satisfactory report. Adequately documenting rare bird sightings is a humble act of fellowship with the broader birding community and sets a great example to up-and-coming birders who can learn from more skilled observers by reading how they found, identified, and reported exciting rarities. With this in mind, future issues of *The Kingbird* will publish a selection of exemplary NYSARC submissions both as an instructive tool and as a celebration of the wonderful encounters that are possible.

On 5 July, Corey Finger discovered a female Yellow-headed Blackbird on the Ocean Parkway median at Jones Beach, Nassau Co. (Region 10). The species is quite rare on the coast and gave many local birders something to savor during the heat of mid-summer. I have fond memories of sitting on the wooden divider in the parkway alongside the late Al Ott as we waited for the blackbird to return to its favored lawn in front of the park police station. I had seen the bird briefly but Al had not, having walked up moments too late. He expressed no irritation at the news and seemed perfectly content to sit and chat about birding as we waited patiently on that hot summer afternoon. It is sad to think this was the last time I was to experience his delightful company.

Rarities often remind us of the unpredictable nature of birding. A subadult Magnificent Frigatebird that appeared on eastern Long Island (Region 10) in late August seemed not to be storm-associated but had presumably wandered on its own up the Atlantic coast from Florida or Gulf of Mexico. It was discovered in the late afternoon by Chris Roberts who saw it fly over Accabonac Harbor in Springs, Suffolk Co., before settling to roost on a traditional 'bonacker' fish trap constructed from sticks and netting and mounted in Gardiners Bay off Gerard Point. Chris promptly contacted local birding maven Hugh McGuinness who was only able to get there after dusk but successfully scoped the roosting frigatebird in the moonlight. News circulated fast and a cadre of dedicated birders from elsewhere on Long Island were at the spot before dawn the following morning. With the first hints of daybreak on the horizon, they saw the frigatebird take to the air and then drift off across the bay. Others who arrived minutes later were, needless to say, mighty disappointed, but a boater on the Peconic Bay near Riverhead noted what was presumably the same bird. Like Swainson's Hawk or Swallow-tailed Kite, Magnificent Frigatebirds are

notoriously difficult to chase. You are either there looking skyward at the right moment or you are not! Finders of these aerial masters are often the only observers, and the success of the early chase parties is notable in itself. I write all this with gritted teeth as our weekend house is within walking distance of the roosting spot. The kicker is that I was abroad at the time and had to settle for an agonizing play-by-play by way of e-mail. Ah well, there is always next summer....

The undisputed BOTS was the Western Reef-Heron discovered by Alex Wilson in Region 10's Coney Island Creek, King's Co. on 8 July. Pending review by NYSARC, this will be the first record for NYS and one of only a handful of sightings in the US and Canada. A full account of the discovery appears in this issue of *The Kingbird*. Alex's find of this dark-morph adult of the nominate subspecies *gularis*, followed a tantalizing report on 30 June 2007 of a possible reef-heron from South Amboy in Middlesex Co., New Jersey—a shallow tidal bay on the opposite side of New York Harbor. As it turns out, the bird seemed to be shuttling between different feeding spots scattered around the muddy edges of New York's outer harbor and was noted more than once by observers on the south shore of Staten Island. Large numbers of birders from the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and beyond made the pilgrimage to Coney Island Creek to enjoy this splendid African visitor and were guided by a continuous stream of internet postings giving details of the tide, driving directions and the presence or absence of the bird. Some were forced to make the pilgrimage more than once because of the unpredictable schedule the reef-heron seemed to follow. I don't think I will offend anyone by describing this badly neglected city park as one of the less savory birding locations in the area and must salute Alex for his dedication to checking this and other under-birded spots in Brooklyn on a regular basis. Spectacular 'out of the way' discoveries such as the Western Reef-Heron prove that unusual birds can be discovered almost anywhere and that year-round visits to your own local 'patch' (as these regular spots are referred to by British birders) can strike gold once in a while. There is nothing sweeter than finding something unusual or downright rare yourself and it being on a patch you can call your own puts a cherry on top.

LITERATURE CITED

- Novak, P. G. 1998. Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Pages 506-507 in Bull's Birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, NY.
- Rising, J. 1997. *A Guide to the Identification and Natural History of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada*. Princeton University Press.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

59 Briar Hill Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127
morgm@roadrunner.com

June was very pleasant with abundant sunshine and little rain. The average temperature was 69.4°F, 3.6° above average. Only 1.82" of rain fell, 2.00" below normal. July was nearly typical for most weather conditions. The average temperature was 69.7°F, 1.1° below normal. After two dry months, rain was welcomed with 3.31" of precipitation, 0.17" above average, at the Buffalo airport. However, lesser amounts of rain fell over most other areas and near drought conditions developed. August was warm, sunny, and very dry. The average temperature was 72.3°F, 3.2° above normal. There was only 1.13" of rain at the Buffalo airport, 2.74" below average and the driest August in 50 years; however, some places in the Southern Tier received up to 6" of rain. Including the very dry month of May, it was the fourth driest four month period on record. Weather data was excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

Several spring migrant shorebird and passerine species were observed in early June, as usual. Unusually late was a Blackpoll Warbler in a Wilson yard along Lake Ontario on 18 June. A Yellow-rumped Warbler in the same yard on the 22nd was also considered by the observer to be a very late migrant.

Late or lingering waterfowl were found at the usual locations of Batavia WWTP and the Niagara River. At Batavia, a late Tundra Swan was present on 3 June, a Bufflehead was sighted in June for the second consecutive year (representing the only two June records for the Region), and several Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup joined the regular group of Ruddy Ducks that remained throughout the summer. A **Greater Scaup** found on the Niagara River off of Grand Island represented only the third Regional record for June, while lingering Red-breasted Mergansers along the Niagara are more regular. A **Brant** at Olcott Harbor in late August was unprecedented in the Region for late summer; there are only two previous summer records, both from early June.

New nesting locations for Peregrine Falcon and Osprey, in relative close proximity, caused some excitement in early June. The falcons were found to be using a nest platform by a bridge cleaning crew on the northbound North Grand Island Bridge. This is the third peregrine nest location in the Region. The first Osprey nest on the Niagara River in decades was just a short distance to the west atop tall electrical towers. The Ospreys selected the unsafe location over nest platforms at nearby Buckhorn Island State Park that have remained unused for years. **Merlins** nested in at least one location again this year. For the third consecutive year, they nested on the west side of Buffalo.

It probably won't be long before **Sandhill Crane** is confirmed as a breeding species in the Region. A pair spent the summer at Watts Flats WMA in rural Chautauqua County and a local resident indicated that they had been present for more than one year. Summer reports around Iroquois NWR and vicinity continue as well.

Clay-colored Sparrows in the breeding season continue to increase. There were several reports beyond the handful of known regular breeding locations in Allegany and Cattaraugus counties. Dick Rosche indicated that they are now a regular occurrence in proper habitat in the two counties mentioned as well as in southern Wyoming County. He often finds them in the same places as Prairie Warbler. There was also late word from Niagara County where a small colony with six males was discovered early in the summer on private property near Lake Ontario.

It's difficult to evaluate the relative abundance of regular breeding species from personal observations from year to year. Nonetheless, at least one or more veteran birders remarked that Baltimore Orioles appeared especially numerous this year, while Golden-crowned Kinglets, Blue-winged Warblers, and Eastern Meadowlarks were less numerous than usual. As a follow up from the spring report, the impacts of the prolonged cold and wet snap in early April continued with Tree Swallows and Eastern Phoebes, as these species were much less evident than usual in some areas.

Common Nighthawks were again reported in small numbers in North Buffalo in June and July, perhaps the only remaining breeding area in the Region. Possibly more disturbing was the scarcity of late summer migrants. Only three sightings, two of which may have been the same bird, were made in August. This represents a very low number of birds and reports even for recent years.

There was little positive news on several other declining breeding species. Only one **Henslow's Sparrow** was identified this summer at the William Street field in Lancaster where their presence continues to hold up pending development of a subdivision. For the second summer in a row, no Golden-winged Warblers were reported. There were also no Vesper Sparrow reports this summer, which may be related to observer effort; however, this species is known to be declining.

Yellow-throated Warblers nested in the Red House Section of the Allegany State Park for the fourth year in a row. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at their regular location at Tonawanda WMA again.

Goose Pond and Windmill Marsh at Oak Orchard WMA offered some productive habitat for finding shorebirds this summer. A temporarily drained marsh at Batavia WWTP also increased the number of shorebirds to be found at that location. The shorebird highlight of the summer was the number of **American Avocet** reports. Over the past ten years, avocet sightings have been almost annual along Lake Erie, mostly from Chautauqua County. This summer there were several reports involving two to three birds within close proximity at

Dunkirk Harbor, Silver Creek, and Candaway Creek Nature Sanctuary. There was also an avocet at Batavia WWTP in late August that was observed by many (Fig. D, p. 322). Other shorebird highlights included a **Willet** at Dunkirk Harbor and the first verified **Long-billed Dowitcher** for August.

Last summer's Regional maximum count of Great Egrets (140) did not last long. The count was again exceeded with a total of **223** birds at Tonawanda on 28 August. Tifft Nature Preserve hosted a **Snowy Egret** and a **Tricolored Heron**. Occurrences of both species are more regular in spring than summer and records have increased over the past decade.

The onset of the passerine migration around mid-August was typical. A cold front passage brought migrants on 18 August; otherwise, there were no weather-related migration events.

Other notable sightings this summer included the now regular **Eared Grebes** at Batavia WWTP; two **Forster's Terns** in Olcott and one photographed at Barcelona Harbor, the first documented June reports for the Region; the only **Sedge Wren** this year found at Iroquois NWR; **Dickcissel** reported for the third consecutive summer, with a singing bird at Tonawanda WMA in June; **Red Crossbills** at a traditional breeding location in Allegany County; and a **Pine Siskin** at a feeder in East Aurora.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Baird, Doug Beattie, Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Elizabeth Brooks, Lewis Crowell, Willie D'Anna, Len DeFrancisco, Mike DeSha, Joe Gula, Paul Hess (INWR); Alec Humann, David & Sandy Junkin, Keith Lang, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tom LeBlanc (ToL), Tim Lenz (TiL); Robert Lichorat, Nancy Miller, Mike Morgante, Dave Neveu, Marg Partridge, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Damon Praefke, Ed Ratajczak, Richard Rosche, Richard Salembier, Mark Schlachter, Nick Sly, David & Debbie Suggs, William Watson, John Welte, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; CCWMA – Candaway Creek WMA CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA – GENE/ORLE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; Tifft NP – Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

BRANT: Olcott NIAG 28, 29 Aug (JP, WD, WW), first Aug record and only third summer record.

Mute Swan: GHSP 3 Jun; 2 Somerset NIAG 31 Aug, only reports.

Tundra Swan: BWWTP 3 Jun (WW), late.

Wood Duck: 63 TWMA 22 Jul (WW), counts rarely made of this species in summer.

Gadwall: arr Ellicottville CATT 12 Aug (TB, ToL, MD), only report.

Am. Wigeon: 2,2 BWWTP 16 Jun, 4 Aug; INWR 16 Jun; 2 NF 30 Jun; arr Tift NP 25 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 11 TWMA 18 Aug.

N. Shoveler: BWWTP 11 Jun; arr 35

BWWTP 26 Aug.

N. Pintail: arr TWMA 18 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: 4 TWMA 11 Jun; 6 INWR 16 Jun (WW); 6 BWWTP 1 Jul; arr 3 TWMA 18 Aug.

Redhead: ad + 5 yg TWMA 11 Jun (WW), regular breeding location.

Ring-necked Duck: TWMA 6 Jun (WW); 6,7,5,2 BWWTP 3,14 Jun, 1 Jul, 18 Aug (WW), regular in summer at this location.

G. Scaup: Grand I NR 27 Jun (JL; WW), third Jun record for Reg; DH 11 Aug (TiL).

L. Scaup: 3,5,2 BWWTP 3 Jun, 1 Jul, 4 Aug, lingering.

Bufflehead: 1, 1 BWWTP 16 Jun, 16 Aug (WW!), second Jun record for Reg.

Com. Merganser: ad + 7 yg Hamburg ERIE 9 Jul (WW); max 45 Sheridan CHAU 27 Jul (DN).

Red-breasted Merganser: TBNP 15,25 Jun; 3 NF 30 Jun; lingering.

Ruddy Duck: 21, 27, 31 BWWTP 16 Jun, 15 Jul, 4 Aug, similar to last summer's number but fewer than other recent summers.

Com. Loon: 2 Barker NIAG 18 Jun; Wilson NIAG 28 Jun; 2 ChauL 14 Jul (TiL), unusual location for date; 4 Somerset NIAG 31 Aug (WW), good number for date.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 36 TWMA 1,15 Jul.

EARED GREBE: 2,3 BWWTP 25,26 Aug (JW, JP; WW), has been regular at this location in late summer and fall for 8 years.

Double-crested Cormorant: AISP 17 Jun; 704 BuSP 28 Jul; max 1225 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 22 Aug.

Am. Bittern: TWMA 10 Jun, 1 Jul; Franklinville CATT 10 Jun (MD); Machias

CATT 18 Jun (TB, MD); traditional locations.

Least Bittern: no reports.

Great Egret: 50, 70 Motor I NR 13 Jun, 18 Jul (WW), continued expansion at colony; Wellsville ALLE 18-25 Jul; 170, 196, max 223 TWMA 24 Jul, 4 Aug, 28 Aug (WW), record count for Reg; 4 Olean CATT 14 Aug; 2 Middlebury WYOM 18 Aug.

SNOWY EGRET: Tift NP 16, 26 Aug (KL; DP), rare in summer.

TRICOLORED HERON: Tift NP 28, 30 Jun (ER, PY), third summer record.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 15 TWMA 14 Jul; DH 16 Jul; Lancaster ERIE 19 Jul; 5 TWMA 24 Jul; only reports away from NR.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 2 + n Grand I NR 2 Jun thru, first nest along NR in decades; 4 nests INWR and vicinity; Clay Ponds WMA CHAU 17 Jun, only report away from breeding areas in Jun-Jul.

Bald Eagle: max 5 im Sheridan CHAU 29 Jul (DN); ad CCWMA 7 Jul; Pinehurst ERIE 13 Aug; reports away from nesting areas.

N. Goshawk: Sherman CHAU 14 Jun (LD); Almond ALLE 8 Aug (EB); only reports.

Merlin: W side of Buffalo ERIE (AH), pair nested in same vicinity as last 2 years; 1,1,3 E side of Buffalo ERIE 23, 26 Jun, 17-29 Aug (PY); arr TWMA 26 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 4 yg Buffalo ERIE thru, frequently seen near nesting area; 2 yg NF 18 Aug (JL), nest on Canadian side of NR; n Grand I NR 5 Jun, new nest discovered on N Grand I Bridge, third for Reg; arr BWWTP 18 Aug; TWMA 26 Aug.

Com. Moorhen: 2 ad + 3 yg BWWTP 4 Aug, only report away from INWR and vicinity.

Sandhill Crane: 4 TWMA, 3 INWR 3 Jun (WW; JW), possibly same group; 2 INWR 23 Jun; 1,2 Watts Flats WMA CHAU 9 Jun, 14 Aug (JB; RL), pair summered at this location.

Black-bellied Plover: arr ChauL 13 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Sheridan CHAU 29 Jul.

AM. AVOCET: DH 6 Jul (JG); Silver Creek CHAU 8 Jul (DN), same bird?; 1,1 DH 8, 17 Jul; Canadaway Creek NS CHAU 27 Jul (DN); BWWTP 25,26 Aug (JW, mob); most summer reports ever.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Tonawanda ERIE 18 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 3 BWWTP 1 Jul; max 36 TWMA 3 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 5 Ashford CATT 17 Jul.
Willet: DH 17 Jul (DN), only report.
Upland Sandpiper: 4 Tillman WMA ERIE 9 Jun, traditional location, only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr DH 30 Jul, only report.
Sanderling: arr 2 DH 29 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 DH 16 Jul, max 25 BWWTP 26 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 BWWTP 1 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr TWMA 8 Aug; 2 BWWTP 26 Aug; TWMA 26 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2 BWWTP 26 Aug, only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 4 BWWTP 4 Aug.
Dunlin: 5 BWWTP 7 Jun; last TWMA 11 Jun (WW,MS).
Stilt Sandpiper: 2 Centerville ALLE 12, 26 Aug; 2 BWWTP, 2 Alabama GENE 26 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Silver Creek CHAU 29 Jul; 7 BWWTP 25 Aug; max 25 OOWMA 26 Aug (WD).
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: OOWMA 26 Aug (JP!), first documented summer record.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 Centerville ALLE 24 Jun (MM); INWR 28 Aug; only reports.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr DH 7 Jul; BWWTP 4 Aug, only inland report; max 240 WoBSP 24 Aug.
Caspian Tern: 2 Buffalo NR, Silver Creek CHAU 10 Jun; Somerset NIAG 16 Jun; many reports in Jul and Aug; max 30 ChauL 13 Aug (AB), good count for inland.
Forster's Tern: 2 Olcott NIAG 9 Jun (WD!,BP); Barcelona Harbor CHAU 24 Jun (TiL photo); first documented Jun records.
Black Tern: max 30 TWMA 1 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 2-3 Buffalo ERIE thru Jun; arr Eggertsville ERIE (D&DS) 28, 29 Aug; AmSP 29 Aug; only two late summer migrant reports, very poor showing.
Red-headed Woodpecker: PG 8 Jun, 7 Jul; 2 Youngstown NIAG 9 Jun; E Aurora ERIE 14 Jun; Hamburg ERIE 19 Jul; INWR 8 Aug; only reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last 2 AISP 2 Jun (NS); arr 2 Buffalo ERIE 24 Aug (RS,JP).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Wethersfield WYOM 8 Jun (D&SJ).

Acadian Flycatcher: max 5 AISP 1-6 Jul; reports from seven other locations.
E. Kingbird: max 18 TWMA 26 Aug, during peak migration period.
Yellow-throated Vireo: E Aurora ERIE 17 Jun; JAS 22 Jun, non-traditional locations; arr AmSP 31 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr WYOM 18 Aug (RR), early; AmSP 31 Aug.
Com. Raven: 2 Wethersfield WYOM 7 Jun; 3 CCWMA 7 Jul; 2 Middlebury WYOM 18 Aug; only reports away from ALLE, CATT.
Cliff Swallow: continues to increase along NR and Buffalo waterfront.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr Tift NP 22 Aug.
Winter Wren: 2 Holland ERIE 1 Jun; Wethersfield WYOM 14 Jun; only reports away from ALLE, CATT.
SEDGE WREN: INWR Jun (PHi), only report.
Gray-checked Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 7 Jun (BP).
Swainson's Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; 1,2 AISP 2 Jun, 4 Jul; Little Valley CATT 27 Jul (LC), breeds in high elevations of Southern Tier.
Veery: arr Wilson NIAG 27 Aug.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Tift NP 22 Aug.
Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Tonawanda IR 10 Jun (PY); Royalton NIAG 18 Jun (WW, MS); only reports.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Alfred ALLE 18 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: Portville ALLE, Andover ALLE 1 Jun; arr Tift NP 22 Aug.
N. Parula: 5 AISP 1-6 Jun (PH); arr Tift NP 31 Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 7 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Tift NP 22 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Tift NP 21 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 27 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Wilson NIAG 22 Jun (BP), thought to be a very late migrant.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 24 Aug.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 2 ad AISP 2 Jun (TB!), same breeding area as recent summers.

Pine Warbler: reported from six breeding locations; arr Tift NP 30 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 3 Eagle WYOM 7 Jun; only reports outside ALLE, CATT.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 24 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 18 Jun (BP!) very late; arr Wilson NIAG 22 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: Yates ORLE 16 Jun; 2 Bethany GENE 15 Jul (DB), only report away from INWR or southern CATT.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr WYOM 18 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: TWMA 7,30 Jun (PH, BP, WD), regular recent breeding location.

N. Waterthrush: arr AmSP 27 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: reports from five locations.

Hooded Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 27 Aug; AmSP 29 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: arr WoBSP 24 Aug.

Canada Warbler: arr Tift NP 15 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Eagle WYOM 7,14 Jun (WW); 2-3 Andover ALLE 9 Jun -10

Jun (EB); Yorkshire CATT 24 Jun (MD); previously documented locations; 6 Wilson NIAG (MP); *see intro*.

Vesper Sparrow: no reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Andover ALLE 8 Jun; 6 Tillman WMA 9 Jun; 2 Clarence ERIE 13 Jun; Almond ALLE 26 Jun; only reports.

Henslow's Sparrow: Lancaster ERIE Jun, only report.

DICKCISSEL: TWMA 10 Jun (JW), third consecutive summer reported in Reg.

Bobolink: max 32 TWMA 26 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: Wilson NIAG 22 Jun, only report.

Baltimore Oriole: max 35 Wilson NIAG 4 Aug (WD,BP); 20 Tift NP 21 Aug (WW); impressive counts.

Red Crossbill: 4,6 Ward ALLE 3 Jun, 1 Jul (EB), only reports.

Pine Siskin: E Aurora ERIE 6 Jun (RR), only report.

EXOTICS

Chukar: Alexander GENE 11 Jun (NM), likely release.

===

REGION 2—GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

ckgrif@frontiernet.net

The season started off with a warm and dry June. The average temperature of 69.5° F was 3.7° above normal. It was the 2nd warmest June in 10 years and ranked in the top ten in the last 100 years. Precipitation was 1.06" below normal at 2.3", the bulk of that falling on the 19th. July proved to be a very pleasant month. The temperature was 1.0° below normal at 69.7°F. Precipitation totaled 2.31", a mere 0.62" below normal. June's hot and dry conditions repeated in August. The average of 71.7°F was 2.8° higher than normal. The scant total of

0.81" of rainfall was well below normal. It was the driest August in 56 years and the 2nd driest in the last 100 years.

This season includes the tail end of the spring migration, the nesting season, and the beginning of the fall migration. The spring migration seemed to end rather abruptly, with few birds carrying on into June. The nesting season saw only some minor trends and no significant changes. The traditional early return of shorebirds was hampered by the lack of suitable habitat.

Canada Goose numbers in summer continue to be high and present a real nuisance in some areas. This is also true for the Mute Swan. Trumpeter Swan continues to breed at multiple locations in Wayne County. Wood Duck and Mallard breeding numbers were good. That is just about it for breeding puddle ducks even though there were a few reports of other species. Hooded and Common mergansers bred in scattered locations. Other diving duck observations were limited with a few lingering on into June and the scattered sightings of White-winged Scoter from Hamlin Beach State Park through the season. Both loons were reported into June, with scattered reports of Common through July and a very unusual Red-throated in that month.

Waders were pretty typical, with what seemed like fewer than usual Great Egret reports than the recent trend. Black-crowned Night-Heron reports were down, though with a few more individuals showing up late in the season. Four **Brown Pelicans** seen by Dave Tetlow in August were a seasonal highlight.

An Osprey nest on a cell tower in Greece just inland of Braddock Bay was of interest. Nesting Bald Eagles continued their increase in the Region with a new nest found along Irondequoit Bay. There were a few reports of Merlin, but no information was received of birds at the nesting locations of last year on Honeoye Lake and in downtown Rochester. The nesting Peregrine Falcons in downtown Rochester were once again successful in fledging young.

Common Moorhen and American Coot continued to be scarce, the former now only found in scattered locations. The west lakeshore population is either gone or in so few numbers that they go unnoticed. The Wayne County Sandhill Cranes produced young again with a good sized colt observed late into the season.

Once again shorebird habitat was at a minimum at least until August, when some mudflats began to appear. Plowed fields were relatively dry and didn't host much other than Killdeer. Surprises were a record early Buff-breasted Sandpiper found by Dave Tetlow in Hamlin and another found by Jim Kimball in Genesee four days later.

Long-tailed Jaeger put in its usual August appearance at Hamlin Beach, as did Parasitic Jaeger. Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to be found during any season now. The July Glaucous Gull was the first regional record for that month.

Caspian Terns seemed to rebound a little from last year's low numbers. Four young birds with lettered leg bands as well as the usual numbered bands observed on several dates were found to have been banded on Gull Island, Ontario by the Canadian Wildlife Service. There were few sightings of Black

PHOTO GALLERY, SUMMER 2007



Figure A. Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis gularis*), Calvert Vaux Park, Kings Co., 9 Jul 07. Photo copyright Joel Horman. See pp. 288-294.



Figure B. Acadian Flycatcher on nest, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 30 Jun 07. Photo copyright Ed Coyle. See pp. 298-299.

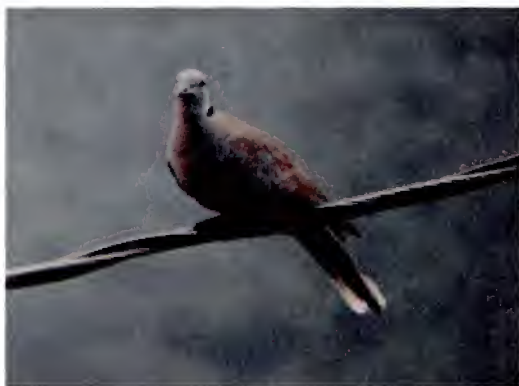


Figure C. Eurasian Collared-Dove, Port Crane, Broome Co., 9 Sep 07. Photo copyright Doug Gochfeld. See pp. 331-333.



Figure D. American Avocet, Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Genessee Co., 25 Aug 07. Photo copyright Jim Pawlicki. See pp. 314-319.



Figure E. Curlew Sandpiper, Cupsogue Co. Park, Suffolk Co., 1 Jul 07. Photo copyright Seth Ausubel. See pp. 311, 351-358.



Figure F. Curlew Sandpiper, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 21 Jul 07. Photo copyright Angus Wilson. See pp. 311, 351-358.



Figure G. Common Tern chick attempting to swallow smaller chick. Oneida Lake, Onondaga Co., 30 Jun 2006. Photo copyright Jared Anthony Grummer. See p. 300.



Figure H. First Summer Arctic Tern, Copsogue Co. Park, Suffolk Co., 10 Jun 07. Photo copyright S. S. Mitra. At least four different Arctic Terns were found near Moriches Inlet, Suffolk Co., during summer 2007. See pp. 351-358.

Tern and no nesting reports. Common Nighthawk sightings continued on into June but no reports of breeding were noted.

Breeding Acadian Flycatchers were again found in a number of locations, with up to three pairs discovered in a hemlock stand in Huckleberry Swamp in Wayne County. Common Raven continued to be reported as a nester in the southern portions of the Region. Sedge Wren reports were limited as is usually the case. Late migrant Blackpoll and Wilson's warblers were reported in June. Nothing of note occurred with breeding warblers. Few Golden-winged Warblers were found, and Blue-winged Warbler continues to do well. Late July and early August, as usual, saw large numbers of migrant Yellow Warblers along the lakeshore. Single reports of breeding Prairie Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat were received. The recent reports of breeding Clay-colored Sparrow continued this season. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows nested again in the Geneseo/Avon area. White-crowned Sparrows were found in two Greece locations during June, with a singing adult at one of them. At the second location another was observed for seven days in July. Late individuals of this species seem to be a trend of recent years. The nest of a Dark-eyed Junco was discovered in the unusual location of Pittsford in June. A Lapland Longspur observed by Dave Tetlow on 31 August in Parma was record early. A calling Dickcissel Bob Spahn heard passing over the lakewatch at Hamlin was a surprise.

A Rusty Blackbird was photographed in Savannah during July, a very unusual time for this Region. The bird appeared injured, so was probably a summering individual that couldn't make it farther north rather than a very early migrant. Both Baltimore and Orchard orioles had a good nesting season. It was also a good year for Purple Finch, with increased reports along the Lake Plain.

June's species total of 181 was just slightly above the 10-year average, July's total of 157 was slightly below, and August's total of 182 was about 6 species above. The year's species total through August was 272. This was very close to the 10-year average but considerably lower than last year's 285 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Michael Anderson, Richard Ashworth, John Boettcher, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Bill Broderick, Elizabeth Brooks, Robert Calcagno, Lewis Carroll, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Don Constable, Diane & Lindsay Cooper, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Grant Denis, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Jim Eckler, Brett Ewald, Andrew Garland, Chris Gates, Jeff Gerbacht, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Judy & Lou Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Helen Haller, Kim Hartquist, Marshall Iliff, Carolyn Jacobs, Laura Kammermaier, Jim Kimball, Hans Kunze, Paul Lang, Leona Lauster, Greg, Holly & Fred Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Bob McGuire, Robert & Chita McKinney, Steve Melcher, Ferne Merrill, Frank Morlock, Dan Niven, Dave Nutter, Richard O'Hara, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Peter, Tim Phillips, Norma

Pratt, Tom Preston, Gail Price, David Prill, Dawn Roger, Vickie Rothman, Cathy Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Mickey Scalingo, Andy Schecter, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dian Stout, Kimberly Sucey, William Symonds, Georgena Terry, Dave Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Matt Thompson, Don & Donna Traver, Ann Watson, William Watson, David Wheeler, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

AT – Atlantic Ave, T Walworth, WAYN; b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BY – T Byron, GENE; CU – Cuylerville, LIVI; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HL – Hemlock Lake, LIVI; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; I – T Irondequoit, MONR; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MU – T Murray, ORLE; MZ – Montezuma Audubon Center, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PA – T Parma, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad, 2 juv AT 8,22 Jun (R&SS); 4-5 S 2,13 Jun (LL); 3 MZ1-31 Jun (mob); 1ad,1juv AT 3,26 Jul (R&SS).

Gadwall: 1 HL16 Jun (TP).

N. Pintail: last 1 S 2 Jun (LL).

Lesser Scaup: arr 1 HB 20 Aug (WS).

White-winged Scoter: last 3 HB 6 Jun (WS,KG); arr 1 HB 13 Jul (KG).

Black Scoter: last 2 HB 5 Jun (WS).

Long-tailed Duck: last 1 HB 5 Jun (WS).

Com. Merganser: arr 3 HB 14 Aug (DT,WS).

Red-breasted Merganser: 1 BB Aug (DT).

Ruddy Duck: last 1 G 7 Jun (KG); 1 G 5, 29 Jul (G&FL).

Red-throated Loon: 1 HB 1 Jun (RS); 1 HB 7 Jun (WS); 1 HB 2 Jul (AG); 1 HB 24 Jul (WS); 2 HB 2 Aug (DT,RS,WS).

Com. Loon: max 8 HB 3 Jul (AG).

Horned Grebe: 1 HL 9 Aug (KD); 1 HB 27 Aug (DT).

Red-necked Grebe: arr 5 HB 14 Aug (WS,CC,GL), early; 1 HB 15 Aug (WS,RS); 7 HB 26 Aug (WS,DT); 4 HB 27 Aug (DT); 2 HB 28 Aug (WS,RS,DT).

BROWN PELICAN: 4 H 19 Aug (DT).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: 1 HP 4 Aug (DN).

N. Goshawk: 1 BB12 Aug (DT); 1 BB 14 Aug (CC).

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 3 BB all Aug (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 54 BB 24 Aug (DT).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 1389 BB 25 Aug (DT); total 3942 BB all Aug (DT).

Merlin: 1 Naples ONTA 10 Jun (MS); 1 OB 26 Jul (R&SS); 1 HB 27 Aug (R&SS).

Am. Coot: 1 G 15 Jun (GL).

Sandhill Crane: 2 ad, 2 yg S all Jun; 2 ad, 1 yg late Jul (JE); 2 ad, 1 yg S 10 Aug (FM).

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 HB 17 Jul (WS), record early.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 H 9 Aug (KG).

Semipalmated Plover: last 1 HB 5 Jun (WS); arr 2,9 HB, OB 24 Jun (WS,KG).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 H 18 Jun (RS); 1 S 22 Jun (DSh, R&SS); 1 PA 25 Jun (DT).

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 1 BY 6-7 Jun (WS); arr 1 BY 23 Jun (WS).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 HP 16 Jul (RS).

Upland Sandpiper: 6-10 GE 4-14 Aug (JK); 3 HB 27 Aug (WS, DT).

Whimbrel: arr 1 PA 15 Jun (DT); 1 T Troutberg, ORLE 25 Aug (JP); 1 HB 28 Aug (WS).

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 I 6 Jun (RS); arr 1 OB 2-13 Aug (RS,KG).

Sanderling: arr 3 OB 16 Jul (RS).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 3 BY 10 Jun (WS); arr 2 OB 16 Jul (RS).

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1 G 7 Aug (RS).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 6 Ogden 23 Jul (WS).

Dunlin: last 1 HB 7 Jun (R)

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 IB 23 Aug (RS).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 1 H 25 Jul (DT), record early; 1 CU 29 Jul (JK), very early.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 OB 24 Jul (KG).
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 HB 22 Aug (RS).
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 IB 24-25 Aug (RS, mob).
Parasitic Jaeger: arr 8 HB 26 Aug (WS,DT).
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 1ad HB 21 Aug (WS); 2 HB 26 Aug (WS,DT).
jaeger species: 3 HB 26 Aug (WS,DT).
Little Gull: arr 1 juv G 21 Aug (DT).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 PE 26 Jun (DSh), 1st summer; 1ad IB 25 Aug (WW).
Glaucous Gull: 1 G 18 Jul (DT, 1st local July record).
Caspian Tern: max 160 BB 24 Aug (DT).
Com. Tern: max 58 HB 26 Aug (WS, DT).
Black Tern: 1 S 6 Jul (sev); 2 HB 21 Aug (WS).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: last 1 G 6 Jun (KG); arr 3 HP 29 Aug (DT).
Chimney Swift: max 500 T York, LIVI 23 Aug (LK).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 28 b M 5 Jun (RMc); last 1 BB 13 Jun (TP).
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1b M 5 Jun (RMc).
Com. Raven: ad with yg Naples 1 Jun (DD).

Sedge Wren: 1 S 24 Jun (KG); 1 BB 3-10 Jul (DT, CG).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1b M 5 Jun (RMc).
Swainson’s Thrush: last 1 G 10 Jun (JR); arr 1b M 26 Jul (R&CMc).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 MU 21 Jul (KG).
Yellow Warbler: max 56 b M 23 Jul (R&CMc).
Prairie Warbler: 1 Canadice 13 Jun (RS,NP).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 G 30 Aug (KG).
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1b M 11 Jun (RMc); arr 1 HB 27 Aug (R&SS,DS).
Wilson’s Warbler: last 1 b M 7 Jun (RMc).
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 all Jun GE (JK).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2-3 H Jun & Jul (sev); 1-3 GE Jun & Jul (JK).
Henslow’s Sparrow: 1 GE Jun (JK); 2 GE Jul (JK).
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 HP 6-17 Jun (D&KT); 1 G 25 Jun (KG), singing; 1 HP 12-18 Jul (D&KT).
Dark-eyed Junco: 1 Pittsford 11 Jun (DT), nest.
Lapland Longspur: 1 PA 31 Aug (DT), record early.
Dickcissel: 1 HB 27 Jul (RS), early.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 S 16,19 Aug (DN,BM,JK), very unusual in summer.



REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira, NY 14905
browncreeper@stny.rr.com

“Normal” was the word for the weather in the summer of 2007. June and August were a little warmer and a little drier than normal, but July was a little cooler and wetter. The average temperature departures were June, +1.9F°, July, -1.8F°, and August, +1.2F°. The precipitation departures were June, -0.99", July, +1.24", and August, -0.53".

The relatively dry summer was a boon to the Ring-billed Gull colony which suffered major losses of young when the colony on an island in the Chemung River in Elmira was flooded at the peak of nesting in June 2006. It should have been a good summer for the nesting of birds in general, though the Region's birders offered little in comments on breeding activity.

There was also little to report in regard to unusual species. A Eurasian Wigeon spent a couple of days at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in June, and an American White Pelican spent a few days there in August. An injured Rusty Blackbird was also observed at the refuge in early August (in Region 2).

Perhaps the most gratifying report was of 18 Upland Sandpiper at the Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds. This was the largest number reported in the Region in more than ten years.

The most exciting observations of the summer were of winter finches. As many as 22 Red Crossbills were reported in Summerhill State Forest in August, and there was also a June report from Danby. Wesley Hochachka reported one White-winged Crossbill in Northeast Ithaca. Evening Grosbeak reports came from three scattered locations, one in Chemung County and two in Tompkins County. All three species of winter finches were observed in spruce trees.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marion Adams, Janet Akin, Michael Andersen, Paul Anderson, Kyle Arvin, Zach Baer, Eric Banford, Jessie Barry, David Beattie, Barry Bermudez, Gordon Bonnet, Michael Burdick, Victoria Campbell, Mark Chao, Barbara Comer, Claire Damaske, Dan Danowski, Greg Delisle, Henk den Bakker, Grant Denis, Nancy Dickinson, George Dillmann, Jon Dombrowski, Ryan Douglas, Daniel Dunn, Gordon Dutter, Raymond Edwards, Charles Eldermire, Eduardo Inigo Elias, Jody Enck, Bill Evans, Andrew Farnsworth, Steve Fast, Corey Finger, John Fitzpatrick, Lev Frid, Terrie Gaylord, Jeff Gerbracht, Chrissy Gerding, Chuck Gibson, John & Sue Gregoire, Jason Guerard, Richard Guthrie, Brian Harrington, Michael Harvey, Wesley Hochachka, Marshall Iliff, Carolyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson, Marsha Kardon, Barry Keller, Steve Kelling, D Kennedy, Phil Kenny, Elizabeth King, Ken Kirk, J Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, William Kuk, Josiah Lacelle, Joshua Lacelle, Robert LaCelle III, Jessica Lamb,

Leona Lauster, Tim Lenz, Linda Marco, Linda McElvany, Jay & Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Joseph Mitchell, IBA Monitoring, Jan Murphey, David Nesbitt, Mark Nicosia, David Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Stacy Oborn, Bill Ostrander, James Paris, Sydney Penner, Mike Powers, Tom Preston, Lori Radcliff-Woods, Will Raup, Ken Rosenberg, Glenn Seeholzer, Nathan Senner, C Shafer, Carol Sisler, Carol & Joe Slattery, Robert Spahn, George Strothmann, Kimberly Sucey, Brian Sullivan, Craig Tufts, Alison Van Keuren, Brad Walker, Bonnie Warden, Anita Wasson, David Wheeler, Chris Wiley, Mary Wintson, Chris Wood, Amy Woodin.

ABBREVIATIONS

MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt TOMP; SSF – Summerhill State Forest CAYU; StP – Stewart P TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Seneca L SP 1 Jul; 3 MNWR 18 Aug.

Canada Goose: max 500 MNWR (RBA), high.

Mute Swan: MWC 26 Jun (RG), only report.

Trumpeter Swan: max 4 MNWR 17 Jun (JSI), high.

Gadwall: max 13 MWC (MAn, TL, CW), high.

EURASIAN WIGEON: MNWR 16-17 Jun.

Am. Wigeon: max 15 MNWR 4 Aug (MAn, TL) and 30 Aug (MH, TJ, TL, CW), high.

N. Shoveler: max 14 MNWR 25 Aug (RBA), high.

N. Pintail: max 4 MNWR 30 Aug (MH, TJ, TL, CW), high.

Ring-necked Duck: Big Flats Marsh CHEM 15 Jun; 2 Lindley 7 Jul; arr StP 27 Aug.

Greater Scaup: StP 21-22 Aug (TL), early.

Ruddy Duck: MNWR 16 Jun (RD), only report.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Shindagin Hollow TOMP 10Jun (SKe), only report.

Com. Loon: 10 Cayuga L 1, 28 Jul (TL).

Horned Grebe: Aurora Bay CAYU 11 Aug (CW), only report.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: MWC 19-22 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 17 Jun (RD), only report.

Peregrine Falcon: arr MyPt 12 Aug; max 3 MNWR (RBA), high.

Black-bellied Plover: arr MNWR 30 Jul; max 22 Myers Pt 23 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr MyPt 30 Jul; max 4 MNWR 19 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last 3 George Road Flooded Field TOMP 8 Jun; max 20 MWC 28 Jul; 20 MNWR 26 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 MNWR 10 Jul; max 16 MNWR 25 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 125 MWC 4 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 17 Jun (DW); max "lots" MNWR 18 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: max 18 Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE 5 Aug (RD, CWi), high.

Whimbrel: Myers Pt 23 Aug (CW), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr Myers Pt 23 Aug.

Sanderling: arr Myers Pt 17 Aug, late; max 2 StP 21 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MNWR 9 Jun; arr 4 MWC 28 Jul; max 130 MNWR 3 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last Steele Ponds STEU 18 Jun; arr 2 Steele Ponds 28 Jun (GS), early; max 80 MNWR 3 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 9 Jun; arr MNWR 3 Aug; max 5 MWC 25 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last George Road Flooded Field TOMP 9 Jun, late (CW); arr 4 MWC 21 Jul; max 14 MNWR 30 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 7 MNWR 28 Jul; max 7 MNWR 28 Jul-Aug 3.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: MNWR 25-26 Aug, only report.
Short-billed Dowitcher: last MyPt 1 Jun (SKr), late; arr 5 MWC 24 Jul; max 11 StP 25 Aug.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 3 Aug; max 10 MNWR 26 Aug (JB, MH, TL, GSe), high.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr 2 MWC 7-9 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 2 StP 18-20 Aug; 2 MWC 19 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Aurora 1 Jul (TL), early.
Great Black-backed Gull: arr 5 StP 14 Jun (PA), early.
Caspian Tern: arr StP 19 Jun; max 78 StP 9 Aug.
Black Tern: max 22 MNWR 9 Jun & 28 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: max 4 Northeast Ithaca 20 June (fide MW), high.
Barred Owl: max 6 Finger Lakes National Forest 9 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Ithaca 29 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Dryden L Trail 11 Aug (SF!), early.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr North Ithaca 22 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Caroline 28 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 18 Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE 21 Aug (TJ), high.
Bank Swallow: max 10,000 MNWR 4 Aug (ZB, CF, WR), high.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 14 Aug; max 5 StP 19-21 Aug.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 nocturnal migrants Etna 12 Aug.
European Starling: max 40,000 MNWR 13 Aug (TL), high.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: arr 3 Dryden 27 Aug (KMc), only report.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU 17 Jul (J&SGr), very early.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 3 SSF 1 Aug, low.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Sapsucker Woods 24 Aug; max 2 Sapsucker Woods 29 Aug..
Blackpoll Warbler: last StP 19 Jun (DNu), late.
Mourning Warbler: max 3 Shindagin Hollow State Forest 16 Jun, low.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Savannah Mucklands 4 Aug (MA, TL), only report.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 3 Ledyard 30 Jul, low.
RUSTY BLACKBIRD: injured MNWR 5 Aug (RD, CWi).
Com. Grackle: max 50,000 MNWR 13 Aug (TL), high.
RED CROSSBILL: 4 Danby 30 June (BE); max 22 SSF 1 Aug (MI, TL, CW); 2 SSF 13 Aug (GB, DNu).
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: North Ithaca 22 Jul (WHI).
Pine Siskin: StP 24 Aug (MA), only report.
EVENING GROSBEAK: Prospect Hill CHEM 1 Aug (MP); 2 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 5 Aug (CW); Jennings Pd TOMP 26 Aug (BE).

===

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

Spencer Hunt

493 Glenmary Drive, Owego NY 13827
shunt493@yahoo.com

The weather for the season was slightly above normal for temperature. June had 19 days above normal and 11 below normal temperature. July had 15 days above normal and 15 below normal. August had 21 days above normal and 8 below normal. When looking at the total precipitation for the period it appears that it was a slightly wetter season than normal. However 3.19" or 29% of the precipitation came on just two days in July. The number of days with .01" or less precipitation was 59 out of the 92 total days and 72 days with a tenth of an inch or less. In summary the season was slightly warmer and slightly drier than normal. Probably the weather did not have a deleterious effect on nesting this year.

Only one Great Egret was reported during the season along the Susquehanna River. The only other uncommon Ardeidae reported was American Bittern on Bob Donnelly's BBS route.

Hopes for a repeated nesting of Bald Eagles in Tioga County on Hiawatha Island in the Susquehanna River just east of Owego were dashed during the spring. The female was killed on nearby Rt. 17/I-86. A welcome sign of success is that Bald Eagles are no longer being reported as highlights, but as a relatively common occurrence for one birding along the Region's waterways. The lone Northern Goshawk sighting was of a nesting bird in Treadwell, Delaware County. From the lack of reports for the second year, American Kestrel numbers appear to be down, however The Naturalists' Club of Broome County found 22 in northern Broome County on 8 August.

Shorebird reports were down for the second year, which is surprising due to the low water conditions opening up more shorebird habitat. A **Black Tern** was observed in northern Broome County in both June and July.

The Naturalists' Club of Broome County observed a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** both flying and on a roof in Port Crane, Broome County. A NYSARC report has been submitted on this uncommon sighting (see Fig. C, p. 322).

Gary Kohlenberg reported an **American Three-toed Woodpecker** in the Pharsalia area, Chenango County, to Matt Young as Matt arrived with a Natural History Class. Matt commented that "It is a fairly reasonable and straightforward ID, Gary gave good details, the area has 1000s of acres of spruce, and many Black-Backed and a few Three-toed woodpeckers made a flight out of their normal boreal zone last fall - it was one of the best flights since perhaps the late 70's - - -. So, seems plausible one could still be lingering at Pharsalia. This area is huge and incredibly underbirded."

Ten different Tyrannidae were reported, with summer reports for the first time in the last five years of both **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Acadian Flycatcher**. Reports of Eastern Wood Pewees were low.

There were several reports that Veeries and thrushes seemed to be more abundant, along with comments that some were found in less than typical habitats. The Pharsalia area in Chenango County continues to be a good site to find Swainson's Thrushes. Red Crossbills were reported in several areas of central New York but the Pharsalia area remains the best location to find them along with occasional White-winged Crossbills.

Notable birds missing from the Region were American Black Ducks. Scarce birds included the American Woodcock, Purple Martin, and Northern Waterthrush. A species that has had a great drop in numbers reported is the Chimney Swift. There were 156 species reported for the season, two more than last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, John Birkett (JBi), Eleanor Carson, Delaware Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS), Bob Donnelly, D. France, Dorian Huneke, Spencer Hunt, Gary Kohlenberg, John Knapp, Bill Kuk, Naturalist's Club of Broome County (NCBC), Bob Pantle, Sandy Perry, Marie Petuh, Tom Salo, Mark Tanis, Tioga Bird Club (TBC), Dan Watkins, Don & Joanne Weber, Jon Weeks (JW), Anne Whitaker, Don Windsor, Colleen & Paul Wolpert, Rich Youket, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

Ba – Bainbridge CHEN; Bing – Binghamton BROO; BPd – Boland Pond BROO; BPdSF – Basswood Pond State Forest CHEN; BU – Binghamton University Nature Preserve BROO; DHRd – Day Hollow Road, T Owego TIOG; En – Endwell BROO; HI – Hiawatha Island TIOG; JC – Johnson City BROO; PIBA – Pharsalia Important Bird Area CHEN; RtP – Roundtop Park BROO; SR – Susquehanna River; TB – T Burlington OTSE; TCa – T Candor TIOG; TS – T Scott CORT; TU – T Union BROO; WCM – West Corners Marsh BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Wood Duck: max 8 BPd BROO 20 Jun.

Ring-necked Pheasant: CO 1 ad, 3 y T Pitcher CHEN 21 Jun.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 5 SR BROO 229 Aug.

Am. Bittern: BBS DELA 7 Jun, only report.

Great Egret: SR BROO 21 Aug, only report.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: SR JC BROO 26 Aug, only report.

Bald Eagle: 2 ad, 2 y Ba CHEN 20 Jul; 3 HI TIOG 14 Jul.

N. Harrier: Ba CHEN 31 Aug; TIOG no date, only 2 reports.

N. Goshawk: CO Treadwell DELA 10 Jun to 20 Jul, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS); PIBA CHEN 6 Aug, only reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: RtP BROO 25 Jul; PIBA CHEN 6 Aug; T Smyrna CHEN 26 Aug, only reports.

Am. Kestrel: max 22 n BROO; numbers down.

MERLIN: En BROO 11 Aug, only report.

Peregrine Falcon: imm Bing BROO 21 Jul.
Virginia Rail: 1 ad 2 y BU BROO 17 Jun, only report.
Com. Moorhen: max 3 BPd BROO 6 Jun.
Greater Yellowlegs: HI TIOG 14 Jul, only report.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Ba CHEN 20 Jul, only report.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 WCM BROO 25 Jul; TB OTSE 1 Aug, only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: Ba CHEN 20 Jul, only report.
Wilson's Snipe: BBS DELA 7 Jun (BD).
Am. Woodcock: TIOG Jun, only report.
BLACK TERN: BPd BROO 13 Jun (JW); BPd BROO 14 Jul (JW); uncommon.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Port Crane BROO 18 Aug (NCBC), NYSARC report submitted.
Com. Nighthawk: Bing BROO 4 Jun; Bing BROO 18 Jul; SR Sidney OTSE 27 Aug; one other report; scarce.
Chimney Swift: max 40+ SR Ba CHEN 18 Aug; 15 JC BROO 28 Aug; one other report, numbers are down.
AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: PIBA CHEN 9 Jul (GK).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: BPdSF CHEN 9 Jun (DOAS).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 4 BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS); few reports.
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: TCa TIOG Aug (BP).
Alder Flycatcher: 2 Finch Hollow Nature Center BROO 5 Jun; 2 BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS).
Willow Flycatcher: max 2 WCM BROO 12 Jun.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 2 BPd BROO 6 Jun; BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS).
Purple Martin: max 11 T Tioga TIOG 4 Jul; few reports; missing from known nesting sites.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 5 TU BROO 27 Jun.
Bank Swallow: max 8 BPd BROO 6 Jun.
Cliff Swallow: CO DHRd TIOG Jun; max 4 T Kirkwood BROO 10 Jul.
Marsh Wren: BPd BROO 14, 22, 24, 28 Jul, only report.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: PIBA CHEN 11 Jul, only report.
Veery: max 3 TU BROO 10 Jun (mob).
Swainson's Thrush: 8(h) PIBA CHEN 1 Jul; 4 PIBA CHEN 4 Jul.
Wood Thrush: max 6+ Waterman Nature Ctr TIOG 13 Jun.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: JC BROO 20 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: max 20 PIBA CHEN 1 Jul (mob).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: BPdSF CHEN 9 Jun; TS CORT 27 Jun; max 2 PIBA CHEN 11 Jul.
Blackburnian Warbler: Long Pond CHEN 9 Jun; PIBA CHEN 11 Jul, only reports.
Pine Warbler: 2 RfP BROO 25 Jul.
Blackpoll Warbler: TS CORT 11 Jun; TU BROO 22 Aug, only reports.
Black-and-white Warbler: TS CORT 11 Jun; only one other report.
N. Waterthrush: 3 TB OTSE 6 Jun, only report, numbers seem down.
Mourning Warbler: max 6+ TB OTSE 9 Jul; 2 other reports.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: juv JC BROO 5, 8, 12, 14 Aug.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 T Conklin BROO 1 Aug, only report.
Bobolink: max 3 TU BROO 15 Aug; few reports, numbers are down.
Red Crossbill: max 45 PIBA CHEN 7 Jul (MY).
White-winged Crossbill: 5 PIBA CHEN 4 Jul (MY).



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings, New York, 13076
wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

The season was warmer and dryer than the 105 year average. In June the temperature averaged 68.3°F, 2.5° above normal, with 3.67" of precipitation, 0.04" above normal. The July statistics were 69.8°F, -1.1°, with 3.61" of rain, -0.41". The August averages were 70.8°, 1.6° above normal with 1.76" of rain, 1.8" below normal. Combined with a very dry May, there was a nearly 5" rainfall deficit for the four month period which led to an early lowering of Delta Lake and Hinckley Reservoir. Utica Marsh and Peter Scott Swamp had very low water by August.

Monitoring of Oneida Lake in early June gave us records of Snow Goose, Brant, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser. Other unusual waterfowl for the summer were American Wigeon at Onondaga Lake, two Greater Scaup on Oneida Lake, and a female Bufflehead on Skaneateles Lake. Gary Lee reported that Common Loon breeding success was limited, with few young on Stillwater Reservoir and no young from five pairs on Woodhull Lake. Loons did better on smaller lakes, where six of eight nestings were successful. The DEC destroyed eighteen Double-crested Cormorant nests at the Great Swamp Conservancy in June, and when the cormorants re-built, another 18 nests were destroyed. Additionally, the DEC limited cormorant nesting on Oneida Lake.

There was no large influx of Great Egrets this year, and a single Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported in August. An immature Little Blue Heron was seen over three days and was the first Regional sighting since 1995. Flooded muckland in Oswego County is an important new breeding area for Least Bittern, Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail, and Sora. Those species and Pied-billed Grebe are affected as beaver ponds are drained or naturally fill in. Some Bobwhites raised and released in 2006 at the Great Swamp Conservancy survived the winter; birds were calling in June and a family group was seen in July.

Bald Eagles fledged young at Three Rivers WMA after three years of nesting. This is the first breeding success in Onondaga County since 1950, the period when records have been kept. Osprey is still expanding, and American Kestrel would appear holding its own in agricultural areas.

It was a very good season for shorebird variety, as among likely summer visitors only Wilson's Phalarope and Long-billed Dowitcher were missed. By the third week of July water had been lowered at Delta Lake and the Salmon River Reservoir attracting shorebirds to mud flats. A large sandbar was exposed at Sandy Pond providing new shorebird habitat which attracted Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Willet, Western Sandpiper, and Stilt Sandpiper. A Ruff in Madison County was only the sixth Regional record and the first since 1985. Whimbrels are usually seen for a short time before departing so one at Delta

Lake for three weeks and two at a sod farm for several days were enjoyed by many observers. Another Whimbrel was an unusual find in the Adirondacks. Red-necked Phalaropes often go unseen by land-based birders but three were seen from a boat on Oneida Lake.

Both species of cuckoo were common in early summer but some of them may have moved on as the forest tent caterpillar infestation lessened this year. There was a low count of 73 Common Nighthawks in Syracuse from 18-31 August, as overcast skies for the week through 25 August probably delayed migration.

Brenda Best reported that many Tree Swallows returned to nest after the April cold spell and that only two young failed to fledge out of 170 that she banded. Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen out of breeding areas in July, evidence of a southward movement. Migrating warblers were much in evidence the last ten days of August. Prothonotary Warblers continue their breeding success along Oneida Lake in West Monroe but the male in the town of Sullivan first reported in May remained unpaired.

Grassland species, other than Upland Sandpiper, seem to be holding their own in the Region even with the haying of many fields by the middle of June. Of course, grassland continues to decline due to pressures from development and abandonment of farming. Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows require more specialized habitat and the latter species may be affected by the early mowing of landfill caps. Orchard Orioles were reported at several locations, and some observers suspect that more would be found if their song was better known. White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were not reported this season. Red Crossbills were still present in the southern highlands but with few cones they may depart by winter.

Wild food stocks were poor over most of the Region after bumper crops in 2006. Gary Lee reported no beechnuts, few cones, and few berries in the Adirondacks, and Matt Perry noted that there are few butternuts, beechnuts, or cones and a moderate amount of wild grapes. There was, at best, a moderate acorn crop. Some species with fruit were ash, dogwood, elderberry, European buckthorn, tartarian honeysuckle, and wild apples.

A total of 208 species was reported over the summer season, a very good total augmented by the Oneida Lake waterfowl. Other highlights included **Little Blue Heron**, Whimbrel, Willet, **Ruff**, Red-necked Phalarope, and the continuing Red Crossbills.

CONTRIBUTORS

Maryanne Adams, Michael Anderson, Betty Armbruster, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Bernie Carr, Tom Carrolan, Gerald Case, Dorothy Crumb, Greg Dashnau, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, John Kapshaw, Kevin McGann, David Nash, Jim Pawlicki, Matt Perry; Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Margaret Rusk, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Andrew Van Norstrand, David Wheeler, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle – Baldwinsville; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; Geo – Georgetown; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SCH – T Schroepel; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP – Selkirk Shores State Park; SVB – Sylvan & Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: OneiL 5 Jun.
Brant: OneiL 3 Jun.
Am. Wigeon: 6 OnonL 21 Jul; GSC 25 Aug.
Blue-winged Teal: max 7 SPd 28 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: max 16 SPd 28 Aug.
Greater Scaup: 2 OneiL 14 Aug.
Lesser Scaup: 3 OneiL 2 Jun.
White-winged Scoter: OneiL 5 Jun.
Long-tailed Duck: OneiL 1 Jun.
Bufflehead: Skan L 15 Jul.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 OneiL 8 Jun.
Com. Loon: 5 OneiL 1 Jun; OnonL 30 Jun, ad southbound.
Least Bittern: max 3 Volney 20 Aug.
Great Blue Heron: 65 DL 19 Aug.
Great Egret: OnonL 21 Jul; DL 27 Jul; Van Buren 14 Aug; Redfield 29 Aug.
LITTLE BLUE HERON: Kirkville 24-26 Aug (JC, BP), fifth summer record.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: SVB 23 Aug (TS).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 31 DH 8 Jun; 2y fledged TRWMA 17-22 Jul.
N. Harrier: 3 DH 8 Jun.
N. Goshawk: 3 reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: DH 25 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 289 DH 8 Jun.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 319 DH 25 Aug.
Merlin: DL after 15 Jul; SVB 15 Aug.
Virginia Rail: imm SFNS 8 Aug, first at that site.
Com. Moorhen: max 13 Volney 26 Aug.
Am. Coot: SPd 25 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: max 1 per day in Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr SHF 25 Aug, SPd 30 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: 12 DL 27 Jul; max 47 DL 19 Aug.

Killdeer: max 67 DL 19 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: DL 27 Jul; max 16 DL 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 8 OnonL 11 Jul; max 120 DL 19 Aug.
WILLET: SPd 28 Aug (BP).
Solitary Sandpiper: WM 2 Jun; max 12 DL 22 Jul.
Spotted Sandpiper: 17 OnonL 19 Jun.
Upland Sandpiper: max 9 SHF 31 Jul.
Whimbrel: DL 25 Jul to 15 Aug; Stillwater Res 13 Aug; 2 SHF 26-30 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: last 18 OneiL 8 Jun; 3 OneiL 2 Aug; 3 SPd 30 Aug.
Red Knot: 6 SPd after 28 Aug.
Sanderling: DL 24 Jul; max 18 SPd 28 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 8 OneiL 13 Jun; 3 DL 27 Jul; max 57 DL 6 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: SPd after 28 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: arr 8 OnonL 11 Jul; max 330 DL 19 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last OneiL 13 Jun; arr DL 22 Jul; max 14 SPd 28 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr DL 19 Aug; max 2 SHF 25 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 DL 22 Jul; max 17 DL 9 Aug.
Dunlin: last 2 OneiL 8 Jun.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr DL 24 Jul; max 3 SPd 28 Aug.
RUFF: SHF 25 Aug (BP).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 5 DL 24 Jul; max 14 SPd 30 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: 3 OneiL 9 Aug (JP).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 228 SVB 16 Aug.
Herring Gull: 2 fl Sand L HERK Jul.
Caspian Tern: 2 OneiL 13 Jun; max 82 SPd 24 Jul.
Black Tern: OneiL 13 Jun; 3 pair SSSP 25 Jun.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: Oneil 6 Jun; 3 Utica 12 Jun; max 18 Syr 26 Aug; 55 Syr last 2 18-31 Aug, low.

Whip-poor-will: reports from Camden & Constantia.

Red-headed Woodpecker: T Lincoln 17 Jun; SCH 22 Jun; 2 pair SVB thru.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Independence L 20 Jun; nest Pollack Swamp 1 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 reports N. HERK; TRWMA 26 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: TRWMA 12 Jun, late; DL 29 Jul, unusual site.

Acadian Flycatcher: feeding cowbird fl 15 Jul Whiskey Hollow.

E. Kingbird: max 25 WM 24 Aug.

Blue-headed Vireo: SFNS 25 Aug, early.

Philadelphia Vireo: WM 27 Aug; Bville 28 Aug.

Com. Raven: 3 DL 15 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 55 SHF 25 Aug; 14 Tully 1 Jul.

Purple Martin: max 37 Skan 26 Jul.

Tree Swallow: max 800 SHF 26 Aug.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 20 SHF 26 Aug.

Bank Swallow: 300 SHF 26 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: 40 SHF 26 Aug.

Barn Swallow: 150 SHF 26 Aug.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: OnonL 15 Jun, unusual site; 1-2/day outside breeding areas after Jun.

Carolina Wren: reports from traditional areas.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Lysander 13 Jun; SCH 17 Jun; male mated with female Blue-winged SFNS in Jun.

N. Parula: Hastings 25 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: max 85 SPd 30 Jul.

Magnolia Warbler: 2 Hastings 27 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: Hastings 23 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Clinton 27 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: SFNS 25 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 2 singing Tully 1 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Carter Sta 15 Jul; arr Hastings 27 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Hastings 29 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 SVB 25 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: 4 Hastings 25 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: Shackelton Pt 3 Jun; 2 m & 1 f Big Bay 10 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: Hastings 27 Aug; 3 UM 31 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 17 Whiskey Hollow 2 Jun, mix of breeders and migrants.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 15 Hastings 25 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: 2 Pratt's Falls 11 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: arr SFNS 23 Aug.

Canada Warbler: Hastings 25 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Geo 8 Jun thru Jul (MY).

White-throated Sparrow: UM 31 Aug.

Bobolink: max 50 Van Buren 13 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: Tully 13 Jul; 3-4 Green Lk SP 30 Jun; SFNS 15 Jun and feeding y there 17 Jul.

Purple Finch: max 19 WM 22 Aug.

Red Crossbill: Geo 17 Jun; max 16 Fabius 23 Jun; Minetto 5 Jul

====

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617

jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

Summer was very dry and slightly warmer than normal. Watertown received 6.3" of precipitation for the period, which is 5.5" below normal. All three months were drier than average, with the monthly rainfall deficit ranging from 0.5" in July to 1.9" August. June's average temperature of 68.3°F was 3° warmer than normal, and July's temperature of 69.2° was 1° cooler than usual. I did not receive official August temperature data for Watertown, but data from other parts of the Region indicate an average temperature that was less than 1° degree above normal.

The lack of precipitation during the summer, combined with a very dry May, resulted in low water levels throughout Region 6. By mid-August many ponds were nearly or completely dry, and extensive shoreline was exposed along Lake Ontario and many rivers. Low water apparently allowed ducks, loons, grebes, and other water birds to bring young off relatively early and in good numbers and also provided abundant habitat for migrating shorebirds, which were reported in higher numbers than during many recent years.

Waterfowl observations from Upper and Lower Lakes reflect the apparent benefits the dry summer had for nesting. The first Common Loon chicks appeared on Lower Lake on 12 June, nearly a month earlier than in 2006, when summer rains flooded many nests. Ring-necked Duck broods were noted on Lower Lake throughout the summer, with up to eight young broods seen on a single visit and an estimated 15 for the season. Pied-billed Grebe productivity also was high, with more than 25 nests producing two to four young each, and by the end of the summer more than 100 grebes could be seen on Lower Lake.

On 11 June Tom Wheeler observed an apparent pair of **Red-necked Grebes performing a courtship display** on Lower Lake. This species has never been recorded nesting in New York but breeds in Ontario within a few hundred miles of the state. Unfortunately, the pair was not seen after 12 June and was presumed to have moved on. Will Raup and several other visiting birders reported a Red-necked Grebe from the same location on 8 July, but the plumage they described seemed to indicate that this bird was not one of the pair reported earlier. What exactly was going on with Red-necked Grebes at this location remains unclear. Snow Goose reports from Lowville in June and Theresa in July were also very unusual.

As many as 110 Great Egrets occupied a roost in Stockholm during August. This number, first reported by Robert Scranton and subsequently confirmed by several others, is more than double the previously reported high count for Region 6. During late July Gerry Smith watched a distant *Plegadis ibis* fly up the St. Lawrence River in Cape Vincent, presumably a Glossy but too distant for specific identification. Satellite transmitter data indicated that the wayward **Whooping Crane** from the eastern introduction remained in remote areas of the

Tug Hill through the summer, although I received no reports that anybody actually saw this bird during the summer period.

Merlins continue to increase, with new nesting locations reported from residential neighborhoods in Watertown and Canton. Several observers reported seeing many more Merlins than they had in previous years, and this species is now regular in summer throughout the Region. Other notable raptor observations included adult Northern Goshawks and Red-shouldered Hawks with young on Fort Drum.

The increase in shorebird reports did not include any particularly large concentrations or unusual species. Most shorebird reports came from the Lake Ontario shoreline, where low water provided extensive habitat for feeding. It is not clear whether the larger number of reports reflects larger numbers of shorebirds using the Lake Ontario shoreline or greater observer effort because local birders figured that low water levels would translate into more shorebirds and thus spent more time looking for shorebirds. For the second year in a row the Caspian Tern nest count at Little Galloo Island was lower than the previous year after nearly 20 years of continuous increases. The botulism outbreak that first hit eastern Lake Ontario in 2006 was no doubt responsible, and by the end of August another 271 Caspian Tern carcasses had been collected by the DEC. Common Terns nested along the St. Lawrence River in slightly lower numbers than in 2006, but had modestly higher productivity, due in large part to Lee Harper's efforts to improve the quality of nesting habitat along the river.

A large movement of Common Nighthawks occurred on the evenings of 21 to 24 August, with only a few scattered nighthawks reported afterward. The largest number reported was on 21 August, when 112 were counted in several groups in eastern Jefferson and southwestern St. Lawrence Counties. Ironically, on that same date at Fort Drum a flightless juvenile nighthawk was observed with an adult performing a distraction display. Nick Leone counted at least 25 Whip-poor-wills on a survey in Cape Vincent, which along with similar numbers reported in May from Chaumont and Fort Drum, illustrate the importance of Region 6 to the state's Whip-poor Will population.

The health of the Region's grassland bird populations continues to be a concern. Although Upland Sandpipers and Henslow's Sparrows were reported in numbers comparable to the prior two years, both species are far less abundant than they were just five or six years ago. Several observers reported the absence of Upland Sandpipers in fields where they had been reliable previously; for instance I saw no Upland Sandpipers in a field in Leray where I had seen them every year since 1996. I received no reports of Henslow's Sparrows away from traditional locations at Fort Drum and near Perch River WMA. Sedge Wren numbers were typical for recent years, with reports from Fort Drum, Upper and Lower Lakes, and South Sandy Creek. A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was heard singing on Fort Drum on 1 June, but could not be relocated and was presumed to be passing through.

Excluding the Whooping Crane, I received reports of 194 species for the summer reporting period. Highlights not previously mentioned include adult male Orchard Orioles in Adams and at Fort Drum, lingering Pine Siskins and

Red Crossbills in the Adirondacks, and nesting Rusty Blackbirds near Wanakena. On the negative side was the continuing botulism outbreak on Lake Ontario, and to some the disappointment in not seeing the Red-necked Grebes at Upper and Lower Lakes stick around to nest (or at least not documenting nesting if they did in fact remain for the summer).

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Bernie Carr, Sheila Cerwonka, Julie Covey, Lee Harper, Mike Jeziorski, Kathleen Killeen, Nick Leone, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, Irene Mazzocchi, Bob McGuire, Genie & Thomas McKay, David Prosser, Bill Purcell, Will Raup, Chris Reidy, Robert Scranton, Gerry Smith, Eve Sweatman, Andrew VanNorstrand, Tom & Eileen Wheeler.

ABBREVIATIONS

CV – Cape Vincent; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; FM – Fox Marsh, Colton; HB – Hitchen’s Bog, Piercefield; LC – Limerick Cedars; LGI – Little Galloo Island; MM – Massawepie Mire, Piercefield and Colton; PRWMA—Perch River WMA; –PtPen – Pt. Peninsula; SLR – St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, Canton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 8 Lowville 23 Jun (ph!); Theresa 3 Jul.
Trumpeter Swan: ad with 6 y PRWMA 26 Jul; 2 Brookside Cemetery Watertown thru.
Am. Wigeon: max 8 ULLWMA 12 Jun, no indication of breeding.
Blue-winged Teal: max 20 ED 31 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: max 85 including 8 broods ULLWMA 10 Aug, where at least 7 other broods seen Jun & Jul.
Com. Merganser: ad w y Potsdam 27 Jun; max 28 PtPen 31 Aug.
Com. Loon: 2 chicks ULLWMA 12 Jun, earliest report of young.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 79 ULLWMA 10 Aug, where 25-28 nests on Lower Lake.
Red-necked Grebe: pair performing courtship display 11 Jun ULLWMA (TW), pair last seen 12 Jun (T&EW); individual in apparent non-breeding plumage 8 Jul (WR).
Am. Bittern: max 6 ULLWMA 10 Aug.
Least Bittern: max 3 ULLWMA 24 Jun.
Great Egret: max 110 Stockholm 13 Aug thru (RS), high.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 15-21 per night flying over LC thru.

PLEGADIS IBIS: 1 CV flying up SLR late Jul (GS!).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Red-shouldered Hawk: ad fy FD 26 Jun.
N. Goshawk: ad w y FD 23 Jun.
Merlin: 2 nests in residential neighborhoods Watertown and 1 Canton; nest Wanakena July; numerous reports, increasing.
Virginia Rail: max 9 ULLWMA 24 Jun.
WHOOPING CRANE: Tug Hill thru, “lost” bird from eastern introduction.
Black-bellied Plover: max 10 ED 23 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: max 8 ED 23 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 ED 31 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 27 ED 31 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 FD 28 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Brownville 2 Jun; Champion 4 Jun; 2 CV Jun; 2 Chaumont 6 Jul; max 4 FD 19 Jul; decreasing.
Sanderling: max 11 ED 31 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 51 ED 31 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: max 45 ED 23 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 2 ED 30 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: ED 29 Aug, only report.
Dunlin: ED 29 Aug, only report.
Short-billed Dowitcher: ED 23 Aug, only report.
Caspian Tern: 1580 nests LGI 6 Jun; DEC recovered 271 carcasses L Ontario thru 31 Aug, Type E botulism presumed.
Com. Tern: 671 nests SLR (79 fewer than 2006) produced 874 chicks (100 more than 2006) (LH).
Black Tern: 56 ULLWMA 24 Jun; 53 PRWMA 11 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 6 FD 10 Jun, where numbers as before tent caterpillar outbreak.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 FD 10, 12 Jun.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 ULLWMA 2 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: ad w y FD 21 Aug; 112 Antwerp, Gouverneur, & Dekalb 21 Aug; 44 Gouverneur & Dekalb 22 Aug; 54 West Carthage 24 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: 25-27 on CV survey route mid-Jun; last calling LC 29 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 pr FD Jun & July.
Black-backed Woodpecker: ad fy Leonard Pd trail Colton 22 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: reports FM, HB, and Wanakena.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: migrants FD 1-3 Jun; several reports MM Jun & Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: MM several dates Jun, only reports.
Horned Lark: max 20 juv FD 23 Jul.
Carolina Wren: CV 21 Jun, only report.
Sedge Wren: 2 m FD early June increased to 12 by 29 Jun; ULLWMA thru 13 Jul; S. Sandy Creek 10 Jun (BC).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 4 singing m FD 12 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: max 6 singing m FD 10 Jun.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 8 singing m FD Jun, increasing.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: ad fy 24 Aug, late.
Prairie Warbler: Champion 5 Jun CR, new location; max 6 FD 6 Jun.
"Yellow" Palm Warbler: max 40+ MM several dates Jun; other reports HB, FM, & Sabattis Bog.
Cerulean Warbler: different locations FD 10, 12, 18 Jun; 4 m Dekalb several dates Jun.
Canada Warbler: max 18 singing m FD 21 Jun.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 14 singing m FD 7 Jun; max 19 singing m different area FD 10 Jul.
Vesper Sparrow: 3 Parishville 1 Jul; max 25 FD 23 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Champion 5 Jun.
Henslow's Sparrow: 7 m FD Jun & Jul, where last heard 14 Aug; 3 Dog Hill Road Orleans Jun.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: singing m FD 1 Jun (JB; NYSARC).
Rusty Blackbird: 2 Janack's Landing trail Wanakena 29 Jul (BC), only report.
Orchard Oriole: Adams 4 Jun (IM); FD 13 Jun (JB).
Red Crossbill: 4 MM 10 Jun; FD 24 Jul.
Pine Siskin: MM 10 Jun, only report.

EXOTICS

Com. Shelduck: Horse Island 8 Aug.



REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

477 County Rte 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

jmcp7@juno.com

Dry and sunny weather continued to prevail into the Summer season, with overnight lows of 32° at Inlet 6-7 June, but temperatures rose to 91° by 19 June, a day with afternoon thunderstorms and even a hurricane-strength wind gust of 74 mph at Malone. Plattsburgh hit 95° on 26 June, but Inlet had a low of 42° on 30 June, followed by 40° there on the 1st and 3rd of July. Thunderstorms were scattered across the Region during July, with 1.5" rain at Auger Lake 9 July and ½" hailstones at Ellenburg Depot the following day. By 11 July, Plattsburgh had received 5" of rainfall in less than a week. Saranac Lake saw 1.96" of rain between 19-20 July. Owls Head was drummed by 1.75" hailstones 27 July, with Elizabethtown and Port Kent struck by nickle-sized hail the same hot and humid afternoon. Malone and Plattsburgh were 90° on 2 August, a month that was sunny and warm with scattered rain and thunderstorms. A 3.2 scale earthquake on 29 August had an epicenter 8 miles NE of Tupper Lake. Lake Champlain stood at 98.08' on 1 June, dropped to 96.02' by 9 July, rose again to 96.58' by the 22nd during the rains of July, then fell to 95.55' by season's end, providing excellent shorebird habitat on beaches and mudflats along the lakeshore.

Notable records along Champlain were concentrated, as usual, at the Chazy Riverlands in Clinton County and Noblewood Park at the mouth of the Boquet River in Essex County, but with a few noteworthy finds at Ausable Point and Westport. Also worthy of mention is the completion of the \$35 million Superfund cleanup of PCBs and other paper mill contaminants at Wilcox Dock in Plattsburgh, where a grateful Great Egret turned up in early August. The farmlands between the Great and Little Chazy rivers provided interesting waterfowl records, e.g. Brant in mid-June, plus broods of Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, and Northern Shoveler, but the highlight was the first Regional summer record of **Ruddy Duck** on the Laurin farm 4-7 July. Rallidae included the only summer sightings of Sora, Common Moorhen, and American Coot. As always, the Chazy Riverlands were a magnet for shorebirds, with 15 species present, including a regionally rare **Stilt Sandpiper** in early August. This is the first site in the Region to host four tern species, with the first-ever Regional **Forster's Tern** on 6 July. To the south, Noblewood Park had ten shorebirds, including another **Stilt Sandpiper** in early August, plus as many as 20 Caspian and 30 Common terns. Westport, which has been largely bypassed by birders in recent years, regained its reputation as a shorebird hotspot with a Ruddy Turnstone and Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers, as well as a Caspian Tern feeding young.

The Central Adirondacks are not known for shorebirds, but Hamilton County produced an early Greater Yellowlegs at Lake Lila on 8 July and a first county record of **Whimbrel** at Inlet on 27 August. A **Black Tern** photographed on the Cedar River Flow 16 June was the first report from that historic Hamilton County site in 21 years. The same county had an adult **White-crowned**

Sparrow in the Moose River Plains on **13 June**, a late date for both county and Region. Both the Central Adirondacks and Adirondack High Peaks provided the expected assortment of sought-after boreal birds, but the number of peaks with Bicknell's Thrush was perhaps outshone by high-elevation reports of American Redstart from Phelps Mountain and Wright Peak.

A welcome addition to the growing library of recent works on Adirondack-Champlain birds is the tabloid-sized (11"x13") *Wild Neighbors: A Window on Adirondack Wildlife*, Saranac Lake: Adirondack Explorer, 2007. A compilation of wildlife articles previously published in the monthly *Adirondack Explorer*, the 124-page book includes 45 pieces on Regional birds by Phil Brown, Dave Capen, Mark Gretch, Edward Kanze, John M.C. Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Curt Stager, John Thaxton, and Alan Wechsler. Other articles discuss mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and resources. Retail price is \$17.50 from *Adirondack Explorer*; call (888) 888-4970 or (518) 891-9352.

Seasonal variety was good, with a total of 191 species reported during Summer 2007, better than last year's 188, but shy of the 192 species found during the Atlas summer of 2004. Once again, compilations were not received from the 5th Great Adirondack Birding Celebration in Franklin County or the 3rd Adirondack Birding Festival in Hamilton County. Organizers of future birding weekends are kindly asked to submit June 2008 lists when available.

CONTRIBUTORS

MaryAnne Allen, Shawn Billerman, Phil Brown, Joe Carey, Bernard Carr, Nancy Carter, Joan Collins, Charlcie Delehanty, Diane Demers, Beth Edmonds, James Elliott, Janice Farmer, Don Fasking, Corey Finger, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Bill Frenette, Gregory Furness, John Gillis, Julie Hart, Judith Heintz, Gordon Howard, Suzy Johnson, Catherine Klott, Bill Krueger, Dayna Lalonde, Julie Lattrell, Gary Lee, Robert Lee, William Lenhart, Bonnie MacDougal, Mark A. Manske, Lawrence Master, Melanie A. McCormack, Chita & Robert McKinney, Matthew D. Medler, Charles Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Jr., Colgen Mitchell, Michael & Wanda Moccio, Jeff Nadler, Daniel Nickerson, Nancy Olsen, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, Daniel Peters, John Peterson, Will Raup, Steve Reichart, George Roberts, Dana Rohleder, William Rusher, Jr., Jo Ann & Thomas Salo, Eric K. Teed, Eve D. Ticknor, Thomas Wheeler, Hollis White, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH - Cumberland Head; CR - Chazy Rivers; CRF - Cedar R Flow; FB - Ferd's Bog; IL - Indian L; LL - Long L; NP - Noblewood Pk; TL - Tupper L; WD - Wilcox Dock.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: 2 CR 14 Jun (BK), late CLIN.
Am. Black Duck: max 40 NP 24 Aug (DL).
Blue-winged Teal: y CR 1 Jul (BK).
N. Shoveler: y CR 14 Jul (BK), scarce breeding duck.
Com. Goldeneye: f & 9 y CH 30 Jun (BK), f & y NP 27 Aug (J&PT), scarce Champlain nester; 8 TL 10-13 Aug (RM), where more expected.
Com. Merganser: f & 30 y CH Jul (NO), merged broods.
RUDDY DUCK: m CR 4-7 Jul (BK,CM,NO), 1st summer record CLIN & Reg 7.
Ring-necked Pheasant: CR 6 Aug (BK), only report.
Spruce Grouse: 3 Uncas Rd, Raquette L 10 Jun (JC), where reported early Jun '06.
N. Bobwhite: Jay 26-27 Jun (L&PO), 8 mi. from hunting club; Peru 19-21 Jul; calling Mineville 25-29 Jul (GF), all presumed escapes.
Com. Loon: CH 9-10 Jun (NO); 2 alt NP 4 Aug (MDM), plus numerous inland reports.
Pied-billed Grebe: 4+ CR 1 Jun-4 Aug (BK,CM); CRF 3 Jun (GL).
Horned Grebe: 2 Auger L 31 Aug (GH), early ESSE.
Red-necked Grebe: basic Rte 37, AMR 30 Jul (HW); 2 there 1 Aug, early FRAN.
Least Bittern: CR 16 Jul (BK), sole sighting.
Great Egret: WD 6 Aug (SJ,BK,GR), a benefit of \$35 million cleanup.
Green Heron: many AMR Jul (HW).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 ad, 6 imm Scotion Cr 14 Jun; 6 Scotion Cr 17 Jun (NO,MS), no reports from The Four Brothers.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: juv Cold R; ad Indian L, FRAN; 2 ads, juv L Lila; 2 fledged Moody; ads Osgood R; 2 Marion R; imm NP; Round L, only suggestive of numbers.
Golden Eagle: Keene 14 Jun, overhead.
Am. Kestrel: 5 of 24 FRAN nest boxes produced 18 chicks (MAM).
Merlin: CRF; Jay; LL; L Lila; Lincoln Pd; Moody; Mt Adams; NP; Plattsburgh; Red R; Riverview; Speculator BBS; TL Marsh; Whiteface Mt; White Pine Camp, reflect continued increase; dead m Elizabethtown 22 Aug, breast eaten.
Peregrine Falcon: black over green color-banded f Elizabethtown eyrie, fledged from central VT nest in '02 [see *The Kingbird*

Spring '07 report], struck & killed by motor vehicle at pond 2.5 mi east of eyrie 25 Jun, after killing a duck along Rte 9N; 3 y had recently fledged from nest.

Virginia Rail: 2-3 AP Jun-Jul (BK); 3 L Durant 2 Jun (JE,MM); L Lila 8 Jul (JC); CR 8 Aug (BK).
Sora: CR 7-8 Aug (BK), only report.
Com. Moorhen: 2 CR 1 Jun-4 Aug (BK,CM), nice find.
Am. Coot: CR 1 Jun & 6 Jul (BK,NO), nice find.
Black-bellied Plover: max 32 CR 1 Jun; 1-2 CR 4-14 Jun (BK); arr NP 30 Aug (MAMc).
Semipalmated Plover: max 14 CR 1 Jun; arr 2 CR 16-20 Aug (BK); 1-4 NP 21-30 Aug (DL,MAMc,EKT).
Gr. Yellowlegs: CR 6 Jul-20 Aug (BK,NO); arr 2 L Lila 8 Jul (JC,TW), early HAMI; max 10 CR 4 Aug (BK,CM); 2 NP 30 Aug (MAMc).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 CR 4 Jul-20 Aug; max 41 CR 4 Aug (BK,CM); 2 NP 12 Aug (JH,MDM); 5 NP 27 Aug (J&PT).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Marcy Dam 26 Jul (DD), on floating vegetation in middle of pd; 6 Chubb R 4 Aug (J&PT); CR 20 Aug (BK); max 7 E Branch Ausable R, Keene 28-29 Aug (J&PT); Westport 30 Aug (BE,DN), a strong showing.
WHIMBREL: Inlet 27 Aug (SR), on lawn Limekiln L Rd, 1st HAMI record.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr Westport 30 Aug (BE,DN), always a good find.
Sanderling: arr 3 CR 5 Aug; 2 CR 20 Aug (BK); max 6 NP 24 Aug (DL).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 21 CR 3 Jun (BK); arr 4 CR 7 Jul (BK,NO), early CLIN; CR to 25 Aug (BK,CM,NO); 2-4 NP 21-31 Aug (EKT,DN, J&PT).
Western Sandpiper: arr NP 31 Aug (DN).
Least Sandpiper: 4 CR 1-3 Jun (BK); arr CR 7 Jul-25 Aug (BK,CM,NO); 4 NP 8 Jul (JH,MDM); NP 23 Aug (J&PT); 2 Westport 30-31 Aug (BE,DN), low numbers.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 CR 5-20 Aug; max 4 CR 11 Aug (BK).
Baird's Sandpiper: arr Westport 30-31 Aug (BE,DN).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 CR 16 Jul (BK); 2 CR 11 Aug (BK,CM); max 3 Westport 30 Aug (BE,DN).
Dunlin: 2 CR 1-3 Jun (BK).
STILT SANDPIPER: arr CR 11 Aug (BK,CM), c. 9th CLIN record; juv NP 21 Aug (EKT)-22 Aug (LM), 3rd ESSE record.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 12 CR 1 Jun

(BK); arr 2 CR 4-20 Aug (BK,CM).
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 CR 12 Jul (BK); 10 LL 29 Jul (JC), 7th HAMI record; NP 4 Aug thru; max 540 NP 12 Aug (JH,MDM).
Great Black-backed Gull: TL 7 Jul (WR), unusual inland.
Caspian Tern: 2-4 CR 3 Jun-21 Aug; mate-feeding CR 11 Jul; ad & 2 imm CR 4 Aug (BK,CM); 15 NP 16 Jul (J&PT); max 20 NP 1-12 Aug (JH,MDM,J&PT); 1-4 NP 22-27 Aug (DL,LM,J&PT); ad Westport 30 Aug; ad feeding juv Westport 31 Aug (BE,DN).
Com. Tern: CR 6 Jul (BK,NO); 21 CR 12-23 Jul (BK,CM); 2-4 Essex harbor 1-15 Aug (BM); ad & banded rt leg juv NP 4 Aug (MDM), probably from VT is; NP thru; max 30 NP 30 Aug (MAMC).
FORSTER'S TERN: nonbreeding ad CR 6 Jul (BK,NO), 1st CLIN & Reg 7.
BLACK TERN: CRF 16 Jun (GL, ph), last HAMI report there 16-20 Jun 1986; CR 17-18 Jul (BK,CM), ad feeding imm.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: NP 10 Jun (MDM); Witherbee 23 Jun-Jul (CW); Jay 3-21 Jul (PO); CH 30 Aug (BK).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CH 28 Jun (BK); Jay 21 Jul (PO), reflect forest tent caterpillar crash.
Com. Nighthawk: Ausable 8 Jun (DCR); Peru 9 Jun (EF); Jay 10 Jun (DP,DR); 2 Peru 20 Aug (EF); Plattsburgh 24 Aug (CM,CM Jr), encouraging.
Whip-poor-will: Ausable Forks; Chesterfield; Keeseville; Mooers; Peru; Pt Kent; Ticonderoga, a fairly strong showing.
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: f FB 1 Jun (GL)-18 Jun (PB), only location.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BB; Beaver Bk; Bigelow Rd; Browns Tract Stream; FB; Helldiver Pd; L Arnold; Red R; Rock Pd; Round L; South Inlet; Spruce Hill, expected sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max ~20 above 3,360' Gray Pk from L Arnold 26 Jul (DD), high ESSE & Reg 7.
Willow Flycatcher: 2-3 L Alice 2 Jun (BK); Scotion Cr 17 Jun (NO,MS), only reports.
Yellow-throated Vireo: Silver L Bog 3 Jul (BK,CM), only report.
Philadelphia Vireo: singing m IL 9 Jun (JC); singing m West River trail, Ausable R 30 Jun; singing m L Everest 30 Jul (J&PT); L Lila late Jul (J&TS), good finds.

Gray Jay: BB; Beaver Bk Bog; FB; Helldiver Pd; Osgood R; South Inlet; Sumner Stream, expected sites.
Blue Jay: leucistic jay Auger L 6 Aug (GH), off-white to gray head & nape.
Boreal Chickadee: Bigelow Rd; Blue Mt; FB; Giant Mt; Gray Pk; Helldiver Pd; Kempshall Mt; LL; Lyon Mt; Pillsbury Mt; Sumner Stream, Whiteface Mt, all except Lyon Mt, CLIN, expected sites.
Tufted Titmouse: CH; Elizabethtown; Witherbee, seemingly under-reported.
Carolina Wren: Willsboro Pt (RL), nesting in door wreath on porch; CH 31 Aug (NO); singing m Westport 31 Aug (DN), all good finds.
Marsh Wren: Scotion Cr 14 Jun; CR 6 Jul (NO); 2-3 Raquette R, AMR 25 Jul (HW); 3 singing m AP 29 Jul (J&PT).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Round L 4 Aug (WL), 3rd HAMI record.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 13 Blue Mt 7 Jun (JC); also Colden; Giant; Haystack, L Arnold; McKenzie; Noonmark; Phelps; Pillsbury; Santanoni; Snowy; Sunrise; Wakely; Whiteface by 15 Jun; Lyon Mt 5 Aug (GL), late CLIN.
N. Mockingbird: Ausable Forks 9 Jun (PO); L Alice 1 Jul (NO); Plattsburgh thru (JH).

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: m Speculator BBS 24 Jun (M&WM), near Camp of the Woods; singing m Opalescent R 7 Jul (J&PT), only reports.
Cape May Warbler: Sumner Stream 11 Jun (GL), only report.
Palm Warbler: Beaver Bk Bog; Paul Smiths; Sabattis Bog; Shallow L trail; South Inlet; Spring Pd Bog, typical of recent years.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Lost Pds 12 Jun (GL), only report.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 20+ above 2,758' L Arnold-Gray Pk 26 Jul (DD).
Am. Redstart: m at 3300' Phelps Mt 10 Jun (J&PT); 3 at 3650' Wright Pk 5 Aug (DD,DO), high elevations for this warbler.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Heart L Rd 26 Aug (J&PT), only report.
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: ad Moose R Plains 13 Jun (RM), late HAMI & Reg 7.
Rusty Blackbird: Wakely Mt 9 Jun (CF,WR); Lost Pds 12 Jun (GL); BB 1 Jul (WR), feeding y Keene 21 Jul; max 75

Keene 28 Aug (J&PT), dropping into marsh in evening.

House Finch: CH; Ticonderoga, expected; singing in L Everest 15 Jun (J&PT), a surprise.

Red Crossbill: Baxter Mt; Giant Mt; Wakely Mt; Whiteface Mt, only reports in wake of invasion.

White-winged Crossbill: Marcy Dam; Mt

Colden; McKenzie Mt; Whiteface Mt, ditto. **Pine Siskin:** ambushed while bathing, killed, & sometimes eaten by bullfrogs at L Placid stream during summer (LM); several of the killer frogs subsequently transplanted. **Evening Grosbeak:** prs with y Elizabethtown, Redford, Witherbee feeders Jul-Aug; max 10 over Baxter Mt 20 Aug (J&PT), typical of recent summers.



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534

wyandik@hotmail.com

Slightly warmer than average temperatures characterized most of summer 2007. Data collected at Albany International Airport show that June exhibited temperatures 2.5° F warmer than average, with precipitation 0.38" below average. In July a few heavy downpours, notably 2.07" on the 9th and 1.86" on the 8th, tipped the monthly precipitation tally 3.53" above average, but temperatures remained near historic means. August continued warmer than average with much drier conditions. The month's rainfall was 1.34" below average, turning many mudflats into hardpan just as shorebirds moved through.

A **Tricolored Heron** at Visser's Ferry, Saratoga County, was a surprising summer visitor as was the **Glossy Ibis** reported by Vermont Birder Kevin Hemeon wading in the shallows of the Hoosic River bordering Rensselaer and Washington Counties.

Reports of Peregrine Falcons nesting on many of the upstate bridges spanning the Hudson River are certainly not new, but Mike Peterson passed on news of a successful aerie in a quarry near Glens Falls, Warren County. The pair was observed feeding rock pigeons to their young, which successfully fledged despite the mining activities nearby. Andy Mason also notes that a pair has nested at Vroman's Nose, a rock outcropping near Middleburgh, Schoharie County.

Steve Chorvas annually surveys Plateau Mountain in Greene County, rising before dawn to reach the summit to record several of the spruce-fir species that exist on these most vulnerable and southerly islands of boreal habitat. Highlights included 24 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, 24 Bicknell's Thrush, and 32 Blackpoll Warblers. The Union of Concerned Scientists recently published a report on the likely effects of climate change on the Northeast, and these high-elevation

Catskill peaks are expected to lose their spruce groves in even lower-emission scenarios by the end of this century. Regional partnerships interested in preserving high-elevation habitats in the Adirondacks, northern New England, and Canada are underway and deserve our support, since Region 8 is very likely to lose the dawn-song of many of these species in the not-too-distant future.

Acadian Flycatchers have been creeping ever northward but most go unnoticed. Hope Batcheller photographed and reported one that she spotted near her home in Rensselaer County. Some other strange summer visitors came not from the south but unexpectedly from the north. A Rusty Blackbird lingered near the feeder of John Piwowarski, Hillsdale, Columbia County, for nearly a month, and a Palm Warbler observed in Greenport, Columbia County, was a very rare July sighting.

The grasslands near Goodrich Road in Sharon Springs, Schoharie County, remained productive, with many birders reporting Upland Sandpiper, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Bobolink throughout the breeding season. Less common reports include Sedge Wren and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

Mona Bearor reports that several birders from the Hudson-Mohawk Club conducted road-based surveys of the Fort Edward area grasslands this summer, recording important observations of American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, several sparrows, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Dave Baim, Hope Batcheller, Mona Bearor, Robert Buchsbaum, Steve Chorvas, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, Tim Dormady, Ruth DuFault, Corey Finger, Dave Gibson, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Dave Harrison, Ron Harrower, Kevin Hemeon, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Eric Kranz, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Gail & Rich Nord, Mike Peterson, John Piwowarski, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Christopher Wood, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

COH – T Cohoes ALBA; FE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; SS – Town Sharon Springs SCHO; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Gadwall: Stanton Pd ALBA 14 Jun, possible nest.

N. Pintail: 2 COH 9 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: COH 3 Aug; 4-mile Pt GREE 25 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: HR at New Baltimore GREE 7 Jun.

Ruddy Duck: Austerlitz COLU 20 Aug.

Com. Loon: imm HR at Albany 5 Jun; max 4 Silver Bay WARR 3 Jul; 2 L George WARR 2 Aug thru.

Pied-billed Grebe: Claverack COLU 27 Jul; MR Lock 2 11 Aug.
Red-necked Grebe: Northwest Bay Bolton WARR 23 Aug.
Am. Bittern: 2 VF 14 Jun.
Least Bittern: Colonie ALBA 29 Aug.
Great Egret: arr 2 Watervliet ALBA 8 Jul; max 11 Cohoes ALBA 3 Aug.
Great Blue Heron: 20 active nests Round L SARA 3 Jun.
TRICOLORED HERON: VF 2-3 Jun, mob.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 COH 3 Aug.
GLOSSY IBIS: Hoosic Falls RENS 28 Jul (KH).
Black Vulture: Charlton SARA 19 Jul; Greenport COLU 26 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Harrier: SS 7 Jun; Ghent COLU 9 Jun; Jefferson SCHO 9 Aug.
N. Goshawk: Austerlitz COLU 21 Jul.
Merlin: Greenfield SARA 22 Jun, eating a chipmunk.
Peregrine Falcon: Queensbury WARR Jun thru, nesting in quarry; Vroman's Nose Middleburgh SCHO 8 Jun.
Com. Moorhen: VF 14 Jun; Coxsackie Res 14 Jun.
Semipalmated Plover: 3 COH 30 Jul.
Killdeer: max Saratoga Sod Farm 26 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 11 COH 1 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 COH 2 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Ames MONT 7-26 Jun; max 6 FIE 1 Jun-1 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: COH 19 Jul; Stillwater SARA 29 Jul; Claverack COLU 30 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: Stillwater SARA 29 Jul; Claverack COLU 30 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: max 15 COH 21 Aug.
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 2 COH 30 Jul (CF).
Wilson's Snipe: 3 Middle Grove Rd SARA 26 Jun.
Bonaparte's Gull: New Baltimore GREE 24 Jul; L George WARR 7 Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 VF 25 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: arr Glenville SARA 20 Aug; max 15 Albany 26 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: Stanton Rd ALBA 14 Jun; Coeymans ALBA 30 Jul; Hillsdale COLU 10 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: South Glens Falls WARR 1 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RENS 10 Aug; 4-mile Pt GREE 25 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 24 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun (SC).
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: Petersburg RENS 13 Jun (HB).
Cliff Swallow: active colony E Durham GREE 1 Jun; Saratoga Battlefield NP 5 Aug.
SEDGE WREN: 2 SS 30 Jun (AM).
Bicknell's Thrush: max 24 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun (SC).

WARBLERS

N. Parula: Papsconee RENS 20-30 Jun; Fox Hill Rd SARA 26 Jun.
Palm Warbler: Greenport COLU 1 Jun, rare in summer.
Blackpoll Warbler: Albany 2 Jun; max 32 Plateau Mt GREE 7 Jun (SC).
Mourning Warbler: max 3 Greene County Dump 12 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: 2 New Salem ALBA 3 Jun-8 Jul.
Wilson's Warbler: VF 20 Aug; Hannacroix P GREE 28 Aug.
Canada Warbler: RENS plateau 12 Jun; 2 VF 20-21 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: SS 7-24 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 25 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: SS 7-24 Jun; Chatham COLU 10 Jun.
Henslow's Sparrow: SS 7-24 Jun.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: SS 18 Jun.
Bobolink: max 30 Papsconee RENS 26 Aug, migrating flock.
Rusty Blackbird: Hillsdale COLU 17 Jun-7 Jul (JP), rare in summer.
Orchard Oriole: 2 Schneider Rd Livingston COLU 2 Jun, nesting in abandoned orchard; max 4 E Durham GREE 16 Jul.
Red Crossbill: Porter Corners SARA 16 Jun.
Evening Grosbeak: Hillsdale COLU 1 Jul; max 65 banded Jenny L SARA 30 Apr-31 Aug (RY).

REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704

Overall the season was unremarkable weather-wise. There were no oppressive heat waves. In fact, Poughkeepsie hit 95° F for only one day out of the summer. White Plains never made it past 93°. The season did start out somewhat wet. Westchester had over 5" of rain in June, where the normal is only 3.8". Temperatures were close to average. July came in close to normal in both precipitation and temperature. August saw precipitation below average for the northern section of Region 9, where Poughkeepsie had 3.8" of rain for the month compared to 4.3" normally. It was much drier in the southern half. White Plains saw only 1.6" of precipitation for the month.

A Little Blue Heron was found in Dutchess County in LaGrange 21 August. A Tricolored Heron appeared at Edith G Read Preserve on 6 June. Glossy Ibis were observed away from the coast at two locations: the first by Rob Denholtz in Stringham Park, LaGrange on 14 July and the second at the Wallkill River NWR on 25-31 August.

Shorebirding was rather unexciting. There was enough rain so lakes and reservoirs never developed any long lasting mudflats. Marshlands Conservancy along the Long Island Shore did record a Western Sandpiper on 28 August. The other shorebird highlight was a Wilson's Phalarope at the Wallkill River NWR on 25 and 27 August.

The Westchester County portion of the Greenwich Stamford Summer Count held 9 and 10 June located a Black Tern in Rye and Yellow-breasted Chat and a continuing Nelson Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the Marshlands Conservancy.

The peak of Common Nighthawk migration occurred on 30 August with 253 seen in the evening at the Bashakill Marsh.

The "Lawrence's" Warbler found in the spring along Mine Torne Road was again observed 3 June.

A very out of season, first summer record for New York State, adult female **Snow Bunting** was discovered at Piermont Pier, Rockland County, by Tom Dow on **20 June**. The bird remained until 25 June and was observed and photographed by a number of observers.

Westchester County's 2nd record for Boat-tailed Grackle was found at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 13 August by Tom Burke.

CONTRIBUTORS

Judy Atwood, Michael Bochnik, Scott Baldinger, Robert Bowler, Barbara Butler, Binnie Chase, Ed Coyle, Rob Denholtz, Tom Dow, Peggy Fasciani, Tom Fiore, Andy Frank, Ken and Carol Fredericks, Dick Gershon, Joe Giunta, John Haas, Dick Hirschman, Karen Jaquith, Rodney Johnson, Maury & Miriam
The Kingbird 2007 December; 57 (4) 349

Lacher, Harry Maas, Betsy McCully, Curt McDermott, Ken McDermott, Ciro Monaco Jr, David Speiser, Lloyd Spiltalnik, Rex & Birgit Stanford, Kristine Wallstrom, Alan Wells, John Workman.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park, EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, MC – Marshlands Conservancy, PNR – Pawling Nature Preserve, RNC – Rye Nature Center, SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Wappinger Falls 18-22 Jul (PF).
Ring-necked Duck: Rhinebeck 15 Jul (RJ).
Com. Merganser: Wappingers Creek Jun-11 Jul (RB).
Ring-necked Pheasant: EGR 7 Jun.
Com. Loon: MC 9 Jun; EGR 12 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: 1 ad, 3y Valkill 10 Jul; 1 juv Rhinebeck 5-15 Jul.
Great Egret: 2 Bashakill 20 Aug; 63 MC 22 Aug.
Snowy Egret: 95 MC 22 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: LaGrange 21 Aug (JA,KJ).
Tricolored Heron: EGR 6 Jun (TB).
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 5 Jun, 17 Aug.
Glossy Ibis: Stringham Park, LaGrange 14 Jul (RD); Walkill R NWR 25-31 Aug (CM,KM).
Black Vulture: 2 Ward Pound Ridge 9 Jun.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Clapper Rail: MC 1,7 Jun, 29 Jul.
Com. Moorhen: 2 ad, 2 imm Bashakill 29 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: 2-3 MC 12-30 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: 4 MC 1 Jun; 80 MC 12 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 5 EGR 7 Jun; 5, 1 imm Rye 13 Jun; 2 MC 3 Jul; 2 MC 15 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: 7 MC 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 10 Morningside Park 21 Aug.
Willet: 2 Rye 10 Jun, 3 Jul; MC 28, 30 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: MC 21 Jun.
Upland Sandpiper: 3 Blue Chip Farm 10 Jun; 6 Blue Chip Farm 18 Jun.
Ruddy Turnstone: 30 Rye 29 Jul; 18 Rye 17 Aug.
Sanderling: Piermont Pier 31 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 29 MC 1 Jun; 90 MC 16 Aug.

Western Sandpiper: MC 28 Aug (TB).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Morningside Park 21 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 5 Jun; MC 6 Jul; Morningside Park 21 Aug; 18 MC 12 Aug.
Wilson's Phalarope: Walkill R NWR 25, 27 Aug (CM,KM).
Laughing Gull: 2 EGR 6 Jun; MC 2 Jul; 2 Rye 29 Jul.
Com. Tern: 120 Rye 1 Jun; 250 Rye 5 Jun; 80 EGR 6 Jun.
Least Tern: 3 MC 5 Jun.
Black Tern: Rye 9 Jun (TB).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 Ward Pound Ridge 9 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: 253 Bashakill 30 Aug (JH).
Whip-poor-will: Dover 6 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 11 Aug; 3 Bashakill 26 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 22, 23 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: PNR 3 Jun; 3 Mianus River George 10 Jun, nest; 2 Pond Gut, LaGrange 5 Jul; Turkey Hollow, Amenia 11 Jul.
E. Kingbird: 40 MC 22, 23 Aug.
White-eyed Vireo: PNR 3 Jun (BC).
Blue-headed Vireo: Mianus River Gorge 10 Jun; 2 PNR 23 Jun; 3 Turkey Hollow, Amenia 11 Jul.
Com. Raven: 3, 1 y Ward Pound Ridge 9 Jun.
Horned Lark: 4 Greig Farm, Red Hook 7 Jul.
Marsh Wren: 8 MC 1, 7 Jun; 5 MC 3,20 Aug.
Gray-checked Thrush: Salt Point 19 Aug (RB), found dead.

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Mine Torne Road, West Point 3 Jun (AF).

N. Parula: Hickock Brook MUA 22 Jun.

Magnolia Warbler: Nellie Hill, Dover 6 Jun; 3 Nellie Hill, Dover 4 Jul; James Baird SP 26 Jul.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 7 PNR 23 Jun.

Black-throated Green Warbler: PNR 3 Jun; Nuclear Lake 16 Jun; Turkey Hollow, Amenia 11 Jul.

Blackburnian Warbler: PNR 3 Jun; 2 PNR 23 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: Hudson Highlands SP 9 Jun; Nuclear Lake 16 Jun; PNR 23 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: 8 Mianus River Gorge 10 Jun.

Mourning Warbler: Bashakill 3 Jun; MC 15 Aug.

Canada Warbler: singing male Hickock Brook MUA 22 Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 9,10,11 Jun (TB).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Greig Farm, Red Hook 3 Jul (BB); 4 Greig Farm 7 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 SGNWR 13 Jun (BM,JG); Blue Chip Farm 16 Jun (R&BS); 2 Greig Farm, Red Hook 3 Jul (BB); 6 Greig Farm 7 Jul.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 1-10 Jun (TB).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 3 MC 1 Jun.

SNOW BUNTING: Piermont Pier 20-25 Jun (TD,AW), first summer record for New York!

Bobolink: 50 SGNWR 13 Jun.

E. Meadowlark: 35 Blue Chip Farm 10 Jun, 25 SGNWR 13 Jun.

Boat-tailed Grackle: MC 13 Aug (TB), 2nd Westchester County Record.

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Hudson R, Long Dock Trail, Fishkill 19 Aug (M&ML), certainly an escape.

(973) 252-2712 (work) (914) 237-9331 (home)

E-mail: BochnikM@cs.com

REGION 10—MARINE

Patricia J. Lindsay

28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706
pjilindsay@optonline.net

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College Staten Island,
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314
mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu

June's mean temperature was normal at 68.4° F, and while 2.88" of precipitation was near normal mid-Long Island, Central Park received 6.55" of rain, 2.71" more than normal. July was 1.3° cooler than normal, at 73.3°, and rainfall was again notable at 6.50", 3.57" higher than average. Daily rainfall totals on 18 and 19 July broke records at Central Park and La Guardia airport. August's 72.9° mean temperature was normal, but a closer look reveals some interesting fluctuations hidden by the averages, such as the record daily low temps of 58°

on 11 August and 60° on 18 August recorded at both JFK and Islip airports. Continuing the wet trend of the season, rainfall in August was nearly 3" above average, with 7.20" recorded at Central Park.

Southeastern-breeding landbirds made news again this summer, following another strong spring showing. An article elsewhere in this issue is dedicated to this season's multiple nestings by Acadian Flycatchers across the Region. Other Regionally scarce breeders reported this summer included Louisiana Waterthrush, Worm-eating and Hooded warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Prothonotary Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak, having moved beyond proving themselves as Regional breeders, are now in the process of establishing their summer statuses in the Region. On a more negative note, several observers described the loss or substantial diminution this year of traditional populations of Chimney Swifts in Brooklyn and Queens, and at least one also reported the loss of breeding Common Nighthawks from a site in this same area. Veteran observers have suspected for years now that Ruffed Grouse has been extirpated from Long Island. A belated report from East Quogue on 20 May is intriguing, but reached us without details. Given the significance that a proven record would hold, observers are encouraged to collect as much documentation as possible and to consider all possibilities, including young turkeys (which can fly when still very small), female pheasants, and the bewildering variety of exotic gamebirds that are encountered at large from time to time.

We were fortunate to receive a report from Mary Laura Lamont regarding her Plum Island breeding bird surveys. Among the noteworthy birds there were Common Eider (although no young were noted this year), Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk (suspected of breeding there over the years), and Tufted Titmouse. The last is a bird that is almost never highlighted as interesting by anyone anywhere, except perhaps by folks who happen to find themselves at the northern frontier of its expanding range at any particular time. In light of this species' inexorable progress northward, it remains a curious and little known fact that this species has been struggling for decades against a southeastern frontier in our Region. At places like Long Island's barrier beaches, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket, Tufted Titmouse remains a vagrant of the rarest kind, with a local frequency of occurrence (so far) on par with Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Lark Bunting! Its presence on Plum Island, a coastal site known to host species characteristic of the interior, such as the vulture and hawk noted above, is not shocking but is nevertheless quite interesting. We must remember to ask Joe DiCostanzo whether he's ever encountered titmice on Great Gull Island.

Non-breeding waterfowl were especially well reported this summer. Traditional sites, such as Jamaica Bay and Long Island's outer beaches, had their usual share of lingering loons, brant, and ducks, but detailed reports from the East River and Great Kills Park in Staten Island were especially interesting. The motley collection of both scaup, a Red-breasted Merganser, all three scoters, and a breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe at the latter site must have been quite an odd mid-summer spectacle!

A major incursion of Red-breasted Nuthatches beginning in mid June was the earliest in memory, if not ever. This phenomenon is also treated elsewhere in this issue. On Long Island, early pushes of this species have been correlated in the past with unusual mid-summer occurrences of pre-molt woodland breeders, such as Blackpoll Warbler and others, and with August incursions of “Myrtle” Warbler and Purple Finch a month or more ahead of their main fall flights. Prior summers in which we witnessed this phenomenon include 1997 and 1999, and our prediction that 2007 would conform to this pattern was substantiated. In terms of odd molt-migrants, a pre-molt Worm-eating Warbler banded at Fort Tilden on 10 July and a Blackpoll Warbler in unknown plumage state at Prospect Park on 1 August were the most unusual.

Once again, multiple non-breeding **Arctic Terns** were documented (Fig. H, p. 324). The status of this species as a regular summer visitor to the Region’s South Shore inlets can no longer be questioned. The preponderance of records from the Moriches Inlet flats over the last several years simply reflects the accessibility, and the concomitant high level of attention, currently associated with these sites. Similar runs of records were obtained from Fire Island Inlet in 1999 and 2000, when those flats were birded more intensively, and it seems very likely that the other inlets could produce their own records if inspected carefully by observers familiar with the non-breeding plumages of *Sterna* terns (e.g., as was the case at Mecox Inlet during the birding frenzy associated with 2004’s Bar-tailed Godwit). Having said this, we don’t mean to understate the identification challenges these birds pose, and we emphasize that photographic documentation is especially important for reports of this species. Both Laughing Gulls and Forster’s Terns were observed around Moriches Inlet, well east of their known breeding sites on Long Island, in larger than usual numbers for early summer. In both cases at least a few adults in immaculate breeding plumage were observed.

Every season in Region 10 brings impressive rarities, and this summer featured Eared Grebes at Jamaica Bay, Chris Robert’s **Magnificent Frigatebird** at Accabonac, a Black Vulture on the barrier beach, American Avocets at Cupsogue and Mecox, **Curlew Sandpipers** at Cupsogue (Fig. E, p. 323) and Jamaica Bay (Fig. F, p. 323), a **Sandwich Tern** at Breezy Point, Sy Schiff’s enigmatic junco, likely of western North American provenance, at Jones Beach on **15 July**, and Corey Finger’s **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Jones Beach. Even so, none of these can rival Alex Wilson’s discovery of New York’s first **Western Reef-Heron**, an event warranting its own article if ever there was one!

Special thanks are long overdue to the compilers and transcribers of the New York Rare Bird Alert (Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Karen Fung, Anthony J Lauro), to the compiler of the East End Report (Hugh McGuinness), to the Metro Birding Briefs btblue listserv host and reliable broadcaster of rare bird info (Lloyd Spitalnik), to the LI Birding web hosts (Dianne Taggart, Dee Rocanello, Karen Lannigan), to the list owners and hosts of the nysbirds, eBirdsNYC, and SINaturalList listservs, to the army of birders who call in or post their findings to these contacts and listservs, and not least of all, to those who send us their written or emailed reports every season. Without your tireless

dedication and enthusiasm, a comprehensive and meaningful report would not be possible.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we report the passing on 19 October of Al Ott, one of Long Island's and New York City's finest birders and a valiant environmental advocate. His forthrightness, his fortitude, his gentle manner and infectious smile will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Adamo, Deb Allen, Richard Aracil, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Willy & Gerry Becker, Gail Benson, Steve Biasetti, Shawn Billerman, Orhan Birol, Andrew Block, Shane Blodgett, Joe Borker, John Brush, Jr., John Brush Sr., Thomas W. Burke, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace, Matt Clements, Ed Crowne, George Dadone, Joe DiCostanzo, Ken & Sue Feustel, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Howard Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, John & Gerta Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Yolanda Garcia, Joe Giunta, John Gluth, Douglas Gochfeld; Juliette Goulet, Anthony Graves, Robert Grover, Andy Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Chris Hagen, Nick Hamblet, Helen Hayes, Alexander Helquist, Mike Higgiston, Brenda Inskip, Rob Jett, Dave Klauber, Jay Kuhlman, Robert J. Kurtz, Mary Laura Lamont, Tony Lance, Anthony J. Lauro, Ernie Lewis, Patricia J. Lindsay, Harry Maas, Bob May, Betsy McCully, Hugh McGuinness, Shai S. Mitra, Penny Moser, Kevin O'Leary, Todd Olsen, Al & Karin Ott, Pat Paladines, Jack Passie, Pat Pollack, Joan Quinlan, Glenn Quinn, Chris Roberts, Barbara Rubinstein, Karen Rubinstein, Rex & Birgit Stanford, Sy Schiff, John Shemilt, Lloyd Spitalnik, Joe Trezza, Joe Vigliotta, Mike Wasilco, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Edith & Robert Wilson.

ABBREVIATIONS

1S – 1st summer plumage; 2S – 2nd summer plumage; b – banded; bas – basic plumage; BP – Breezy Pt, QUEE; CCP – Cupsogue County P, SUFF; CLP – Clove Lakes P, RICH; CP – Central P, NEWY; dm – dark morph; DOP – Dreier-Offerman P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, EH – East Hampton, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GE – Grace Estate, EH, SUFF; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; HG – Hunters Garden, T Brookhaven, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE/KING; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End, NASS; LI – Long Island; lm – light morph; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; OP – Orient Pt, SUFF; PB – Pike's Beach, Westhampton, SUFF; s – singing; PI – Plum I, SUFF; PP – Prospect Park, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; Rt 51 BP – DEC Rt 51 Bikepath, Eastport SUFF;

Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock In, SUFF; SSNC – South Shore Nature Center, E. Islip SUFF; terr – on territory.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: summered GKP, Jam Bay & Shinn; L Montauk In SUFF 19 Jun (JP); 3 e side Shinn 5 Jul (PJL); DOP 19 Jul (DG); 3 BP 29 Jul (TF).

Am. Wigeon: Jam Bay 5 Jun.

Am. Black Duck: f w/ducklings CCP 8 Jul (SSM, PJL).

Blue-winged Teal: Massapequa Pres, NASS 1 Jun; Jam Bay 3 Jun; 5 Jam Bay 14 Jul (AG); CP 11 Aug, unus loc.

N. Shoveler: summered Jam Bay (e.g., 5 Jun & 27 Jul); Deep Hollow, Montauk SUFF 26 Aug (KR).

Greater Scaup: 2 summered GKP thru at least 21 Jul.

Lesser Scaup: Jam Bay 3 Jun; one summered GKP thru at least 21 Jul.

Com. Eider: 5 lingered at MP til 24 Jun (AnW); 13 (ad m, 12 subad m) PI 27 Jun (MLL).

Harlequin Duck: f MP 27 May (AnW).

Surf Scoter: summering birds inc 2 GKP thru at least 21 Jul & 2 PI 27 Jun (MLL).

White-winged Scoter: 2 MP until at least 24 Jun (AnW); imm m summered GKP.

Black Scoter: 77 MP until at least 24 Jun (AnW); ; PI 27 Jun (MLL); 4 summered GKP thru at least 21 Jul; f MB, f Sagg 24 Jul (AnW); 50 Ditch Plains, Montauk SUFF 4-5 Aug (VB).

Red-breasted Merganser: a few summered on the coast, as usual, inc one at GKP with several other unseasonal waterfowl.

Ruddy Duck: summered Jam Bay.

Ring-necked Pheasant: m DOP 12 Aug (DG); Flushing Airport QUEE 25, 26 Aug (GD).

Wild Turkey: f roaming streets in West Village, Manhattan 1 Jun.

N. Bobwhite: sev reports Rt 51 BP; Sebonac In SUFF 4 Jul (PJL); calling in good numbers at East Lake Dr, Montauk SUFF & Georgica Cove, EH, apparently released birds at the last site (fide CR).

Com. Loon: 2 Oak Beach SUFF 14 Jul; DOP 20 Jul; 2 MP 23 Jul, late.

Horned Grebe: alt summered GKP thru at least 21 Jul, very unusual.

Eared Grebe: 2 Jam Bay 17 Aug (PJL, SSM), ph; at least one thru.

N. Fulmar: 32 mi s of Shinn 27 May (JS ph); 12 seen 24 mi s of MP 15 Jun (JP);

injured bird recovered at an EH beach 25 Jul (P. Moser), feet appeared to have been damaged by monofilament line.

Cory's Shearwater: Shinn 3 Jun (PJL, SSM); 24 mi s of MP 15 Jun (JP); 3 CCP 16 Jun (PJL, et al.); CCP 28 Jul.

Greater Shearwater: 50 seen 24 mi s MP 15 Jun (JP); 2 CCP 16 Jun (PJL et al.); 17 mi se MP 14, 15 & 17 Jul (JP).

Sooty Shearwater: 1 mi e MP 26 May (JP); 16 MP 27 May (AnW); 36+ MP 28 May (JP); 4 Shinn & 3 PB 2 Jun (RGU et al; PJL, SSM); RMSP 5 Jun (KF); Shinn 8 Jun (S. Blodgett); 3 PB 10 Jun (PJL, SSM); Shinn 14 Jun (DK); 50 seen 24 mi s MP 15 Jun (JP); 2 MP 24 Jun (AnW).

Manx Shearwater: Shinn 2 Jun (PJL, SSM; RGU et al); 2 RMSP 5 Jun (KF); 3 PB 10 Jun (PJL, SSM); 24 mi s MP 15 Jun (JP); CCP 16 Jun (PJL et al.); dead, Main Beach EH 2 Jul (P. Paladines); 17 mi se MP 15 Jul (JP); CCP 28 Jul.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 50 seen 15-32 mi s Shinn 27 May (JS); 25 CCP 16 Jun (PJL et al.); 15 RMSP 17 Jun (PJL, JQ, J. Vigliotta).

N. Gannet: 25 RMSP 17 Jun; small numbers reported thru Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: 200 East River, Manhattan 12 Jun (BC), breeding loc; 30 prs PI nesting on boulders with eggs and chicks 27 Jun (MLL).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: imm Accabonac SUFF 26-27 Aug (CR finder; J&GF, HM, PJL, SSM!, JQ); Riverhead 27 Aug (P. Paladines), prob same bird.

Least Bittern: 2 Laurel Lake, Southold SUFF 18 Jun (JB Jr, JBSr), observers note that they saw 2 ads and 2 imms here in Aug 2006, indicating breeding; at least 1 Jam Bay thru; GKP 28 Aug (JT).

Great Egret: 12 Captree I SUFF 13 Jul (JGI), high number for loc.

Snowy Egret: 25 Captree I SUFF 13 Jul (JGI), high number for loc.

WESTERN REEF-HERON: Coney I Creek at DOP 8 Jul (Alex Wilson! ph, mob! ph); last KING report 13 Aug; last RICH report 24 Aug; first NY State record, pending review.

Tricolored Heron: Jam Bay and Goethels Bridge RICH, only locs reported.

Cattle Egret: Drake P, BRON sev dates Aug (GD).

BLACK VULTURE (R10): Ocean Parkway NASS-SUFF 18 Aug (JQ, J&GF, mob), rare in Reg.

Turkey Vulture: numerous reports 6 Jun-28 Aug, all from SUFF, except Jam Bay 19 Jun (DK); notable SUFF reports inc 2 PI 27 Jun; max 10 Fresh Pd, Calverton 18 Jul; and 4 Riverhead sod farm 29 Aug, feeding on carcass.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: imm Camp Hero, Montauk SUFF 24 Jun (VB); imm CP 3 Jul (BC); ad Montauk village 22 Jul (AnW); ad CP 14 Aug.

N. Harrier: fRt 51 fields, Eastport SUFF 16 Jun (H. Maas), former breeding area.

Cooper's Hawk: Shelter I SUFF 16 Jun (O. Birol) & 11 Jul (N. Hamblet); Springs Park EH 21 Jul (KR); Eastport SUFF 6 Aug (SSM); CP 31 Aug (R. Aracil).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Napeague SUFF 6 Jun (S. Biasetti); 3 E Lake Dr Montauk SUFF 23 Jun & 28 Aug (VB); 2 Camp Hero, Montauk SUFF 24 Jun, may have bred here; imm PI 27 Jun (MLL), in freshwater swamp, birds seen in same area last season and last summer indicate prob breeding here.

Broad-winged Hawk: first 2 CP 18 Aug (TF); juv Jam Bay 31 Aug (SSM, PJJ), rare on LI South Shore.

Red-tailed Hawk: "Pale Male", CP's famous bird, still present and active since 1991.

Am. Kestrel: Grumman 19 Jun (JGi), this LI grassland breeding loc is slated for development.

Merlin: first FBF 24 Aug.

Sora: Jam Bay West Pd 14 Jul (S. Billerman et al); Jam Bay West Pd 19 Aug; Jam Bay East Pd 23 Aug thru (P. Pollack, mob).

Com. Moorhen: Jam Bay East Pd 3 Jun; ad Jam Bay West Pd 15 Jun (TF).

Black-bellied Plover: max summering 55 CCP 30 Jun (SSM).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 ads Riverhead sod fields 19 Aug (R&BS).

Semipalmated Plover: 10 JBWE 5 Jun, northbound.

Piping Plover: 40 (inc 8 very young) BP 15 Jun (TF), large number for one area.

Killdeer: max 45 Riverhead sod farm SUFF 23 Aug (SA).

Am. Avocet: 2 CCP 17 Jun (A. Baldelli); MB 26-29 Aug (W & G Becker).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 200 Jam Bay 31 Jul (TF).

"Eastern" Willet: 60 ads CCP 30 Jun (SSM), first post-breeding concentration noted; 85 Oak Beach SUFF 26 Jul (J&GF).

"Western" Willet: 1S CCP 2 Jun & later (mob, ph); 4 1S CCP 30 Jun (SSM); 3 CCP 19 Jul (SSM), inc 2 alt ads; 18 JBWE 19 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: "quite a few" breeding Flushing airport QUEE (GD), notable as Regional breeding has greatly diminished.

Upland Sandpiper: Gabreski Airport, Westhampton SUFF 3 Jul (Bob May) & 2 there 31 Aug (M. Higgiston), only reports.

Whimbrel: many reports of 1-2 inds 15 July thru; 8 Dune Rd w of Ponquogue SUFF 28 Jul; 13 Cedar Pt, Southold SUFF 5 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: Jam Bay 29 Aug (J. Borker), joined by a second 30-31 Aug (mob).

Marbled Godwit: CCP 5-12 Aug (K&SF, mob); Jam Bay 19 Aug; Shinn 21 Aug (SA).

Ruddy Turnstone: 4 summered CCP.

Red Knot: 150 still present CCP early Jun (R. Grover); 150 Dune Rd between Shinn & PB 8 Jun (S. Blodgett); 30 summered CCP; 85 JBWE 6 Aug (J&GF), southbound.

Sanderling: 1000 PB 2 Jun, northbound; max southbound 800+ MB 23 Jul (AnW).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 150 JBWE 5 Jun (SS), northbound; 400 MB 25 Jul (AnW); max 2,500 Jam Bay 2 Aug.

Western Sandpiper: CCP 30 Jun thru (SSM! ph, mob), winter aspect; earliest southbound MB 23 Jul (AnW) & Jam Bay 27 Jul (PJJ, SSM).

Least Sandpiper: 300 MB 24 Jul (AnW); max 1000+ Jam Bay 31 Jul (TF); first juvs Jam Bay 2 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 7 JBWE 5 Jun (SS), northbound; max southbound 25 Jam Bay 30 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr FBF 23 Aug (P. Pollack).

Pectoral Sandpiper: southbound arr Jam Bay and 2 Goethals Bridge Pd RICH 14 Jul.

Dunlin: max summering 5 CCP 30 Jun (PJJ, SSM).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: CCP 30 Jun-1 Jul (PJJ, SSM ph, mob); Jam Bay 21-28 Jul (PJJ ph, mob); distinct inds.

Stilt Sandpiper: southbound arr Jam Bay 2nd week Jul; max 30 Jam Bay 31 Jul; 2 MB 23 Jul (AnW).

hybrid Calidris: PB 2-3 Jun (TWB, GB, AG, et al.), prob White-rumped x Dunlin; ph at <http://picasaweb.google.com/tixbirdz/>.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: ad RMSP 10-13 Aug (P JL, SSM! ph, mob); ad JBWE 12 Aug (TWB, GB ph, AG, mob), ads very unusual; max 6 juvs JBWE 28 Aug (SS).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 50 CCP 2 Jun, many were bas (SSM); max 2,500 Jam Bay 2 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Jam Bay 27 Jul (P JL, SSM).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Jam Bay 1 Aug (RA, mob), incr to 4 on 30 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: Jam Bay 30 Aug.

Laughing Gull: alt West Inlet I (MI), SUFF 1 Jun (A. Graves); 74 CCP 16 Jun, many for e LI so early.

Little Gull: 1S CCP 15 Jul (AG, AnW), Sagg 23 Jul, & MB 24-25 Jul (AnW), prob same bird.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad CCP 2 Jun; 1S CCP 19 Jul (AG, *et al*).

Gull-billed Tern: JBWE 3 Jun; 4 Jam Bay 5 Jun; 3 Captree I SUFF 13 Jul (JGI); 2 ads Jam Bay 9 Aug; all trad sites.

Caspian Tern: Jam Bay 2 Aug (P JL, SSM); 3 Jam Bay 4-5 Aug (DF; RJK); Jam Bay 19 Aug.

Royal Tern: 1-2 reported intermittently from PB & CCP 2 Jun-5 Aug, then numbers inc to max 40 PB 12 Aug; MB 5 Jun (JS); 3 Seatuck Creek SUFF 21-23 Aug, family group (SA).

SANDWICH TERN: BP 15 Jul (A. Helquist, ph).

Roseate Tern: max 200 MP 24 Jun (AnW); also reported DP, CCP, Shinn, OP; most breeders and roosting migrs left Great Gull I SUFF en masse night of 21 Aug (Helen Hayes fide JDI).

Com. Tern: large numbers reported from south shore inlets thru, e.g., 1000 MP 23-24 Jun (AnW) & "thousands" BP 29 Jul (TF).

ARCTIC TERN: 1S CCP 10 Jun (P JL, SSM ph); two 1S CCP 16 Jun (KO'L, SSM ph), both distinct from bird of 10 Jun; 2S CCP 17 Jun (TWB, GB, AG, RGu, mob ph); *intro*.

Forster's Tern: early season records e of main breeding areas inc 1S CCP 10 Jun thru & 5 ads CCP 17 Jun (SSM).

Least Tern: 200 Lido Beach NASS at breeding colony 2 Jul (SS).

Black Tern: modest numbers e LI thru, inc: 6 MP 23 Jun (AnW); 5 CCP 15 Jul (AG, AnW); 7 CCP 29 Jul (P JL); others inc: GKP 17 Aug (C. Hagen); max 17 JBWE 27 Aug (B. Fogarty).

Black Skimmer: 1-2 visited CP 8-18 Jun (BC, mob), unus loc; 15 MB 1 Jun (VB);

400-500 Nickerson Beach NASS 16 Jul, breeding loc (SS).

Parasitic Jaeger: 3 inc one dm CCP 16 Jun (TWB, GB, AG, mob); lm MI 17 Jun (P JL, SSM; DK); 2 sub ads Amagansett SUFF 17 Jun (AnW); Shinn 29 Jul; lm off Fire Is SUFF 5 Aug (JGI); dm RMSP 12 Aug (TWB, GB, AG); JBWE 30 Aug (KF).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: newly reported nesting site in Lindenhurst SUFF (fide JQ).

Com. Nighthawk: small numbers reported widely mid Aug thru; max 22 Stillwell Woods Pres, Syosset NASS 25 Aug (G. Quinn).

Chuck-will's-widow: 2-3 Westhampton SUFF pine barrens, only loc reported.

Whip-poor-will: 8-10 Westhampton SUFF pine barrens, only loc reported.

Chimney Swift: few reports, mostly negative; *intro*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 8 CLP 22 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: ad Calverton SUFF late Jun-mid Jul (M. Clements, mob), trad site.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: PP 19 Aug; CP 25 Aug, 29-30 Aug.

E. Wood-Pewee: first migr CP 15 Aug (TF).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CP 18 Aug; PP 19 Aug (HF).

Acadian Flycatcher: breeding proven or strongly indicated at an unprecedented number of sites: Staten I, Jam Bay, PP, HG, GE; *intro*.

Least Flycatcher: arr CP 18 Aug.

E. Phoebe: 2 MLUA 26 Aug (HF), prob breeders.

Blue-headed Vireo: CP 7 Jun, very unusual date.

Yellow-throated Vireo: s SSNC 6 Jun (SSM); s GE 23 Jun (P JL), poss breeders.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr CP 19 Aug.

Horned Lark: Grumman 19 Jun (JGI).

Purple Martin: southbound migrs CP 2nd week Aug.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: apparently nesting again in the brown bear exhibit of Bronx Zoo (T. Olsen).

Bank Swallow: ads excavating nest holes in low sand bluffs CCP 17 Jun (SSM, P JL, ph), unus breeder on barrier beach.

Cliff Swallow: RMSP 21 Jul (DK et al.); 2 RMSP 15 Aug (SSM, PJJ), unus migr on barrier beach.
Tufted Titmouse: PI 27 Jun (MLL), *intro*.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: very early and large irruption from mid Jun; *intro*.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: southbound migrs CP 15 Aug.
E. Bluebird: Grumman 19 Jun (JGi), breeding loc slated for development.
Swainson's Thrush: singing CP 17-19 Jun (TF), getting late; CP 15 Aug, early.
Hermit Thrush: singing CP 17 Jun, late.
Gray Catbird: K&S Feustel note a decrease in numbers from previous breeding seasons at a few Reg locs.
Cedar Waxwing: widely and frequently reported this period.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: f CP 15-17 Aug (TF, B. Inskeep), uncommon migr in Reg, only report.
Tennessee Warbler: arr CP 19 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: arr Jam Bay 18 Aug.
N. Parula: s m Lion Head Beach, Springs EH 2-17 Jun (H. Maas), potential breeder.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: becoming increasingly scarce as a breeder on south fork of LI.
Magnolia Warbler: West Islip yard, SUFF 9 Jun, getting late (R. Grover); arr CP 18 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr CP 15 Aug, then well reported thru.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Jam Bay 1 Aug (KF), very early; PP 18 Aug, early; *intro*.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr CP 1 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr PP 1 Aug, early.
Cerulean Warbler: no reports.
Prothonotary Warbler: Sag Harbor SUFF 5 Jun (R. Wilson); bred GE: m 26 May (PJJ, SSM); m carrying food 18 Jun & feeding a fledgling 30 Jun (JGi, B. McCully); *intro*.
Worm-eating Warbler: HG thru at least 14 Jun, potential breeder; ad b FT 10 Jul (J. Goulet, SSM), had not yet started fall molt; *intro*.
N. Waterthrush: CP 17-25 Jun, non-breeder?

Louisiana Waterthrush: HG 2 Jun, potential breeder.
Kentucky Warbler: s PP 11 Jun (E. Crowne).
Mourning Warbler: arr Jam Bay 14 Aug (K&SF).
Hooded Warbler: s persistently n BRON 8 Jun (Y. Garcia); s PP 11 Jun (E. Crowne).
Wilson's Warbler: CP 11 Jun, getting late; arr CP 18 Aug.
Canada Warbler: s CP 18 Jun.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Rt 51 BP thru at least 14 Jun; CP 25 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: m HG 2 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: no reports.
Lark Sparrow: CP 26 Aug (D. Allen, T. Lance).
Grasshopper Sparrow: 20 inc FLS Walking Dunes, Napeague SUFF 21 Jul (KR); small numbers of breeding birds hanging on at Grumman and Rt 51 BP.
White-throated Sparrow: CP thru at least 15 Jun, very unusual date; Shelter I SUFF 11-12 Jul (NH), apparent head injury could explain very late date.
Dark-eyed Junco: JBWE 15 Jul (SS ph), extraordinary date; plumage suggested possible w race or hybrid.
Blue Grosbeak: imm m Springs, EH 2-3 Jun (KR, BR); Rt 51 BP thru at least 14 Jun; 1S m terr Grumman 3 & 10 Jun (PJJ, SSM).
Bobolink: f DOP 12 Jul (A. Block), first southbound report.
E. Meadowlark: breeding near Grumman, only loc reported.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: JBWE 5 Jul-18 Aug (C. Finger! ph, mob ph).
Purple Finch: arr MLUA 26 Aug (HF), *intro*.

FROM SPRING

RUFFED GROUSE (R10): bird flushed near intersection of Pleasure Dr and Rt. 104, E. Quogue SUFF 20 May (J. Kuhlman), first sighting in many years, details desired.
Fish Crow: 150 Stony Brook 24 May (DF), many for date.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

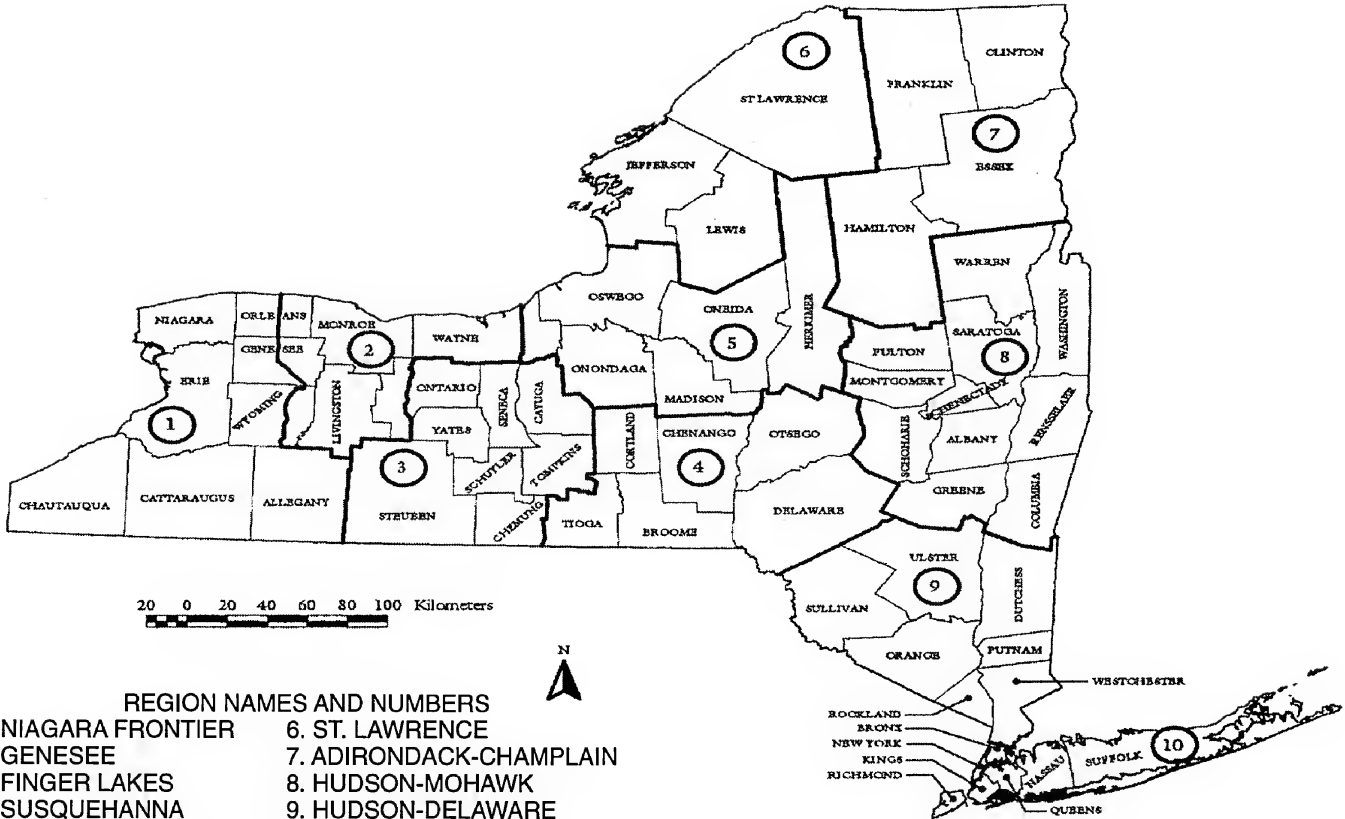
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



REGION NAMES AND NUMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. NIAGARA FRONTIER | 6. ST. LAWRENCE |
| 2. GENESEE | 7. ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN |
| 3. FINGER LAKES | 8. HUDSON-MOHAWK |
| 4. SUSQUEHANNA | 9. HUDSON-DELAWARE |
| 5. ONEIDA LAKE BASIN | 10. MARINE |

Editor of *THE KINGBIRD*

Shaibal S. Mitra
Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS*

Tim Baird—242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

Appointed Committees

Archives:

Phyllis R. Jones, Chair—9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy, NY 12770

Awards:

Andrew Mason, 1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093

Conservation:

Gail Kirch—1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

John Confer—651 Hammond Hill Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817

Finance:

Berna B. Lincoln, Chair—P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

John J. Elliott Memorial:

Shaibal S. Mitra—Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

New York State Avian Records:

Angus Wilson, Chair

Send reports to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

Publications:

Emanuel Levine, Chair—585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY
11550

Waterfowl Count:

Bryan L. Swift
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

Web Site:

Carena Pooth—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

Elected Committees

Nominating:

Bill Cook, Tom Sarro, Kathy Schneider (Chair)

Auditing:

Irving Cantor (Chair), Peter Capainolo, Isaac Grant

The Kingbird

Publication of NYS Ornithological Assoc., Inc.

P.O. Box 95

Durhamville, NY 13054

Change Service Requested

DO NOT FOLD

PRESORTED STANDARD
NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
PERMIT NO. 583