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Front Cover – This Eastern Kingbird was photographed at Pt. Lookout, Nassau County, Long Island, on 28 Aug 2011, during Tropical Storm *Irene*. © Corey Finger.

Back Cover – This Sooty Tern was photographed at Jones Beach, Nassau County, Long Island, on 28 Aug 2011, during Tropical Storm *Irene*. © Patricia Lindsay.

A CONFIRMED BREEDING RECORD OF LEAST BITTERN ON LONG ISLAND

John L. Turner

10 Clark Boulevard, Massapequa Park, NY 11762
redknot2@verizon.net

The Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), the smallest North American heron, is a widespread yet local breeder in New York State due to its dependence on extensively vegetated wetlands. Denser breeding concentrations in New York are found in suitable freshwater marsh habitat in the Great Lakes Plain and Hudson River Valley regions, and specifically in the extensive wetlands of both the Montezuma and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuges. As detailed below, the Least Bittern has been historically reported as a local and uncommon breeder on Long Island with a long line of observations, spanning nearly 170 years.

J. P. Giraud, Jr. states in his 1844 classic *Birds of Long Island*: “It feeds chiefly at night, and is seldom seen flying during the day—and, like many other species that take shelter among the rank grass and rushes which grow on the wet, miry grounds, it is not as scarce with us as is by many supposed.” This comment reflects an often-made observation about the Least Bittern: its secretive nature, coupled with its use of dense, inaccessible wetland habitats makes it hard to detect and observe, probably resulting in an underreporting of the species.

Commenting on the species’ distribution on Long Island, Eaton (1907) had this to say: “The Least Bittern is locally common as a summer resident in the marshes of Long Island, the Hudson valley and the region of Lakes Erie, Ontario, and the central chain.” Griscom (1923) noted: “Formerly a very local summer resident, but locally common. All the breeding stations near New York City now destroyed. Probably breeds on Jones Beach. Casual elsewhere.” Additionally, Cruickshank (1942) reported at least six breeding stations on Long Island and reported “Until very recent years the bird bred in small colonies in Bronx, Kings, Queens, and Nassau Counties, and a few pair still hang on there. At present it is a rare local summer resident and transient in the New York City region.”

Regarding more recent accounts about the Least Bittern’s abundance and distribution on Long Island, Bull (1974) states: Least Bitterns may be found in many of the marshes in the southern and western parts of the state, especially where cattails occur, and are also noted in grassy marshes inland and in the brackish meadows along the coast of Long Island. At least six breeding pairs were present at the Jamaica Bay Refuge in 1960.” Nearly 25 years later, in *Bull’s Birds of New York State*, Stoner (1998) states: “Consistent with historical record, its stronghold is still the lower Hudson Valley, the Coastal Lowlands, and the Great Lakes Plain.”

These generalized accounts about the Least Bittern's distribution and status in New York State and on Long Island lack specificity, an issue addressed by the first New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, covering the period from 1980-1985. In this Atlas two breeding blocks were reported in which Least Bittern was confirmed as a breeding bird on Long Island—Jamaica Bay and the Lattingtown area of northern Nassau County.

In contrast, the second New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, which covered the period from 2000-2005, had no census blocks with confirmed breeding of Least Bitterns on Long Island. Least Bitterns were detected in a total of 129 blocks and it was confirmed as a breeder in fourteen of them, notably in the regions mentioned above. Three blocks on Long Island reported bitterns: one block with possible breeding and two others with probable breeding.

On July 17, 2011 I observed a male Least Bittern flying north over a small pond in the Massapequa Preserve. Several minutes later the same bird flew south, landing along the edge of a stand of *Phragmites* close to where it had first departed from. Posting this sighting to the NYS Birding List Serve led many other birders to visit the site, and on July 20th David Speiser and Henry Maas observed a recently fledged bittern being fed by a parent. Based on the lack of any reported observations confirming breeding activities since the first NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, this sighting was the first confirmed breeding record on Long Island for this species in at least 26 years. I visited the site on July 24th with Dave Klauber and we each simultaneously observed four juvenile bitterns. The male was reported on numerous occasions (having been seen by the author on five different visits) but the female has never been reported. A photo of one of the juveniles is reproduced on page 334.

The breeding habitat used by the bitterns is a small, two-acre, oval pond in the preserve located approximately 3,000 feet north of Clark Boulevard (see photo, page 334). The pond, connected to the Massapequa Creek which flows along its western edge, is ringed with wetland vegetation dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites communis*) with a small patch of Broad-leaved Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) in the southwestern section. The *Phragmites* is more extensive on the western side of the pond. A number of wetland wildflower species are interspersed among this vegetation including swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus palustris*) and Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*). Woody plants such as Willow (*Salix* spp.) and Red Maple ring sections of the outer edges of the pond.

Surrounded by medium- to high-density residential development, the Massapequa Preserve is a 412 acre Nassau County-owned preserve situated in the southeastern corner of Nassau County. Massapequa Creek, one of the longer streams found along Nassau County's south shore, runs through the preserve which incorporates a fraction of the creek's watershed. The vegetation within the preserve varies, ranging from patches of pitch pine-oak forests in the higher elevations with Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) swamps in the lower lying areas. In more open areas, such as along the edges of numerous waterbodies and the margins of a recreational bike path, numerous grass and wildflower species occur.

The characteristics and landscape setting of the Preserve, i.e., its narrowness and the built-up nature of its surrounding environment, along with the small size of the pond, indicates the Least Bittern will use relatively small, fragmented wetlands situated in suburban settings for breeding/nesting. This may bode well for the continued existence of the species in New York if, in addition to breeding in larger more extensive wetlands, it also uses smaller, less contiguous habitats, as these landscape conditions are likely to become more prevalent as natural habitats continue to be converted to other land uses such as residential and commercial development.

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TROPICAL STORM *IRENE* IN NEW YORK STATE

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314
shaibal.mitra@csi.cuny.edu

“Pick at random an American bird of the sea or beach that summers regularly in the subtropical regions of the North Atlantic. Now scan the [last] three regional accounts in this magazine, those for [eastern New York State]. The chances are 2 to 1 [or greater] that you will find your bird listed there. Did you select Magnificent Frigatebird perhaps? One visited [Columbia County]... White-tailed Tropicbird? [Six were recorded from Rensselaer County to eastern Long Island.] ... The Brown Pelican? [At least 7 were found on Long Island during and immediately after the storm.]”

--R. J. Newman and R. F. Andrie, *The Changing Seasons: A Summary of Bird Events in the Autumn of “Donna”* Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 15, p. 4.

Tropical Storm *Irene* will be remembered as perhaps the most ornithologically interesting—and certainly the most thoroughly observed and documented—cyclone ever recorded in New York. The quote cited above pertains to Hurricane *Donna*, which struck Long Island on 12 September 1960. The portions in brackets have been tailored to express *Irene*'s remarkably similar consequences. Because *Irene*'s eye traveled almost entirely over water (just clipping the Outer Banks, then passing rapidly over easternmost New Jersey at night), and because her center of circulation made landfall on Long Island almost as far west as possible, her track was near-perfect for driving tropical-pelagic and Gulf Stream species ashore here. Furthermore, it was evident as early as mid-day on Friday, 26 August that her intensity would weaken considerably just prior to landfall, reducing safety concerns (if not coastal access issues) for bird students. Compared to their predecessors in 1960, the cadre of birders who greeted *Irene* were more numerous, better informed of the storm's immediate meteorological and ornithological history, and infinitely better connected with one another via cell phones.

Irene's avian fall-out was striking in terms of its volume, diversity, and geographical breadth. Determined observers managed to sample a very large variety of sites, from the Hudson and East Rivers, the Verrazano Narrows, Brooklyn's near-coast, the Jones Beach strip, most of the South Fork of Long Island, southwestern Long Island Sound in Westchester County and the Bronx, and several sites on Long Island's North Shore. Without exception, all of these sites yielded multiple extraordinary, once in a generation, records. There was one very large and conspicuous gap in coverage, however, involving the perennially highly productive mid-section of Long Island's oceanfront,

including Fire Island, Moriches, and Shinnecock Inlets. Access to these sites was almost completely precluded, and an unknown number and variety of birds certainly went unseen there.

Within the very large list of species recorded during *Irene*, several striking patterns were evident. First, the volume and proportion of tropical-pelagic and Gulf Stream species were unprecedented. Reports of Bridled Tern (28+), White-tailed Tropicbird (6+), South Polar Skua (3 reports of 4 birds), Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (2+), and Black-capped Petrel (1) all equaled or exceeded those of any prior storm in New York. Robust tallies of 36+ Sooty Terns and 21+ Leach's Storm-Petrels, as well as single reports of Audubon's Shearwater (from the Bronx!) and Magnificent Frigatebird (from Columbia County!), were also consistent with this pattern. The most wayward White-tailed Tropicbird was one picked up along a road in Rensselaer County; Sooty and Bridled Terns were seen in western Long Island Sound, and five of the former and one of the latter pushed as far up the Hudson River as Croton Pt. and Tarrytown, respectively.

It must be noted that all of these deep-water species present identification challenges, particularly the *Onychoprion* terns, skuas, and storm-petrels. It appears, for instance, that some Bridled Terns might have been mistaken for Sooties, because the proportion of Sooty to Bridled was fairly low among birds that were photographed but increased noticeably among reports of distant *Onychoprion* that couldn't be photographed. Nevertheless, it is very reassuring that photos or written documentation were obtained for at least some examples of each of these highly significant species, and furthermore, that every one of these species (except possibly the shearwater) was also photographed in nearby states during the storm.

With the exception of a corpse or two found later, the entirety of this Gulf Stream cohort was observed on 28 August, with none lingering even through the following morning for observers pursuing the previous day's stunning reports. Thus, in comparing *Irene's* conspicuous bounty of Gulf Stream birds to the lesser yields of prior storms, one must consider the likely possibility that much of the apparent discrepancy is attributable to *Irene's* lesser intensity at landfall, which resulted in much greater safety, comfort, and prior knowledge of likely conditions for observers this time around, compared to during similar storms of the past. Four historical examples support this point. The over-water track of the Great Hurricane of 21 September 1938 was similar (but more easterly) to *Irene's*, but this storm struck Long Island and southern New England with unique ferocity, nearly eradicating all man-made structures on the outer beaches of eastern Long Island and Rhode Island. Not only was it impossible to look for birds during this storm, it was impossible to safely reach the coast for days afterward in many areas. Of the few vagrants reported after this storm were five White-tailed Tropicbirds (four dead) on Long Island and a Sooty Tern inland at Manorville, Suffolk County.

Hurricane *Donna* (12-13 September 1960) also followed a track similar to *Irene's*, except that she crossed a long swath of peninsular Florida early in her journey, and she struck Long Island at hurricane-strength. Interestingly, roughly half of the tropical strays associated with *Donna* in the Mid-Atlantic and

Northeast states were seen the day after the storm's passage—in stark contrast to the near-absence of such records following *Irene*. This disparity suggests that a larger proportion of *Donna's* pelagic birds went undetected on the day she struck, probably because the smaller number of observers faced more severe conditions. Yet another example of this sort is furnished by Hurricane *Bob* of 19 August 1991, which produced a variety of records of Gulf Stream birds, some persisting for at least a day.

Another useful, but contrasting, comparison was provided by *David*, on 6 September 1979, which followed a course that differed greatly from all the storms just mentioned. *David* made landfall in Georgia and weakened greatly as he proceeded northward through Pennsylvania and upstate New York. Winds along the Long Island/southern New England coast were reportedly in the 30-40 mph range (R. L. Feiren, in litt.), but these fringing winds brought to our shores an assemblage of Gulf Stream species that rivaled *Irene's*: a larger number of Sooty but a smaller number of Bridled Terns; a Brown Noddy in Rhode Island; etc. Importantly, the most noteworthy tropical-pelagic species were recorded during the storm's passage, with almost none persisting after this locally very weak storm.

Another pattern in *Irene's* records, this one in stark contrast to that of the deep-water species discussed above, concerns our most abundant temperate-pelagic species, which were clearly under-represented. This category includes species such as Great, Cory's, and Manx Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and Northern Gannet, all of which were present in numbers over Long Island's near-shore ocean waters prior to the storm, and several of which were recorded again considerably after the storm. Most of these species were reported as scattered singletons or not at all. A fair number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were displaced to some very unusual sites, such as the Hudson River as far north as Sleepy Hollow, Westchester County, and two sites on the northwestern shore of Long Island Sound, but overall numbers were modest, and the species was almost absent along most of the ocean-front.

The paucity of these bread and butter species, in contrast to exceptional numbers of locally highly unusual species (notably Sooty and Bridled Terns and Leach's Storm-Petrel), is not unique to *Irene* but is rather an enduring enigma of tropical cyclones in our region. One often-heard argument is that Wilson's Storm-Petrels are recorded ashore and inland so infrequently because they have left our shelf waters prior to the fall hurricane season. This view is supported to some extent by data from Hurricane *Belle*, which struck Long Island on the relatively early date of 10 August 1976. *Belle* originated north of the Bahamas (much farther north and west than *Irene*), traveled entirely over water before making landfall near Jones Beach, and produced unusual birds mostly in a relatively small area east of the landfall, specifically the area between Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets (A. J. Lauro, *The Kingbird* 26: 184-189). *Belle* yielded just one Sandwich Tern, one Bridled Tern, and no Sooty Terns, but she produced 15 Cory's Shearwaters in Shinnecock Bay and 100+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Smith Point County Park, just west of Moriches Inlet.

In contrast, almost all of the Wilson's Storm-Petrels observed in New York during *Irene* were recorded near the storm's center or to its west, with only a scant few to the east, along the ocean coast. Why so few were recorded there is difficult to say, but this is the rule rather than the exception for Long Island's tropical cyclones. In the case of *Irene*, it is highly implausible that our common summer pelagic species had already left the region by late August, especially given the reappearance of small numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels along the ocean coast two weeks later and the presence of large numbers of Great Shearwaters inshore through November. Perhaps our local seabirds are often able to dodge hurricanes, much as ships do, by knowing the regional land- and seascapes and by sensing a storm's approach and shifting eastward more rapidly than the wind field advances.

Another pattern concerns the coastal southern species so prominent following many mid-late 20th Century storms. This cohort showed little indication of significant transport into the region, and it was difficult to discern any increase in numbers of Royal Tern, Black Skimmer, and American Oystercatcher, especially in areas where these species were already most numerous before the storm. Away from the outer coast, however, observers recorded decidedly large numbers of several maritime species, and, at the very least, there were major displacements of Laughing Gulls up the Hudson River, single Royal and Least Terns as far up the Hudson River as Piermont Pier, Rockland County, and a Piping Plover to an Eastport sod field, well north of Sunrise Highway, Suffolk County. Among the records most difficult to characterize are a Black-necked Stilt at Sleepy Hollow, an American Avocet at Jones Inlet, and several Marbled Godwits at non-traditional sites on Long Island. Although surely influenced individually by *Irene*, these birds might just as easily have been present nearby prior to the storm as swept northward from the Outer Banks or Delmarva. Overall, it would seem that a large proportion of records for this cohort pertain to birds already present in our area before the storm struck, but evidence that at least some were transported from afar is furnished by the impressive showings made by Sandwich Tern (25+) and Brown Pelican (7), two coastal-southern species whose normal distributions have not yet extended northward to include New York.

We can state categorically, however, that *Irene* did not displace the "Hatteras cohort" on any scale comparable to many storms of the last century. Consider that Hurricanes *Carol* and *Edna* (31 August & 11 September 1954) brought to Long Island seven American Oystercatchers, seven Wilson's Plovers, two Gull-billed Terns, and 60 Royal Terns at a time when all were very rare birds here (and furthermore yielded our first-ever records of Boat-tailed Grackle). And note that *Donna* produced an abundance of coastal-southern species that was almost inconceivable in 1960: 28 Gull-billed, nine Sandwich, 300 Royal, and 400 Caspian Terns, and 1200 Black Skimmers!

As noted above, *Irene's* impacts were extraordinarily large and broad and included a very large proportion of the species known to be affected by storms at this season. For example, shorebirds that undertake long trans-oceanic flights were well represented. In this category, 10 Hudsonian Godwits at Floyd Bennett

Field, Brooklyn and several large and widely distributed flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes were certainly the most noteworthy consequences of this storm. A smattering of American Golden-Plovers, Whimbrels, and Buff-breasted and Pectoral Sandpipers were obviously storm-related, but less unusual in an historical context.

It must be remembered that our salt marshes were completely submerged, and that all sorts of coastal species were forced into compromising circumstances during the height of the storm. Birders driving Ocean Parkway on Sunday morning had to take great care not to crush the many shorebirds forced up onto the roadsides and even the roadway itself. A striking illustration of local displacement was furnished by a Nassau County rehabilitator who received 17 Clapper Rails into care, mostly rescued from people's yards. On the other hand, vast numbers of shorebirds surely went undetected because of the complete lack of access to Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets. On the whole, however, the balance of shorebird records at hand doesn't stand out markedly against ordinary expectations for the date—especially in comparison to the records of deep-water pelagic species.

All three jaeger species were recorded during the storm, but in small numbers for Parasitic and just two each of the two rarer species. Three Arctic Terns were reported (but not photographed), and there were no reports of Sabine's Gull in the state. No discussion of storm influences on coastal birds during late summer would be complete without consideration of Black Tern and Lesser Black-backed Gull. These species are particularly enigmatic because their spikes in apparent abundance can occur variously before, during, or after a storm. During *Irene*, small numbers of Black Terns were found in all sorts of unusual settings, such as one seen at the height of the morning's southeasterly winds being blown forcibly backwards, bill pointing resolutely seaward, across Fire Island Inlet and over the Oak Beach thickets, and others resting on inland turf fields. Most extraordinary was a flock of 300-400 at West Meadow Beach, Stony Brook—a North Shore setting lacking prior records on this scale. On the other hand, counts from traditional staging areas on eastern Long Island seemed within normal bounds before, during and immediately after the storm—then gradually rose to record levels weeks later! In the case of Lesser Black-backed Gull, storm impacts were even more difficult to detect. Small numbers of immatures were seen at sites near where larger numbers were known to have summered, and the season's first arriving adults were detected during and immediately after *Irene*. In both cases, it is easier to construe these birds as somehow managing to be precisely where they wanted to be, rather than as being displaced by the storm.

As might be expected, landbirds were extremely inconspicuous during the storm. A number of observers reported seeing and hearing Bobolinks during the storm, and a number of Common Nighthawks were seen at odd sites by day during the afternoon of 28 August. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Montauk the day after the storm was conceivably a storm bird, but it is difficult to imagine any connection between the storm and a subsequent report of a Great Kiskadee along the Hudson River in Manhattan! Although that bird's provenance is highly

dubious, a number of southeastern landbird species were recorded in New York during the fall, and it will be a challenge to infer the connections, if any, between these records and Tropical Storm *Irene*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the many observers who contributed reports. I'm especially grateful to P. A. Buckley and Doug Gochfeld for sharing their thoughts about *Irene* in particular and New York's long history of storm birds more generally.



The track of Hurricane *Irene*, August 2011.

Public domain; accessed from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Irene_2011_track.png

**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC. 64TH ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NEW YORK,
24 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The 64th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc (NYSOA), hosted by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, was held at the Circle Lodge on Sylvan Lake, Hopewell Junction, NY on September 24, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed 33 delegates from 22 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Barbara Butler made a motion to approve the October 23, 2010 Annual Meeting minutes as published on the NYSOA website. Bill Reeves seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

President's Report by Carena Pooth:

As my second term draws to a close, I'd like to thank NYSOA and the Council of Delegates for allowing me to serve the organization as President—it has meant a lot to me.

NYSOA continues to be a recognized leader among ornithological societies across the United States. Membership numbers are up 5% after dropping steadily for eight years and then finally leveling off last year. However, we still face an uphill climb, not only because of the extended economic downturn—but even more because of the growing number and variety of free internet-based communities and resources that compete for the time and attention of New York State birders. Hand in hand with that, today's birders, like everyone else, seek instant gratification in the form of immediate availability and dissemination of information. No one wants to wait.

Before we get into the various reports today, I'd like to talk about the ways that NYSOA has kept itself not only viable but vibrant as we've been transitioning into this new era.

Like any other organization wanting to survive in today's world, we have had to embrace change rather than fight it. NYSOA demonstrated its willingness to do this long before I became president. More than 10 years ago, the first NYSOA website was launched. Today we know that the internet has become the medium of choice for most younger birders (as well as many older ones). At the same time, NYSOA continues to promote and celebrate face-to-face communications and offline communities such as local bird clubs, and real live gatherings of real live people—that's why we continue to run special projects like the Atlas and the young birders club, and why we've brought the field trips program back to life. We are also very careful not to abandon those who simply don't like using computers (and I know some 20-somethings in that category!).

But technology has been a key element of NYSOA's position and stature in recent years. NYSARC was one of the first avian records committees to offer online report submission capability, way back in 2003, and even today, many

similar organizations do not offer this. On the NYSOA website, anyone can browse a database listing all sightings ever reported to NYSARC, with details on location and date for each. In addition, all NYSARC annual reports have been available online for many years.

NYSOA's paper publications have not only maintained a very high standard of quality but also have started going electronic. The searchable online archive of *The Kingbird*, launched last year, is a tremendous and heavily used resource for ornithologists, students, and birders.

This summer we got the County Listing project back on track, allowing report submission either by paper form, as in the past, or via an online form. Automated data collection will enable us to include the 2010 County List report in this October's newsletter, less than two months after the submission deadline.

NYSOA is also making greater use of technology to improve its own operations. Teleconferencing was established several years ago as an option for board meeting participants who can't be there in person. In addition, an online internal document repository was set up two years ago for the board and committee chairs. That year we also established paperless online payment capability for memberships, merchandise, and donations.

So why do I feel so good about all this? Not because I love technology—technology is only a tool. I feel so good about all this because it shows that NYSOA refuses to be set in its ways when those ways threaten to become a handicap, and this forward-looking organizational mindset positions NYSOA to continue to evolve and carry out its important mission as the world continues to change.

NYSOA's greatest strength lies in the hundreds of people who have volunteered their time and services over the past 64 years. This is an all-volunteer organization, and the people who work for it do so only because they are deeply committed to its mission.

I'm thankful for all those hundreds of volunteers, and in particular I'd like to thank those who have served on the board and committees over the past two years, as well as all the people in NYSOA's member clubs who have helped make my job as president a pleasant one and have contributed to our progress in many areas.

Treasurer's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy provided the following documents for the year ending December 31, 2010: Balance Sheet and Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity. Andy also provided a Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity for January 1, 2011 to September 22, 2011. He encouraged members to renew at a higher level, since most income comes from memberships.

NYSOA Committee Reports and Elections

Membership Committee Report was given by Berna Lincoln. Memberships are sent to Berna and Barbara Butler maintains the database. Barbara Butler

presented a document with the membership numbers. Membership increased 5% over the prior year.

Andy Mason made a motion to approve Bedford Audubon Society as a new member club. Berna Lincoln seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Kathy Schneider gave the **Marketing/Publicity/Field Trips Committee Report**. The committee works to identify likely new members. Non-members who attended last year's Annual Meeting or who donated to the Raffle were identified as potential new members. The committee increased NYSOA's visibility with publicity postcards. Gift memberships were made available online. Information about NYSOA activities, such as field trips, was communicated to member clubs via email. Clubs were also sent NYSOA articles for their newsletters. NYSOA activities are posted to birding listservs around the state. The committee plans to utilize press releases this coming year.

Quarterly field trips are held around the state. The typical format is a workshop followed by a field trip. Workshops are open to the public and the field trips are for members only. Three workshops/field trips have been held this year: a pelagic trip with Angus Wilson off Long Island, a spring warbler trip with Joan Collins in the Adirondacks, and a shorebirds trip with Kevin McGowan at Montezuma. A gull trip with Willie D'Anna is scheduled for winter.

Andy Mason gave the **Conservation Report**. He introduced committee members including what part of the state they represented. Andy reported it would be beneficial if the committee had a member from the Long Island/downstate area. Andy's written report summarized the past year's activities.

Letters were written to: the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) regarding proposed staff cuts; the Environmental Protection Agency supporting new pending regulations for limited mercury emissions; and to the NYS DEC commenting on the State Forest Plan and asking that natural gas drilling not be permitted on state lands.

Andy highlighted the committee's continued involvement in: the Enterprise Park at Calverton coalition, monitoring development proposals for this large grassland habitat in eastern Long Island; participation in the Plum Island coalition and efforts to ensure that Plum Island, off Long Island, is protected rather than developed; and monitoring the regulation of hydro-fracking natural gas in NY State and the potential impacts on birds. The comment period on hydro-fracking ends in December. Bob McGuire, of Cayuga Bird Club, feels that bird clubs from around the state should join in commenting on hydro-fracking.

Committee members supplied articles for the Conservation Column in *New York Birders* on the topics of: Climate Change, Plum Island sale issue, and Mercury Impacts on birds.

Carena Pooth gave the **New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) Report**. The club celebrated its third anniversary this year. There are currently 37 youth members, 23 supporting adults, and 18 partner clubs. The students competed in the World Series of Birding with two teams: the “Razorbills” (who came in first in the youth division this year—their third annual competition) and the “Vagrants” (new this year) and did well raising money for the Education Fund. Several NYSOA member clubs that had teams in the World Series of Birding contributed their winnings to the NYSYBC's Education Fund, and others sponsored the NYSYBC teams directly. Young birders who attend the Annual Meeting will receive a \$90 stipend this year. The scholarship program is expected to award a total of about \$2400 to 6 young birders this year. Carena showed a pie graph of where members live and it mirrored the population demographic of NYS. The age range for young birder membership is 10 to 19 years. Adults can join as supporting members and attend the young birders' field trips.

Michael DeSha gave the **New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) Report** for Angus Wilson. The NYSARC Committee held their all-day meeting during the Annual Meeting with the following topics on the agenda: definition of the boundaries for New York State pelagic waters, changes to the review list, ways to improve report submission rates, and future recruitments to the committee.

Three new species were added to the New York State Checklist: Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Common Ground-Dove, and Hermit Warbler. Review of two additional species, Hooded Crow and Gray-hooded Gull, has begun.

The 2009 NYSARC Annual Report was published in the March 2011 issue of *The Kingbird*, and the 2010 Annual Report will be published in the March 2012 issue.

Submissions of rare bird documentation are down in 2011. Pleas for reports were posted on several New York State birding listservs, which helped increase submissions, but the numbers are still below expectations. Angus reported encouraging news that a number of NYSYBC members provided reports that were of a high standard.

The NYSARC committee members were listed. The terms for Tom Burke and Willie D'Anna expire at the end of this year, and these two positions will need to be filled. Jeanne Skelly, NYSARC Secretary, retired two years ago, but has agreed to remain in place until a suitable replacement has been found.

Shai Mitra gave **The Kingbird Report**. To speed up turn-around time, a new printing company was used beginning with the June 2011 issue. There was a problem printing the cover, but if this is corrected, the new company will continue to print *The Kingbird*.

Tim Baird gave the **New York Birders Report**. Tim retired a year ago and is still seeking a replacement. Tim provided a list of things he does as *New York Birders* editor for anyone considering the job. While *The Kingbird* focuses on

ornithological data and articles, *New York Birders* features news about the birders of New York and their observations. In the future, an electronic version of *New York Birders* will be available.

The *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* will be updated by the end of the year. Tim credited Carena Pooth, Berna Lincoln, and Barbara Butler for their work on this publication.

Carena Pooth gave the **Website and Information Services Report**. (Please see the President's Report above.) Carena reported that 60% of county list reports came in using the online reporting option on the website.

Archives Committee Report. Carena Pooth reported that NYSOA needs an archivist.

Gail Kirch gave the **Awards Report**. No member clubs requested grants this year. The following awards will be given at the evening banquet:

The **Lillian C. Stoner Award** is given to selected students to enable them to attend the Annual Meeting. This year, three awards were given out to the following students:

Alexandra Hale, nominated by the Linnaean Society

Gregory Lawrence, nominated by the New York State Young Birders' Club

Sarah MacLean, nominated by the Cayuga Bird Club

The **John J. Elliott Award** is given for the best *Kingbird* article of the year. This year, the award goes to John Confer for his article "Avian Response to Shrubland Restoration in the Forested Landscape of Sterling Forest State Park, NY".

The **Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award** goes to Phyllis Jones for the many years and multiple positions she filled, but especially for her work as Chair of NYSOA's Archives Committee.

Carena Pooth gave the **Bylaws Report** for Bob Spahn. The new bylaws were sent to member clubs, published in *New York Birders*, and listed on the NYSOA website. Carena summarized the major changes: there is an eight year term limit for board members; the life membership category was eliminated; the treasurer and recording secretary officer positions were separated from the board to potentially retain individuals in these positions longer than eight years; the corresponding secretary position was eliminated; three director positions were added to keep 11 total board members; a marketing and publicity committee was added; and all instances of "member club" was changed to "member organization". Gail Kirch made a motion to accept the new bylaws. Bill Lee

seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The new bylaws take effect at the close of the Annual Meeting.

Berna Lincoln gave the **Nominating Committee Report** on behalf of Valerie Freer. The committee nominated the following 2011-2012 slate of Officers/Directors for election:

Gail Kirch - President
Kathy Schneider - Vice President
Michael DeSha - Corresponding Secretary
Joan Collins - Recording Secretary
Andy Mason - Treasurer

Tim Baird - Director (2013)
Carena Pooth - Director (2013)
Angus Wilson - Director (2013)

Barbara Butler made a motion to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Shirley Shaw seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Carena Pooth announced the following names for election to the 2011-2012 **Nominating Committee**: Joan Collins (Chair), Bob Adamo, and Bill Ostrander. Andy Mason made a motion to elect the Nominating Committee. Berna Lincoln seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Carena Pooth announced the following names for election to the 2011-2012 **Auditing Committee**: Irving Cantor (Chair), John Cairns, and Peter Capainolo. Victor Lamoureux made a motion to elect the Auditing Committee. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Carena Pooth announced that a host club is needed for the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Gail Kirch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Victor Lamoureux seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

ADDITION TO THE NEW YORK STATE CHECKLIST

The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) has voted unanimously to add one new species to the New York State Checklist under the new 'accelerated review' policy (NYSARC 2009, *Kingbird* 59(3): 235). This addition is:

Gray-hooded Gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*)

A predominantly equatorial and southern hemispheric species, this smart-looking gull was discovered on 24 July 2011 by Sara Burch and Jacob McCartney whilst walking on the shorefront at Coney Island, Brooklyn (King's Co.). Understandably, the observers assumed from the red bill and legs and partial hood that this was likely to be a Black-headed Gull (*C. ridibundus*) and secured photographs. These were shared with eBird reviewer Doug Gochfeld, who immediately re-identified the bird as a Gray-hooded Gull, a species not illustrated in any North American field guide. Hundreds of birders from all over the country were able to see the gull during its 12-day stay and the presence of this avian rarity, just steps from the famous Coney Island boardwalk and amusement park, attracted the attention of the news media including the *New York Times*. The Coney Island gull was beautifully documented in the form of nine detailed reports (NYSARC 2011-30-A/I), the majority accompanied by convincing color photographs. This not only constitutes the first record for New York State but is only the second record for the US and Canada, the previous record being a one-day bird photographed by a researcher near Apalachicola, Florida on 26 Dec 1998 (McNair, D. B. 1999. The Gray-hooded Gull in North America: First documented record. *North American Birds* 53:337–339).

The Committee carefully considered the possibility of an escape or some other mode of human assistance but could not find any evidence for this. Gray-hooded Gulls are known to wander north along the coast of Brazil on a regular basis, where they come into contact with wintering Laughing Gulls (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). Testifying to the natural affinity between these two species, there is a record of a vagrant Laughing Gull nesting with Gray-hooded Gull in Senegal on the west coast of Africa (Erard, C., Guillou, J. J., and Mayaud, N. 1984. Sur l'identité spécifique de certains Larides nicheurs au Senegal. *Alauda* 52:84-188.). The Coney Island bird spent much of its time with Laughing Gulls and the idea that it followed their migration is compelling. Alternatively, the gull could have traveled to the Caribbean from the Pacific coast of South America via the Isthmus of Panama where there have been multiple records. It is also possible the gull originated in West Africa and crossed the Atlantic to the Caribbean or northern coast of South America before moving northwards. By odd coincidence, this would mirror the proposed route for New York's first and only Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis*) observed just a short distance away in the Coney Island Creek (NYSARC 2007-34-A/K).

A record of Gray-hooded Gull from the Lesser Antillean island of Barbados, a frequent landfall for Old-World vagrants, lends support to this as an alternative possibility.

As is customary, full details of this exciting record and the context for acceptance will be published in the 2011 NYSARC Annual Report. With this inclusion, the NYS Checklist now stands at 480 species.

Submitted on behalf of the **New York State Avian Records Committee**: Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Andrew Guthrie, Tom Johnson and Dominic Sherony.

DOUBLE-NESTING BY RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS IN NEW YORK STATE

In the December, 2010 *Kingbird*, I reported on the latest apparent fledging of a Red-bellied Woodpecker thus far in New York State (Hyman, RB.2010. Late Fledging of Red-Bellied Woodpecker in New York State. *The Kingbird* 60: 311-312) and speculated that it was probably a second nesting after a failed first attempt rather than a second successful brood.

As stated in my 2010 article, according to the species account in *Birds of North America* (Shackelford, C.E., R. E. Brown, & R. N. Conner. 2000. Red-bellied Woodpecker. *Birds of North America*, No. 500), one successful brood is typical in the northern parts of the Red-bellied Woodpecker's range, though in the South they may have two-three broods. Red-bellied Woodpeckers in New York, however, may attempt a second nest when the first fails (McGowan, J.K. & K. Corwin, Eds. 2008. *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY).

Also as noted in the 2010 article, the most northerly instances of second broods noted in *Birds of North America* include one example from Connecticut (Sullivan, E. 1992. Red-bellied Woodpecker raises two broods in Connecticut. *Conn. Warbler* 12: 24-25) and one from New York (Crumb, D. W. 1984. Late nesting of a Red-bellied Woodpecker. *Kingbird* 34: 231). In the case of the New York record, nestlings were observed being fed at a nest site in Onondaga County through 30 August, with fledging suspected that day and an earlier successful nesting by the same pair at the site strongly suspected.

After the 2010-2011 breeding season, I can report quite confidently that my pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers had two successful nests. Both male and female birds were around all winter, with the female predominating in my sightings. Both male and female showed up with one fledgling on 20 June. The female disappeared with the fledgling and I did not see her again until 4 July, though I did see the fledgling once alone. The male was a daily visitor as of 1 July, and I saw the female every two-three days between 4 July and 22 July after which she disappeared again.

On 22 August three woodpeckers were here, one male, one juvenile, and one unknown. I saw no fledgling feeding on that day but did see the male

feeding a fledgling on 23 August. I frequently saw a fledgling feeding alone from 23 August through 6 September (and beyond). On 7 September the female woodpecker arrived with what appeared to be a different, somewhat less mature fledgling. It was less coordinated than the one seen previously, did wing-flutter, and gave the raspy begging call, which I hadn't heard recently from the one coming alone or on the same days as the male.

Although I did not see the nest, there is only one pair of Red-Bellied Woodpeckers in this area. It would appear that the Red-Bellied Woodpeckers had a nest which successfully produced at least one fledgling in June and a second producing two fledglings in August-September. The 7 September date for the second fledgling from this nest is just shy of the 12 September late fledging date reported in my previous article.

Ruth Bernstein Hyman, PhD, Rockville Centre, ruth.hyman@verizon.net

A CLIFF SWALLOW X BARN SWALLOW HYBRID IN WESTERN NEW YORK STATE

On 17 July 2011, Jessie Barry, Andrew Guthrie and I arrived at Point Breeze, Orleans Co., New York. Shortly after, our attention was drawn to an odd pale-rumped swallow that was perched on a railing with a group of recently fledged Barn Swallows. After careful studies, we concluded this was a juvenile hybrid Barn Swallow x Cliff Swallow. The bird appeared most like a juvenile Cliff Swallow but had a more strongly graduated tail, more extensive warm wash to the underparts with a contrasting richly cinnamon throat that was offset slightly by light smudging on the sides of the breast. Two photos of this bird may be seen on page 329. When an adult Barn Swallow came in, this bird would beg with the juvenile Barn Swallows. Begging calls were very similar to Barn Swallow, but slightly rougher and burrier. We are unaware of any previous reports of this hybrid combination from New York and fewer than 10 reports anywhere.

Christopher L. Wood, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; pinicola@gmail.com.

Andrew Guthrie, 391 Jacobs Road, Hamlin, NY 14464; andyguthrie@gmail.com

Jessie H. Barry, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; jb794@cornell.edu.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2011

Robert Spahn

716 Hightower Way, Webster, NY14580
rspahn@prodigy.net

Even more than usual, this season was one of separate stories from several angles. To the usual three-way split—the end of the spring migration, the breeding season, and the start of the fall migration—add the usual variation in weather patterns over time and geography, but on top of that, toss in Hurricane (Tropical Storm) *Irene* and its greatly varying effects across the State. Even more than usual, Region 10 was a different world as *Irene* passed. There is so much information associated with this storm that it cannot all be covered in this highlights summary, nor even in the Region 10 summer report; for a full discussion of *Irene's* effects, the reader is urged to read Shai Mitra's summary, elsewhere in this issue.

Weather

This summer, the temperature part of the picture was quite uniform across the State. June ran 1-3° above normal; July was hot—3-5° above normal, with some interesting records set and speculation about heat waves to come; and finally August dropped back to 2° above normal, more like a typical late summer month. Precipitation brought the contrasts. June was dry to the west, but with above average rainfall continuing from spring well into the month for the southeast. July dried out, and everywhere precipitation was below average. Then came August; with areas west near to slightly above average, but the southeast seeing a lot of rain early. Region 9 had recorded its second wettest August on record by the 20th, then came the rains of Hurricane *Irene*, pushing the entire area to above normal readings and parts of the east and south to record levels.

Hurricane (Tropical Storm) *Irene*

The passage of *Irene* rates special attention. It arrived on 28 August as a low-level hurricane-to tropical storm and passed slowly north and eastward a bit inland from the coast over that and the next day and beyond, depending on your locality. From the north and east sides of the Adirondack High Peaks to the south and east past Albany, especially Schoharie and Greene Counties, the rain reached record levels and locally washed out roads and bridges, isolating towns and knocking out power for days or more. Both natural and human habitats were severely damaged in some areas. To the west in Regions 1-6, there was generally some rain and wind, but no major impact.

From a birders perspective, if one could get out, the effects ranged from a non-event to spectacular. In the six Regions to the west with little direct weather impact, there were few birds found that could be directly assigned as storm related. Most special sightings were of increased numbers and variety of birds often present at this time of year but observed with the passing of the storm; maybe as much an effect of hopeful birders out looking as actually associated with the storm. Several shorebird species and Laughing Gull in Regions 3 & 5 were most notable. To the east and south there was some great birding—possibly at a once-in-a-generation level, especially for seabirds, waterbirds, and shorebirds accompanying and immediately following the storm's passage. Often the window of opportunity was very short, and only those out in the storm were able to observe the rarest of the displaced birds. In Region 7 there was a good fallout of shorebirds and a few other species at the usual Chazy Riverlands site. In Regions 9 & 10, the list and details of even the first State or first County and other very rare birds are so extensive that all cannot be captured in this summary, and the reader is again urged to read those Regional reports completely. Just to whet your appetite, we have: a Black-capped Petrel in Region 10; an Audubon's Shearwater from the Bronx; Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Regions 9 & 10; 21+ Leach's Storm-Petrels and two reports of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in Region 10; a White-tailed Tropicbird grounded and taken for rehabilitation in Region 8, plus at least three sighted and two more found deceased in Region 10; Black-necked Stilt in Region 9; multiple Sooty and Bridled Terns in Regions 9 & 10, with 29+ of the former and 26+ of the latter just in Region 10; unprecedented numbers of Sandwich Terns in Region 10; three reports of South Polar Skua, a Pomarine Jaeger, and many Parasitic Jaegers in Region 10, and single Long-tailed Jaegers in Regions 9 & 10; and unusually large numbers and birds in unusual locations for many other seabird species during the storm. Many of these birds were documented by photos or videos and written documentation sent to NYSARC for assessment.

Tail End of Spring Migration

Typically the end of spring migration continues into at least the first week or so of June, sometimes longer, with some raptors (especially Broad-winged Hawks and Bald Eagles), several shorebird species, a few of the flycatchers (especially Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied), thrushes, and several warbler species often seen and banded in good numbers at that time. Reporting is impacted both by varying numbers of birds annually and by varying observer attention to this period of time. This season was fairly typical in both regards.

In scanning the Regional reports gathering details for this section, it seems apparent that, in terms of reporting, this phenomenon is most evident for the Regions bordering the south shore of Lake Ontario and near the ocean, with most of the early June reports noted from Regions 1, 2, 5, & 10 plus a few shorebirds from Regions 7 & 9. This being the case, I'll leave it to interested readers to look at those reports for especially the late shorebirds and passerines.

Other late spring or possibly summering records of interest include: Snow Goose in Regions 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, & 10, with several individuals present through the summer in the Montezuma complex in Region 3; Brant in Regions 6, 9, & 10; Greater Scaup in Regions 5 & 10; Lesser Scaup in Regions 1, 2, 5, & 7; King Eider in Region 10; very late (or maybe early) Black-bellied Plovers on 22 June in Region 2 and on 15 & 27 June in Region 3, as well as through the period in Region 10; White-rumped Sandpipers in mid-June in Regions 6, 7, & 9 & through the summer in small numbers in Region 10; Dunlin on 14 June in Region 8 and 18 June in Region 10; White-crowned Sparrow in two locations in Region 2 on 21 June; first Regional summer record for Blue Grosbeak on 2 June in Region 1; and a record late Rusty Blackbird on 1 June in Region 2.

Breeding Season

It still seems that data from many of the breeding season studies often does not reach Regional record keepers. Observers are urged to contribute both records and thoughts on the season to the Regional editors or to local listservs and to eBird. The breeding season can bring observations on trends for species of special note or concern, new breeding records, and unusual summering records.

We can start with some of the trends. Among the waterfowl we find Trumpeter Swan in Regions 1, 2, 3, & 6 and a Ruddy Duck with chicks for a first breeding record in Region 7. From Region 1 there is praise for the continued colonial waterbird monitoring by the DEC related to the changing scene with the Double-crested Cormorant, heron/egret, and tern colonies in the Buffalo area along the Niagara River. In the Region 9 report, Michael Bochnik provides a detailed summary of the impacts of heavy flooding in late June at Bashakill Marsh. The Mississippi Kites were back in the same area in Montgomery County in Region 8. Osprey was noted as nesting in six Regions and with confirmed breeding thought finally imminent along the Hudson River in Region 8. The Peregrine Falcon scene was a soap opera in Region 2, with the male of a pair from last year failing in at least two nest attempts with his mate of last year at the old nest box, then also mating with another female in a location a few miles to the north and also failing there. Region 6 saw the first nesting of Peregrine Falcon in recent years. Merlin was reported in nine of the ten Regions, with nesting in at least five Regions. Sandhill Cranes were found this summer in six Regions, with nesting confirmed in Regions 2 & 3 and strongly suspected in Region 6. See more detailed notes in the Region 2 & 3 reports of crane chicks captured in an effort by Matt Hayes of the International Crane Foundation to determine the origins of the new breeding groups in the Northeast. The rooftop-nesting Ring-billed Gull saga continued in the City of Batavia near the Region 2/3 boundary. Lesser Black-backed Gull is now found at various places around the State in every month, but Region 10 hosted unprecedented numbers of immatures this summer, with counts to 70 at one site. Black Terns seem to be holding on in nesting colonies in Regions 1, 2, 6, & 7. At least five immature Arctic Terns were carefully documented in Region 10 in their now familiar mid-

June to early July window. Eurasian Collared-Dove continued in Region 2, but still with no confirmed nests, and was also reported in Region 5. All species of goatsuckers were down in Region 10 and even missing from some traditional nesting sites. This summer there were many reports of Fish Crow from along the Genesee River in and north of Rochester, but no evidence was received to confirm breeding in Region 2. Common Raven reports are up in most Regions, and a first nesting for Suffolk County was confirmed in Region 10. Among the grassland birds, some bad news related to the wet May and a lull in the rain in early June leading to early hay cutting in Region 8 and likely heavy impact on nesting. However, there were strong numbers for nesting grassland species from Region 6. There were also some good numbers reported for Bobolink at season's end from seven Regions, including a very high 1400 on 27 August in Region 9.

Other interesting brief breeding bird notes include: only six reports of Red-shouldered Hawk from three Regions; Common Goldeneye in Region 3 as well as the usual breeding locations in Region 7; Black Vulture in late July on Staten Island in Region 10; eight sites with nesting Cooper's Hawk in Region 10; a good breeding season for "Eastern" Willet and good numbers of migrant "Western" Willet in Region 10; Red-headed Woodpecker in six Regions; Sedge Wren in only Regions 6 & 9; Bicknell's Thrush doing all right were expected in Region 7; Golden-winged Warbler seen in Regions 2, 9, & 10 and nesting in Region 6; Prothonotary Warbler nesting in Regions 1, 2, & 5 and as a migrant in Region 9; all of the north country specialties noted from Regions 6 and/or 7; Clay-colored Sparrow only reported from Regions 1, 3, & 6; a Summer Tanager nesting in Region 10; and crossbills, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak only noted in small numbers.

Notes on lingering summer birds or hard-to-assign records included: most of the waterbird reports in Region 2 now from the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex rather than from the marshes along Lake Ontario; Northern Pintail in Region 10; Ring-necked Duck and Ruddy Duck in Region 1 at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant; Greater Scaup in Region 10; Common Eider present through the season in good numbers and Black Scoter in mid July in Region 10; Iceland Gull in Region 10; Glaucous Gull to late June and longer in Regions 5 & 10; a first July record for Long-tailed Jaeger (photographed) in Region 2; mid-summer records for both waterthrushes in new locations in Region 10; and Blue Grosbeak in three locations in June and July in Region 10.

Start of Fall Migration

Often as early as mid June, the start of fall migration can be detected in the first returning shorebirds. More species are added slowly through July, and by August most breeding birds are well on their way.

Among the waterbirds, it was a very slow start this fall. Only Red-necked Grebe seen all month in Region 2 and on 21 August in Region 1 was somewhat early, and jaegers began to show as usual in late August in Regions 1, 2, & 10,

as well as associated with *Irene* in Region 9. Looking at hawks, the usual summer dispersal movement of mainly Red-tailed Hawks along the south shore of Lake Ontario was noted, but there was no official hawk count at Braddock Bay this year. Most of the State's fall hawkwatches are later. Shorebird arrivals began as early as mid-June for Black-bellied Plover in Regions 2, 3, & 10 and White-rumped Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher in Regions 3 & 10. At least two dozen other species of shorebirds were recorded beginning by typical July and August arrival dates, and in only low to moderate numbers up to the hurricane effects. Typically, arrival dates were often earlier and numbers much larger in Region 10. In Region 10, 23 August was a date for many fall arrivals and some good numbers tallied, e.g., 199 Eastern Kingbirds, 10,800 Barn Swallows, many Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, and 70 Baltimore Orioles. Of special note were: 250+ American Oystercatchers in Region 10, American Avocets in Region 1 & 10, a record early 15 July Dunlin in Region 2, and Western Sandpiper in Regions 2 & 5 in addition to those regular in Region 10. The passerine movement was noted in most Regions near or after mid-August at typical dates for a wide range of species. Early dates noted included: Western Kingbird on 14 August in Region 10; a rare-for-fall Worm-eating Warbler banded on 9 August in Region 2, then recaptured on 29 August (and again after season's end on 2 September) at the same location; a Cape May Warbler on 12 August in Region 2; a Swainson's Thrush on 1 August in Region 3, and a record early Red Crossbill on 26 August in Region 2.

Rarities

Beyond the surge of rarities tied to Hurricane *Irene* or noted in other sections above, we had a good number scattered across New York State: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck for the second summer in a row in Region 1; a first State report of Fea's Petrel in Region 10; Audubon's Shearwater in Region 10; four Wood Storks in Region 1; American White Pelican in Regions 4, 5, 8, & 9; Brown Pelicans both before and during *Irene* in Region 10; the first Cattle Egret since 1998 in Region 7 plus four in Region 10; juvenile White Ibis in Regions 9 & 10; Glossy Ibis in Regions 3, 7, & 9; American Avocet in Regions 1, 3, & 10; Marbled Godwit in Regions 6, 7, & 10; first State record of Gray-hooded Gull in Region 10; South Polar Skua and Pomarine Jaeger in July in Region 10; Rufous Hummingbird in Region 10; the State's second mid-summer Western Kingbird in Region 6; and an interesting Barn x Cliff Swallow photographed in Region 2.

In addition to these, we have two birds of questionable provenance in Region 10, Great Kiskadee and Hooded Crow.

Trying to pull a Bird of the Season from all of the storm-dropped rarities and potential first records is impossible. Turning to an alternative of a breeding bird, since it is breeding season, is no help. So I'll pass this season and let it be reader's choice.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

6405 Woodberry Court, East Amherst, NY 14051

morgm@roadrunner.com

A pleasant and dry June was welcome relief following a very wet spring. The average temperature was 66.8° F, 1.0° above average. A total of 3.47" of rain fell at the Buffalo airport, 0.35" below normal, with much of it falling 22-24 June. July was the third warmest month in the 141 year record for Buffalo. The average temperature was 75.2°, 4.4° above normal. Rainfall was 2.72", 0.42" below average. The warm summer weather continued through August. The average temperature was 71.3°, 1.7° above normal. There was 3.94" of rain, 0.68" above average. Hurricane *Irene* hit the east coast on 28 August but brought no rain to the Region. Some gusty winds may have grounded a few shorebirds, but no notable storm-birds were discovered. Weather data was excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

I read or received few comments about nesting success. The wet spring followed by a hot summer likely had both winners and losers. Jeff Reed remarked that Eastern Meadowlarks did well for a second year in a row, aided by the longer and thicker grass from the wet spring.

We are fortunate that NYSDEC continues to monitor colonial waterbirds on Motor Island and elsewhere. Great Egrets had another banner year, with a new nest count maximum of 53 at Motor Island and five nests on the islands above Niagara Falls, a new nesting site. Nesting of Great Blue Herons, and Black-crowned Night-Herons to a lesser extent, were negatively affected by a surge in Double-crested Cormorants. Cormorants have preferred nesting on nearby Strawberry Island, but a Bald Eagle set up territory (no nest) there this spring and many cormorants took to Motor Island. The number of cormorant nests swelled by more than 600 from last year to 1,476 this year, including 399 at Motor Island, where there were none for at least the last three years. NYSDEC culled or oiled 61% of the nests to protect the heron and egret colonies from being taken over by cormorants.

Common Tern nests increased in 2011 to 1,721 pairs, aided in part by a NYPA-funded gravelling project on one of the Buffalo Harbor breakwalls. Chick mortality was increased due to the prolonged heat, minks reaching one of the breakwalls, Great Horned Owl depredation (chicks and adults), and cormorant guano from above nests. Herring Gull nests on Donnelly's sandpit were up to 199. Ring-billed Gull nests are counted every five years, with the next survey due next year. The last count in 2007 had 37,407 pairs in the Region.

There were seven territorial **Peregrine Falcon** pairs, six nests, and 16 chicks from the five successful nests. **Merlins** were found in three areas in June and July, two of which were near previous breeding locations. The other was found by Brendan Klick in Snyder in early July. Osprey and Bald Eagle nests

remain on the increase. A pair of Osprey took up residence on a platform at Tift Nature Preserve.

There were few of the grassland obligate breeders reported this year. **Upland Sandpipers** were found only at Tillman Road WMA, a regular breeding location, and a migrant was observed in late August over Grand Island. Sedge Wren and Henslow's Sparrow went unreported; this is the fourth consecutive year for the later.

Most of the other uncommon and/or declining breeding species were found in similar numbers as in recent years. Potential breeding **Common Nighthawks** were in North Buffalo again, and one in Hinsdale on 3 July is more likely a possible breeder than migrant based on date. Migrant nighthawk reports were not numerous in late summer. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in decent numbers for recent years. Golden-winged Warbler went unreported, but effort to find this species may have been very low. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was present in the Red House Section of the Allegany SP, a regular occurrence for most the last decade. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at their regular location at Tonawanda WMA again, with an additional sighting in Iroquois NWR. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported from three locations, including one new location in North Harmony, Chautauqua County. A **juvenile Pine Siskin** was photographed in Wilson in mid-July.

Uncommon for location were White-throated Sparrows along Lake Ontario in Wilson, with a juvenile in late July and an adult in late August. An adult in East Aurora was also beyond expected range in summer. Previous breeding, with few exceptions, has occurred in the Southern Tier. Similarly, a Dark-eyed Junco in Wilson throughout the summer was well north of breeding areas in the Region.

The summer shorebird season was average, with most reports coming from Iroquois NWR, Batavia WWTP, and Dunkirk Harbor. **American Avocet** sightings are nearly annual now and there were two sightings this summer. Joe Gula and Joanne Goetz reported one at Dunkirk Harbor on 21 August, and Joe Fell found a group of six at Woodlawn Beach SP on 30 August. An **adult Long-billed Dowitcher** was photographed by Willie D'Anna at Kumph Marsh at Iroquois NWR on 27 August. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was observed by several birders at Kumph Marsh 17-20 August.

A **Little Gull** was found in early July among immature Bonaparte's Gulls at Fort Niagara SP, which continues a trend from recent years. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were again found in early summer as well as one in late August. Nick Sly identified a **Parasitic Jaeger** along Lake Ontario in late August. Two **Forster's Terns** in Wilson on 20-21 June were a little unusual based on the date, as they are not known to breed locally but do occur in the Toronto area.

There were several higher counts of swallows in August with Tree, N. Rough-winged, Bank, and Barn reported in the hundreds. Alec Humann counted 642 Purple Martins in one hour flying west over Grand Island on the morning of 30 August. Migrant warblers were reported in typical numbers over the last two weeks of August.

There were some interesting rarities this summer, highlighted by the two second-ever records. Gil and Jann Randell were nicely surprised to see four **Wood Storks** fly overhead and land in treetops along Route 394 in the town of Chautauqua on 3 August. The storks soon got up and flew to the southwest. A secondhand report on the same day included a sighting of four storks drifting and gliding in circles one half mile to the southwest of where the Randells last saw them flying. The only other Regional Wood Stork record was a group of three seen near Olean over a two week span in August 1978.

August 2010 brought the first **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** record for the Region. August 2011 brought the second. Joe Mitchell was alerted to the find on 24 August at Conewango Swamp WMA by Matt King, a NYSDEC wildlife technician. Mitchell confirmed the sighting, obtained good photographs, and spread the word. Many birders were able to see the bird over the next few days, with undocumented reports into early September.

Miley Miller identified an adult male **Blue Grosbeak** at a feeder at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown on 2 June. It represents the first summer record for the Region.

Some other notable reports of uncommon species included the annual late summer visit by **Eared Grebes** at Batavia WWTP, a **Black Vulture** sighted with Turkey Vultures along the Niagara River in Lewiston, two reports of two **Sandhill Cranes** at Kumph Marsh in late August, and a flyover **White-winged Crossbill** in Alfred.

The Colonial Waterbird and Peregrine Falcon nest data are courtesy of Connie Adams and Jacquie Walters of NYSDEC.

CONTRIBUTORS

Connie Adams, Tim Baird, Doug Beattie, Jim Berry, Elizabeth Brooks, Carl Carbone, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Elaine Dart, Joe Fell, Kurt Fox, Joanne Goetz (JGo), Joe Gula (JGu), Carol Hardenburg, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, David Gordon, Brendan Klick, Tim Lenz, Miley Miller (MMi), Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante (MMo), Celeste Morien, Pat Morton, Terry Mosher, Betsy Potter, Gil Randell, Jann Randell (JRa), Jeff Reed (JRe), Richard Rosche, Richard Salembier, Dominic Sherony, Nick Sly, Kirk Vanstrom, Jacqueline Walters, Mike Wasilico, William Watson, John Welte (JWe), Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; MI – Motor I, NR ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; RTPi –

Roger Tory Peterson Institute, CHAU; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

CSWMA 24 Aug thru (JM!, mob. NYSARC), second for Region, two consecutive Augs, *intro*.

Mute Swan: max 7 PB 17 Jul; 2 GHSP 28 Aug; only reports.

Trumpeter Swan: INWR 10 Jul, 27 Aug (WW!, WD!); OOWMA 16 Jul (WW!); suspected same bird present thru summer.

Wood Duck: 141 OOWMA 26 Jun (WW); 123 BWWTP 9 Aug (KF); max 147 N. Harmony CHAU 14 Aug (TL).

Gadwall: max 5, 8 BWWTP 15 Jun, 23 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: 2, 2, 1 BWWTP 5, 26 Jun, 10 Jul; 5, 5 INWR 5 Jun, 20 Aug; only reports.

Am. Black Duck: 2, 4 BWWTP 15 Jun, 14 Aug; not reported from any other location.

Blue-winged Teal: Tift NP 1 Jun; arr 2 BWWTP 10 Aug; 5, 4 INWR 19, 30 Aug.

N. Shoveler: 2, 1 BWWTP 1 Jun, 9 Aug; 3, 4 INWR 20, 30 Aug; only reports.

Green-winged Teal: INWR 5 Jun; 2, 7, 34 BWWTP 15 Jun, 24 Jul, 23 Aug; max 62 INWR 30 Aug; 7 CSWMA 25 Aug.

Redhead: no reports.

Ring-necked Duck: BWWTP thru (KF, WW), most frequent summer location in Reg.

L. Scaup: DH 2 Jul (TL), unusual in summer.

Com. Merganser: W Seneca ERIE 8 Jun, extending range north along creeks.

Red-breasted Merganser: Olcott NIAG 5 Jun, only report.

Ruddy Duck: 34, 28, 68 BWWTP 5 Jun, 17 Jul, 10 Aug, regular in summer at this location; INWR 10 Jun.

Com. Loon: AISP 26 Jun (PY), only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: 3 BWWTP 12 Jun; max 35 TWMA 29 Jul.

Red-necked Grebe: Wilson NIAG 21 Aug (WD!), very early.

EARED GREBE (R1): 1, 2 BWWTP 20, 25 Aug (JM, DS), annual at this location in late summer and fall.

WOOD STORK: 4 Mayville CHAU 3 Aug (GR! JRa! NYSARC), only second report for Reg. *intro*.

Double-crested Cormorant: 1476 nests from Buffalo Harbor, NR (JWa, CA), way up from last few years, 61% of nests culled or oiled; max 565 BuSP 3 Aug.

Am. Bittern: max 1, 4 INWR 21 Jun, 12 Aug; BWWTP 14 Aug.

Least Bittern: Hartland NIAG 5 Jun (WD); INWR 5 Jun, 1 Jul, 21 Aug; 2 Pomfret CHAU 11-19 Jun; continued nesting pairs at Tift NP Jun; TWMA 29 Jul; good showing.

Great Blue Heron: 21 nests MI 3 May (CA), way down from cormorant intrusion, 88 nests present in mid-April.

Great Egret: 53 n, 50 n MI 3 May, 14 Jun, record nest count (CA); 5 n NF 14 Jun (WW, CA), new loc; 72, 71 MI 20 Jun, 11 Jul (WW); max 150, 139 TWMA 29 Jul, 17 Aug, roost.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 48 nests MI 3 May (CA); 10 INWR 23 Aug.

BLACK VULTURE (R1): Artpark SP NIAG 18 Aug (RR), over NR with many Turkey Vultures.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: expanding as breeder; n Tift NP, new breeding location.

Bald Eagle: well reported from nesting areas.

N. Goshawk: Andover ALLE 29 Jun (EB), only report.

Merlin: 2 Olean CATT 4 Jun, 1 Jul (JRe), near last year's breeding location; Snyder ERIE 6, 8 Jul (BK!); Jamestown CHAU 21-27 Jul (JB); Buffalo ERIE 10 Aug; 2 AISP 18 Aug (CC); CSWMA 24 Aug; BWWTP 30, 31 Aug; NF 30 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 16 chicks from the five regional nests (JW, CA).

Virginia Rail: Frewsburg CHAU 4 Jun; Tillman WMA 5 Jun; BWWTP 12 Jun, 10 Jul, 9 Aug; CSWMA 25, 27 Aug; only reports away from INWR.

Sora: Bethany GENE 25 Jun; INWR 16 Aug; CSWMA 25 Aug; only reports.

Am. Coot: max 21 INWR 12 Jun.

C. Gallinule: max 49 INWR 30 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 2 INWR 22, 29 Aug (KF, BC!), rare in summer.

Black-bellied Plover: arr INWR 21 Aug; BWWTP 28 Aug, only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 3 TWMA 26 Jul; max 7 BWWTP 20 Aug.

AM. AVOCET (R1): DH 21 Aug (JGu, JGo); 6 WoBSP 30 Aug (JF!); reports now annual along L. Erie in summer.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 33, 38 BWWTP 10 Jul, 14 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Sherman CHAU 2 Jul; max 12 TWMA 26 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr TWMA 20 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last Hartland NIAG 5 Jun; arr 3 INWR 11 Jul; max 54 INWR 16 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 2, 7 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 5 Jun, 1 Jul, regular location; Grand I ERIE 6 Aug (AH), migrant.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr INWR 27 Aug; max 8 BWWTP 28 Aug; Olcott NIAG 28 Aug; Wilson NIAG 28 Aug; Buffalo NR 31 Aug.
Sanderling: arr 1 Wilson NIAG 25 Jul; max 18 Wilson NIAG 28 Aug; 11 WoBSP 30 Aug; 2 BWWTP 30 Aug; 10 Buffalo NR 31 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 19 BWWTP 5 Jun; arr BWWTP 17 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 Sherman CHAU 2 Jul; max 49 BWWTP 18 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: BWWTP 28 Aug (KF), only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr BWWTP 25 Aug, only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Kiantone CHAU, 3 BWWTP, 2 TWMA 24 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1 TWMA 29 Jul; TWMA 20 Aug; only reports.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 INWR 27 Aug; 2 INWR 31 Aug; 3, 2 BWWTP 28, 30 Aug; only reports.
Long-billed Dowitcher: ad INWR 27 Aug (WD!), adults rarely documented.
Wilson's Snipe: 2, 7 Sherman CHAU 2, 15 Jul; max 18 INWR 20 Aug.
Wilson's Phalarope: INWR 17-20 Aug (CM, mob), only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: 4, 6 Wilson NIAG 4, 20 Jun; 116 FNSP 8 Jul; 2 ad Wilson NIAG 25 Jul; 2 BWWTP 14 Aug.
Little Gull: FNSP 8 Jun (WW!), continued reports at this location in recent early summers.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2, 1 Wilson NIAG 4, 14 Jun (WD!); Olcott NIAG 5 Jun (WD!); consistent with recent year sightings in early Jun; Olcott NIAG 28 Aug (NS).
Herring Gull: 199 nests Buffalo Harbor ERIE, highest since 2007 (CA).
G. Black-backed Gull: max 9 Wilson NIAG 4 Jun; 5 Buffalo ERIE 12 Jun; 6 DH 2 Jul; 4 PB 17 Jul.
Caspian Tern: 2 BWWTP 12 Jun; 4 DH 23 Jun; max 66 Wilson NIAG 24 Jun; 23 PB 17 Jul.
Black Tern: 17 INWR 13 Jun; max 18 TWMA 10 Jul (MW); Wilson NIAG 21 Aug; 1, 6 BWWTP 25, 28 Aug.
Com. Tern: 2323 nests Buffalo Harbor, NR 19 May (CA), highest count in several years, minks predated some breakwall colonies; max 250 N Tonawanda NR 20 Jun; 10 Wilson NIAG 21 Jun; BWWTP 17 Jul; 70, 117 Wilson NIAG 25, 26 Aug.

Forster's Tern: 2 Wilson NIAG 20, 21 Jun (WD!), unusual for date.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr Wilson NIAG 28 Aug (NS).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 2 Buffalo ERIE 5 Jun (PY); Hinsdale CATT 3 Jul (TL); arr 2 Clarence ERIE 16 Aug; 1-3 Tonawanda ERIE 16-31 Aug; 2 INWR 20 Aug; Alden ERIE 30 Aug; only reports.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 + n Hamburg ERIE 1-31 Jun; Wilson NIAG 3 Jul; Squaw I NR ERIE 7 Jul; 2 + n Canadaway Creek NS CHAU 31 Jul; max 9 PG 14 Aug (TL); only reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last AISP 4 Jun (TB).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Tiffit NP 28 Aug; AmSP 31 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: max 4 AISP 2-9 Jul.
Least Flycatcher: arr Buffalo ERIE 27 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Tiffit NP 28 Aug; 2, 1 AmSP 29, 31 Aug (RS).
Com. Raven: 2 Marilla ERIE 23 Aug (LH), continued evidence of creeping north.
Purple Martin: 36 Bethany GENE 30 Jun; 50 INWR 28 Jul; 64 NF 26 Aug; max 642 Grand I ERIE 30 Aug (AH!), one hour migration count.
Tree Swallow: 373 BWWTP 23 Aug (KF); max 750 BWWTP 28 Aug (KF).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 125 BWWTP 9 Aug (KF).
Bank Swallow: 400 DH 14 Aug (TL); 550 N Tonawanda NIAG 17 Aug (WW); max 750 BWWTP 28 Aug (KF).
Cliff Swallow: max 45 Tonawanda I NR 14 Jul.
Barn Swallow: 400 BWWTP 9 Aug (KF); max 500 DH 14 Aug (TL).
Sedge Wren: no reports.
Veery: max 30 INWR 21 Jun (WW); arr Wilson NIAG 27 Aug.
Swainson's Thrush: last Buffalo ERIE 7 Jun; max 8 AISP 3 Jul (TL); arr Tiffit NP 21 Aug (RS).
Brown Thrasher: Squaw I NR ERIE 7 Jul, interesting location.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from seven locations.
N. Waterthrush: max 4 TWMA 13 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr AmSP 26 Aug.
Black-and-white Warbler: 3 Allegheny Ind Res CATT 5 Jun (PY); Carroll CHAU 10 Jun (MMo); arr BeSP 17 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: TWMA 13, 21 (PH, WW), only regular recent breeding location; INWR 18 Jun (JWc).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 31 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 1, 2 Andover ALLE 10 Jun, 4 Jul (EB); arr BeSP 30 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: arr AmSP 26 Aug.

Am. Redstart: arr BeSP 17 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: Carroll CHAU 10 Jun (MMo, PM); max 7 AISP 26 Jun (PY); AmSP 31 Aug (RS), rare in fall migration; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.

N. Parula: 2-8 AISP 4-26 Jun (TB, PY); Yorkshire CATT 16 Jun; arr AmSP 29 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr BeSP 22 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Tiffit NP 21 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 2 AmSP, 2 NFSP 26 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 25 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 5 Jun; arr Buffalo ERIE 27 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr AmSP, NFSP 26 Aug.

Pine Warbler: reported from six breeding locations; max 8 INWR 10 Jun (WW).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 12 Aug.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R1): AISP 4 Jun (TB!), nearly annual this loc last decade.

Prairie Warbler: 2 Frewsburg CHAU 4, 10 Jun (JB); N. Harmony CHAU 20, 25 Jun; max 10, 9 Yorkshire CATT 19, 29 Jun (PY, RS).

Canada Warbler: WFWMA 20 Jun, 9 Jul; 3 + yg Ward ALLE 3 Jul; arr Williamsville ERIE 14 Aug (RS).

Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 Wilson NIAG, AmSP 26 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Ashford CATT 19 Jun (PY); N Harmony 25 Jun (JB, KV), new loc; 4 Yorkshire CATT 26 Jun (ED, DB).

Vesper Sparrow: Newfane NIAG 5 Jun; Andover ALLE 6 Jun; Yorkshire CATT 16 Jun; 3 Ashford CATT 19 Jun; max 5 Ashford CATT 2 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 8 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 1 Jul (RS); Bethany GENE 30 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

White-throated Sparrow: 3 Ward ALLE 12 Jun; max 8 Alfred ALLE 16-21 Jun (EB); Allenberg Bog CATT 9 Jul; ad E Aurora ERIE 20-22 Jul (RR), unusual loc; juv Wilson NIAG 28 Jul (WD!), unusual loc; ad Wilson NIAG 28 Aug (WD!).

White-crowned Sparrow: Portland CHAU 3 Jun (CH); last Wilson NIAG 7 Jun (BP, WD), late.

Dark-eyed Junco: Wilson NIAG 4, 23 Jun, 9, 13 Aug (BP, WD), unusual location for summer.

BLUE GROSBEAK: RTPI 2 Jun (MMi, JB!), first Reg summer record.

Bobolink: max 40 Alfred ALLE 17 Aug; 35 Alexander GENE 26 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: AISP 4, 12 Jun (TB); 3 Porter & Wilson NIAG 5 Jun; Pomfret CHAU 7-23 Jun (TM); Hinsdale CATT 23-26 Jun (JRe); ad + juv Portland CHAU 7 Jun, last of family group seen 11 Aug; Grand 1 ERIE 30 Aug (AH), late.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (R1): Andover 11 Aug (EB), heard flight call, very rare in Summer.

Pine Siskin: Wilson NIAG 16, 17 Jun (BP); juv Wilson NIAG 11, 12, 14 Jul (BP, WD!); only reports.

ESCAPES and EXOTICS

N. Bobwhite: Tonawanda Ind Res GENE 22 Jul (DB), presumed escape.



REGION 2 – GENESEE

Robert Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580

rspahn@prodigy.net

The summer of '11 was generally warm and, until August, dry, with lots of pleasant days for birding and good weather for birds raising their young. June was warm and sunny until thunderstorms on the 22nd & 23rd. Temperatures averaged 67.2° F, 1.4° above normal, and the 1.45" of rainfall was 1.91" below normal, making it the driest June in 20 years. A broad high pressure system over the Region for much of July resulted in a record 30 of the 31 days with highs > 80° and seven days > 90°. Temperatures averaged 74.6°, 3.9° above normal. There was only 1.81" of rainfall, 1.21" below normal, and 2/3 of this fell on the 29th. Then August put an end to the heat and passed as a typical late summer month, with temperatures averaging 69.6°, 0.3° above normal, and precipitation totaling 5.61", 2.14" above normal (but with 1.75" of this coming on just the 13th-14th). The weather event of the season was Hurricane *Irene*, which really just brushed the Region on the 28th bringing some heavy rains to eastern Wayne County and mostly wind elsewhere, and dropping few birds which could be clearly assigned as storm-related.

Looking at the broad picture first, there was little sign of the expected tail of spring migration into June. This assessment is made a bit fuzzy due to the lack of either an official hawkwatch or a concerted banding operation to 10 June or later, which had occurred historically. But searches were made for the usual late shorebird migrants near the mouth of the Genesee River with no significant numbers reported. Often Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, and some of the later warblers are banded in good-to-peak numbers in the first 10 days of June; not so this year.

The breeding season is harder to assess, with few serious studies to provide comparative data. My personal BBS routes and Marsh Monitoring Surveys produced results typical of past years. I thought warbler song in some forested areas very low at times, but there are others who did not experience this. At least one observer offered a possible explanation that the spring rains into May followed by consistent warmth might have pushed many species to nest and finish nesting quickly, putting more than typical numbers of birds in the busy, low-song portions of their nesting cycle all together in late June and very early July.

The start of the fall migration looked good this year. First report dates for some shorebird species were a bit later in July than typical, but a part of that may have been reduced reporting from the lakeshore area. Another factor was continued high water levels in bodies of water connected to Lake Ontario plus the dry weather in June and July eliminating field puddles. There was a steady movement of passerine migrants from late July through the season, somewhat better than in other recent years. The start of water bird migrations along the

south shore of Lake Ontario was disappointingly poor. Combined with few odd summering waterfowl, this left that part of the checklist the weakest.

Looking in more detail and starting with the water birds, we find most of our Regional waterfowl reports for the summer now coming from the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex (NMWC) in southern Wayne County. Our lone Snow Goose was an injured bird reported from that area, though up to four Snow Geese were observed off and on less than half a mile south into Region 3. Trumpeter Swan again nested in several places in the NMWC and again was seen near Rochester along Atlantic Avenue just east into Wayne County. In this latter case, two cygnets finally appeared very late in the season. Along the south shore of Lake Ontario, Canada Geese had brought off large numbers of young by early May, but many Mute Swan pairs with small young were still scattered along the lakeshore ponds in mid-June. Among the ducks, the lack of noteworthy records stands out; only a 24 June Lesser Scaup and the first fall report of White-winged Scoter on 31 August were notable and neither really exceptional. Common Loons were present in each month, but in lower numbers than many recent years. No Red-throated Loon was reported, back to typical. With Pied-billed Grebe extirpated from the west lakeshore marshes as a breeder, it was good to see a count of 25 from the High Acres Nature Area (HANA) landfill mitigation area in Perinton. Red-necked Grebe was again first noted in early August, with one-two seen through the rest of the month off the Hamlin Beach SP area. An early Horned Grebe was seen there on 31 August. There are some reports of decent numbers of both bitterns and Black-crowned Night-Heron from both the NMWC and HANA areas, and Lynn Braband again found a Least Bittern nest in Taylor Marsh, T. of Richmond, Ontario County. The nest was right where he found his first for that marsh last year. There were no reports of rarer wandering waders in our Region this summer. Single Black Vulture reports in June and July continued the species' trend of increase in the Region.

Moving on to raptors, Osprey again nested in several of the same places they have expanded north and west into in Wayne and Monroe Counties in recent years. Other sites were no longer in use. Interestingly, an individual was also noted in Oatka Creek Park off and on in late July and August. Only two Red-shouldered Hawk reports reflects the sad state for that species in the Region. Again this summer, there was no official summer hawkwatch at Braddock Bay, though Dave Tetlow did some watching and posted some decent Red-tailed Hawk tallies and the occurrence of the other expected species. A **Golden Eagle** over Kevin Griffiths yard in Greece in August was a rare summer record. Merlins again nested in the usual area of the western part of the City of Rochester, but were not found on the east side. Another pair nested at a new site in the middle of the Village of Geneseo and fledged three young. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons provided some bizarre goings on this season. The previous male and female laid eggs where expected, but with long spaces between eggs and eventual nest failure. In the meantime another female arrived and paired with this same male and laid eggs on at least two occasions in a scrape near the south edge of Kodak Park to the north. Both of these tries also failed. Both of

these falcon species were also noted along the lakeshore and at inland shorebird sites in August.

The rails and related species usually suffer from lack of reporting in this season. A plus was good numbers of Common Gallinule reported in both the NMWC and HANA, but none from the lakeshore marshes. Sandhill Cranes garnered attention with Matt Hayes of the International Crane Foundation visiting to try to catch and band some young and to take blood samples for DNA analysis to try to determine the origin of the local birds and others in the Northeast. The young from the pair in the T. of Savannah, Wayne County were not caught, but a colt was caught in Montezuma NWR in Region 3 and several more in Pennsylvania. Test results to date are not conclusive. Farther north in Wayne County a pair was again reported from the Chimney Bluffs area and later sighted with a well grown young just after season's end.

Shorebirds produced some interesting highlights. A Black-bellied Plover on 22 June is hard to assign—record late spring bird or one that never would make it north to the breeding grounds? A “**Western**” Willet was found and photographed at Hamlin Beach SP on 17 July. Upland Sandpiper has become scarce here in summer, but a bird was reported in suitable habitat between the villages of Lima and Hemlock, Livingston County in late June, and the usual numbers gathered again near Geneseo in late July and August. The usual scattering of Whimbrels was reported, and Dave Tetlow spotted 25 Hudsonian Godwits passing Hamlin Beach on 24 August. The passage of Hurricane *Irene* was accompanied and followed closely by the arrival of the first fall Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot and the best numbers of Sanderling reported locally in many years. A Western Sandpiper was also found and photographed at Ontario Beach near the mouth of the Genesee River, and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers dropped in there briefly. Timing for these species is at typical dates, so hurricane causality remains a questionmark. Rounding out the notable shorebirds, a record early Dunlin was seen on 15 July in a swampy area near the Rochester Institute of Technology and a Wilsons Phalarope made a brief visit to a pond on Hogan Point, T. of Greece on 8 August, both found by Greg Lawrence. Generally arrival dates reported in this Region were typical of historical date ranges. Much larger numbers for most species were reported from Puddler's Marsh in the NMWC less than a mile south into Region 3 in August.

The gull and tern scene was relatively lackluster for the whole season except for the jaegers. The only gull items of any note are the continued rooftop-nesting Ring-billed Gull colony hassles in Batavia and the now expected sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gull in nearly every month. Among the terns, we had a few returning adult Caspian Terns at Hamlin Beach carrying coded color bands from projects involving banding juveniles at Lake Ontario colonies in both the US and Canada over several years ending two years ago. Black Terns were noted in fair numbers near nesting area in the NMWC and as a few migrants on Lake Ontario. Starting on 25 August, three Parasitic Jaegers and two **Long-tailed Jaegers** were noted off Hamlin Beach by Dave Tetlow as well as an unidentified jaeger by Dominic Sherony. On 16 July, Chris Wood, Jessie

Barry, and Sam Barry spotted and photographed the first Regional July **Long-tailed Jaeger** over Braddock Bay.

Eurasian Collared-Dove continued to be reported sporadically from the same locations as for the past several years. Common Nighthawk dates and numbers were back to their severe downward trends, though there was another odd mid-summer report.

The whole, huge Order Passeriformes produced surprisingly few really notable highlights. The Fish Crows in Rochester persisted, with scattered reports through the season from downtown to Charlotte (near Ontario Beach) and at several locations near the lakeshore. Breeding was not confirmed. A very interesting-looking **Cliff x Barn Swallow** hybrid was photographed by Chris Wood near Point Breeze, Orleans County, on 17 July. Other swallows massed for exit as expected from late July through August, but peak counts were on the low side. Dave Tetlow's count of 1060 Cedar Waxwings at Hamlin Beach on 31 August matches the same tally there a few days earlier last year.

As a Species of Special Concern, Golden-winged Warbler on 18 June was interesting. The location is in an historical breeding locale for the species. A Worm-eating Warbler banded by Bob McKinney on 9 August at the BBBO site was a first for him in more than 50 years of banding and only the fourth fall record for the Region. Amazingly, it was recaptured in the same part of the site on 29 August and, crazier yet, again on 2 September. Other than this, the passage of warblers in August was steady but thin and also better than in many recent years. Other species at relatively early fall arrival dates were: Ovenbird and Cape May, Black-throated Blue, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Late spring departures were posted for N. Parula and Blackpoll Warblers. The **Prothonotary Warblers** found on the Regions 2/3 boundary on Armitage Road in the NMWC stayed to nest, and fledged young were reported in July.

This year there were no reports of Clay-colored Sparrow in this season. A peak count of ten Grasshopper Sparrows is good but no Henslow's Sparrow was located. A very early Lincoln's Sparrow was banded by Bob McKinney on 20 August. A surprise was White-crowned Sparrow seen by two observers on 21 June at sites a few miles apart in the T. of Greece, Monroe County. The species is very rare at this time of year. The only finch highlight was a Red Crossbill in Dave Tetlow's yard on Hogan Point, T. of Greece on 26 August. This is another of those questions—record early or some trying to nest locally this summer?

For the season, the species counts for June and July were above the 10-year averages and for August a bit below. At season's end the year-to-date count is seven species above the 10-year average at 281. No Regional or State great rarities or far-above-normal counts were recorded for the season. Golden Eagle, Long-tailed Jaeger, Worm-eating Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Red Crossbill are Regional seasonal rarities.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Jessie Barry, Sam Barry, John Bateman, Bob Beal, Steve Benedict, Barry Bermudez, Gloria Betlem, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, Elizabeth Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), Bruce & Mary Ann Cady, Doug Cameron, Brad Carlson, Gary Chapin, Jill Church, Kelly Close, Don Cowley, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Daena Ford, Kurt Fox, Kenny Frisch, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Bill Gillette, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Judy Gurley, Andy Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Marshall Iiff, Carolyn Jacobs, Jim Kimball, Chris Lajewski, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Bonnie Linden, Nancy Loomis, Cindy & Phil Marino, Pat Martin, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Jay McGowan, Robert & Chita McKinney, Mike Menuhin, Joseph Mitchell, Montezuma Audubon Center, Bud Morgan, Frank Morlock, Carl Mrozek, Ann Nash, Jim Ochterski, Tim Phillips, Norma Platt, Jay Powell, David Prill, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jennifer Rycenga, Dominic Sherony, Joe Slattery, Judith Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Tamathy Stage, Al & Di Stout, Kim Sucey, Steve Taylor, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow, Michael & Joann Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Jessica Walden, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, David Wheeler, Chris Wood, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; CH – Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; Cuy – Cuylerville area, LIVI; G – Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds Park, MONR; NMWC – Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex, WAYN; R – City of Rochester, MONR; S- Savannah, WAYN; SPT – Sodus Point, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 S 15, 19 Jun (W&MR), injured.

Trumpeter Swan: sev pairs with young in WAYN, *intro*; max 13 S (Railroad Rd) 4 Jul.

Gadwall: 1 Oatka Creek Park, MONR 19 Jun, scarce in summer.

Lesser Scaup: G (Buck Pond) 24 June, scarce in summer.

White-winged Scoter: arr HB 31 Aug, early.

Red-breasted Merganser: last 4 HB 3 Jun.

N. Bobwhite: WAYN 10 Jun; Newark, WAYN 13 Jun; f + 6yg Beechwoods SP, WAYN 17 Jul (JO); 1 Cuy 23 Aug; number of rep interesting, all prob released or escapee.

Red-throated Loon: no reports.

Com. Loon: last HB 1 Jun; Conesus Lake 7 Jul; max 5 HB 22 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 25 HANA 29 Jun, high count.

Horned Grebe: 1 HB 31 Aug (DT), early.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 HB 3 Aug (DT), very early; 1-2 HB 15 Aug thru, early.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 525 off BB 29 Aug (GL); 350 off CH 31 Aug (AG).

Least Bittern: nest & eggs Taylor Marsh ONTA Jul (LB), same site as last year.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 7-8 S (Van Dyne Spoor) Jun, 4 Jul, good counts.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): 1 BB 1 June (BuM,RS); 1 MP 26 Jul (DF).

HAWKS – ALCIDES

Osprey: nest + yg W of Avon on Genesee River thru; nest + yg Curtis Rd, T Parma thru, on cell tower; sev nests in WAYN; Oatka Creek P 30 Jul thru (JAd), wanderer.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Rush-Henrietta TLR, MONR 3 Jun; 1 BB 10 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 378 BB 18 Aug (DT).

Golden Eagle: G 10 Aug (K&CG), very rare in summer.

Merlin: 2 ad + 3 yg Genesco thru Jul (JK, *et al*); nesting W side R thru (LB); not found nesting E side of R this summer.

Peregrine Falcon: one male paired with two females for at least three egg laying events at two sites all of which failed to produce young R Jun-Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 2-3 S thru (mob), usual nesting area and nearby; 2 Chimney Bluffs n WAYN 19 Aug thru (JW, *et al*), yg seen w adults after season's end; capture attempts Jun, *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: last HB 1 Jun; 1 Genesco 22 Jun (JK), unusual date; arr H 16 Aug; max 27 G 19 Aug (DT).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Cuy 21 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 3 HB 29 Jul.

Killdeer: max 200+ Cuy 25 Aug (JK).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Ellison P, Penfield 26 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Conesus Lake Inlet 10 Jun; arr HB 17 Jul.

“Western” Willet: HB 17 Jul (JeB, CW ph, AG).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr RIT Swamps 14 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: Hemlock 19-21 Jun (BC, mob), suitable nesting habitat; arr & max 3 Genesco 26 Jul.

Whimbrel: arr 3 HB 14 Aug; 2 G 15 Aug; HB 9 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr 25 HB 24 Aug (DT).

Ruddy Turnstone: last HB 1 Jun; arr 1-2 CH & HB 28 Aug.

Red Knot: arr 1 CH 29 Aug thru (DP, mob).

Sanderling: arr 6 CH 19 Jul; max 75 SPT 28 Aug (DW), part of multiple groups of 30+ found at Lake Ontario beaches with and after Hurricane Irene, *intro*.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max & last 48 HB 1 Jun; arr 13 HB 29 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: CH 30-31 Aug (DS ph, MT, mob).

Least Sandpiper: last 1 HB 1 Jun.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MAC ponds 15 Aug (FMφ).

Baird's Sandpiper: arr HB 22Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr G 20 Jul.

Dunlin: 1 RIT Swamps 15 Jul (GL), Reg fall record early.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr CH 31 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 2 CH 30 Aug (DS ph, MT).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr HB 14 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 MAC 15 Jul (FMφ).

Wilson's Phalarope: G 8 Aug (GL).

Ring-billed Gull: the hassle with a rooftop-nesting colony in the City of Batavia continued for another breeding season.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Ch 1 Jun; 2 CH 1 Aug (DT); 1 molting ad HB 31 Aug (RS, DT).

Caspian Tern: max 114 SPT 12Aug.

Com. Tern: max 39 HB 29 Aug.

Forster's Tern: arr 2 BB 16 Jul.

Black Tern: max 15 S (Van Dyne Spoor) 1, 4 Jul (W&MR).

Parasitic Jaeger: arr HB 25 Aug (DT); 2 HB 25 Aug (DT).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (R2): 1 imm BB 16 Jul (BeB, SB, CW ph), 1st Reg July record; 1 HB 25 Aug (DT); 2 HB 31 Aug (DT).

jaeger sp: HB 28 Aug (DS).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1-2 Parma thru (sev), same general area where present for several years.

N. Saw-whet Owl: South Conesus 28 Jun, calling, rarely reported in summer.

Com. Nighthawk: last G 7 Jun; South Conesus 21 Jun, another interesting summer report, no breeding evidence; arr & max 15+ Ellison P, Penfield 24 Aug; arr Pcrinton 24 Aug (M&JT).

Chimney Swift: max 46 Honeoye Falls 7 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Ontario County P 2 Aug (JAK, NL); Victor 26 Aug (BBE).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 3B M 6 Jun; arr 1B M 26 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr HB-West 31 Aug.

Fish Crow: 1-5 sev loc thru, mostly near the Genesee River from Rochester north; no evidence reported confirming nesting.

Cliff x Barn Swallow: Pt, Breeze, ORLE 17 Jul (JeB, AG, CW ph), very interesting looking hybrid.

Barn Swallow: max 780 Burger P G, MONR 19 Aug (DT), best of the swallow max, but all low.

Winter Wren: 1-2 Webster P 26 Jun, 24 Jul, sporadic nester near Lake Ontario shore.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1 HB 3 Jun; 1B M 29 Aug.

Gray-cheeked Thrush/Bicknell's Thrush: last 1B M 6 Jun; 1B M 31 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: last 1B M 6 Jun; arr HB-W 17 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 1060 HB 31 Aug (DT), matches last year's Aug high.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr 1B 11 Aug (R&CM), early.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1B M 9 Aug (R&CM), 4th Reg fall record; recap same site 29 Aug.

N. Waterthrush: arr 1B M 16 Aug (R&CM).

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Norway Rd Murray, GENE 18 Jun, former breeding locale for species.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 Armitage Rd, S (Armitage Rd) thru 16 Jul, to 6 ad & yg in Jul, both sides of road in Regions 2 & 3.

Tennessee Warbler: last 2B M 2 Jun; arr 1B M 27 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr 1B M 23 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: 1 ad HB 12 Aug (R&SS), very early.

N. Parula: last Letchworth SP 5 Jun, late.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 2B M 20 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 BB 1 Jun; arr G 23 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr G 31 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 Penfield 11 Jun (CM), late; 1B M 25 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr HB-West 17 Aug, early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr HB 17 Aug, early.

Prairie Warbler: 1-2 Canadice Hill Rd ONTA 2 Jun, 2 Jul, nesting locale, rare breeder.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr HB 25 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last mig 1B M 2 Jun; arr 1B M 16 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last 2 Webster 4 Jun; last 2B M 4 Jun; 3B M 29 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 10 Nations Rd, Geneseo, LIVI 1 Jun, good count, known nesting area.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last 1B M 1 Jun; arr 1B M 20 Aug (R&CM), very early.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 G 21 Jun (KG); 1 North G 21 Jun (BB), very rare at this date, two sites a couple of mile apart.

Bobolink: max 145 G 26 Aug, good count.

Rusty Blackbird: last 3 HB 1 Jun (DT), Reg record late.

Red Crossbill: 1 G (Hogan Pt) 26 Aug (DT), unusual date, Reg record early or wandering potential summer breeder.

Pine Siskin: last G 1 Jun (KG), late.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

Mark Chao

124 Simsbury Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850

markchao@imt.org

June and July 2011 in Region 3 were unseasonably dry, with about 38 percent less rain than the average for these months in Ithaca. August's weather was mostly typical, with temperature and rainfall right around historical norms until the edges of Hurricane *Irene* dropped several inches of rain in the area on 28 August.

The relative lack of rain up to late August meant low water levels at Montezuma NWR. Nevertheless, throughout most of the summer Knox-Marcellus Marsh and the adjacent Puddler Marsh along Towpath Road had extensive shallow water and mudflats, providing good habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and especially shorebirds. The rains of late August flooded these sites but created excellent shorebird habitat at nearby May's Point Pool. Refuge management drew down water levels at Tschache Pool in 2011, as it did with the Main Pool in 2010, in order to encourage vegetation growth. MNWR staff also actively managed water levels along the Wildlife Drive, balancing the

immediate goal of creating habitat for this year's migrant shorebirds while also facilitating removal of invasive plant species.

Dabbling ducks remained throughout the summer at MNWR, starting in modest numbers in June and increasing toward the end of the season, but no rare anatid species were reported. Trumpeter Swans bred again in the refuge. For the second consecutive summer, Lyn Jacobs found the Region's only Common Goldeneye on Canandaigua Lake. A scaup spent most of the summer on Cayuga Lake near Stewart Park in Ithaca. This bird showed some ambiguous field marks, but collective expert observations and examination of photos indicate that this bird was a Greater Scaup. This too was the only report of the species for the season.

In one of their regular surveys at MNWR, Larue St. Clair and Jackie Bakker found a Glossy Ibis at Puddler Marsh on 22 July. Multiple observers again found a Glossy Ibis at the refuge on 30 August.

At Cornell University in Ithaca on 18 June, Meena Haribal saw the season's only Black Vulture. Rick Manning and Dave Nutter confirmed successful raising of two fledglings by a pair of Bald Eagles in the Town of Ulysses in Tompkins County. Neighbors say that Bald Eagles also raised two young at this site in 2010. The NYS Breeding Bird Atlas for both 1980–1985 and 2000–2005 contains no confirmed breeding records for this species in the county or indeed anywhere in Region 3 outside the Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

This summer Matt Hayes of the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI, visited the Montezuma NWR area as part of a thesis project to capture, band, and take blood samples from Sandhill Crane chicks from which DNA analysis would be used to try to determine the origins and relationships of the small breeding populations in the Northeast. Prior to working Montezuma, he captured a chick near Genoa in southern Cayuga County. He then managed to capture a chick from the Main Pool area of Montezuma NWR. Moving on he also captured several in Pennsylvania. The Genoa and Montezuma colts confirm the first nesting for Region 3. Preliminary analysis shows the picture to be more complex than expected, with more samples needed in the future to understand what is going on.

Expected migrant shorebirds in the Region were typically diverse and numerous, especially at MNWR. On 12 August, Stuart Krasnoff found an **American Avocet** at Puddler Marsh. Then, as the rains of Hurricane *Irene* passed on 28 August, Chris Wood saw an American Avocet flying over Allan H. Treman State Marine Park at the south end of Cayuga Lake in Ithaca. No other rare shorebirds were definitively identified. Also during the hurricane's passage on 28 August, Bill Evans saw a dark jaeger flying south over the south end of Cayuga Lake. The Region's only other unusual species plausibly attributable to the hurricane was a juvenile Laughing Gull found by Kevin McGowan at Cornell's compost facility in Dryden on 29 August.

Red-headed Woodpeckers occur regularly in summer along the east shore of Cayuga Lake, but are rarely seen in most years. This year, however, observers

PHOTO GALLERY
Summer 2011



Gray-hooded Gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*), Coney Island, Kings; top image 2 Aug 11, © Steven D'Amato; lower image 1 Aug 11, © Peter Post.



Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), Great Kills Park, Richmond, 22 Jun 11, © Corey Finger.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Randolph, Cattaraugus, 25 Aug 11, © Dominic Sherony.



Juvenile Cliff Swallow x Barn Swallow hybrid, *Orleans*, © Christopher L. Wood.
From above, this bird appears very similar to Cliff Swallow with a contrasting tawny rump. Note, however the more strongly forked tail and odd face pattern. See note p. 307.



Juvenile Cliff Swallow x Barn Swallow hybrid, *Orleans*, © Christopher L. Wood.
The underparts appear most similar to Barn Swallow, with the darker breast that is offset from the paler belly. Note the paler head with dark markings on the throat, which are intermediate between Barn Swallow and Cliff Swallow. See note p. 307.



Irene at landfall in New York, 28 Aug 2011; courtesy NASA/NOAA GOES Project. The parking lot and bayside marsh at Gilgo Beach, *Suffolk*, 28 Aug 2011; 9:30 EDT (middle) and 16:30 EDT (bottom); © S. S. Mitra.



Separating Sooty and Bridled Terns can be challenging, especially under storm conditions. The square forehead patch, narrowing loral stripe, stouter bill and black rather than dark gray upperparts help distinguish this adult Sooty Tern photographed over Hook Pond, East Hampton, *Suffolk*, on 28 Aug 2011. Photograph © Angus Wilson.



The narrower bill and forehead patch, uniform loral stripe and dark gray rather than black mantle are evident on this Bridled Tern photographed as it roosted on the shingle beach of Fort Pond Bay, Montauk, *Suffolk*, 28 Aug 2011. Photograph © Angus Wilson.



Bridled Tern (juvenile) and White-tailed Tropicbird, near Jones Inlet, *Nassau*, 28 Aug 11, © Steve Walter.



Leach's Storm-Petrel, New York Harbor, *Kings*, 28 Aug 11, © Doug Gochfeld.
South Polar Skua, Sea Cliff, *Nassau*, 28 Aug 11, © Mary Normandia.



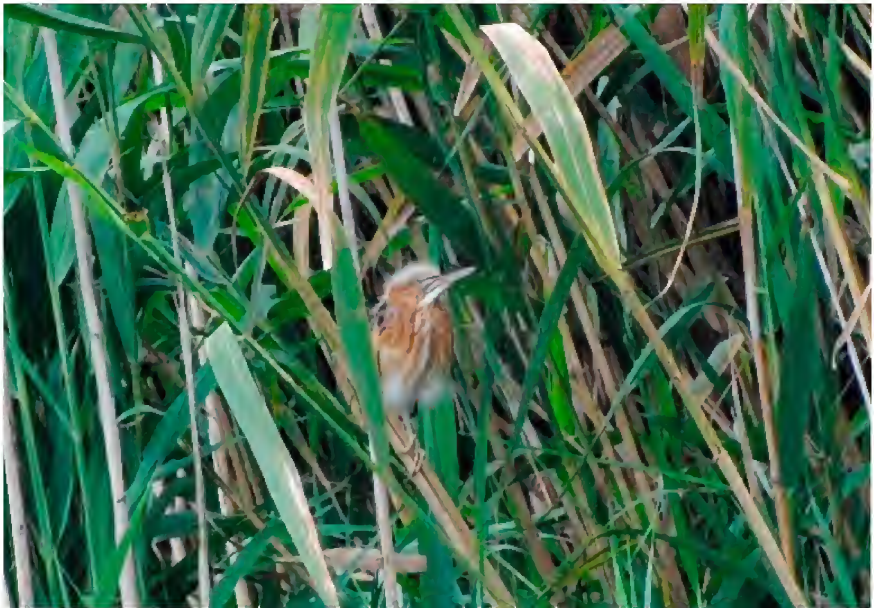
Brown Pelican, Patchogue, *Suffolk*, 30 Aug 11, © Michael McBrien.



Hudsonian Godwits and Black-bellied Plovers, Floyd Bennett Field, *Kings*, 28 Aug 11, © Doug Gochfeld.



Massapequa Preserve, *Nassau*, © John L. Turner. See article on breeding by Least Bittern at this site, pp. 290-292.



Juvenile Least Bittern, Massapequa Preserve, *Nassau*, 24 Jul 11, © Michael McBrien.

submitted multiple sightings from three locations. David Suggs saw one throughout the summer at Farley's Point near Union Springs. Many observers saw a nesting pair along Route 90 just south of Aurora throughout June. Watt Webb also saw one Red-headed Woodpecker at his feeders along Teeter Road in Lansing on 9 July.

Perhaps the most unexpected songbird of the season was a very early migrant Swainson's Thrush seen by Chris Wood at Monkey Run South in Tompkins County on 1 August. Prothonotary Warblers, first observed at the very end of the spring 2011 season along Armitage Road at the Seneca-Wayne county line, remained to breed throughout the summer. Many observers found at least two males countersinging here throughout June. Janet Akin saw an adult Prothonotary Warbler feeding a fledgling on 2 July. A week later, on 9 July, Chris Wood and Jeff Gerbracht found four recent fledglings along the road in the same area. Also on 9 July, Chris and Jeff found the season's only Clay-colored Sparrow along King Road, north of Seneca Falls.

Kevin McGowan saw a single Pine Siskin among American Goldfinches at his feeder along Yellow Barn Road in Dryden on 5 July. On 31 July, Bob McGuire, Dave Nutter, Ann Mitchell, and Gary Kohlenberg reported two Red Crossbills flying over Summer Hill State Forest. They noted further that the crop of cones here among spruce, pine, and larch trees appears promising for potential support of irruptive species next winter.

CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Paul Anderson, Jackie Bakker, Lance Bennett, Gary Chapin, Mark Chao, Susan Danskin, Bill Evans, Jeff Gerbracht, Jane Graves, Lewis Grove, Brett Haranin, Meena Haribal, Matt Hayes (International Crane Foundation), Lyn Jacobs, Dave Kennedy, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, Tim Lenz, Alberto Lopez, Rick Manning, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matthew Medler, Don Miller, Nari Mistry, Ann Mitchell, David Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Alicia Plotkin, Meg Richardson, Ken Rosenberg, Livia Santana, LaRue St. Clair, Dave Spier, Carl Steckler, Kathy Strickland, David Suggs, Joann Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Mike Wasilco, Watt Webb, Chip Weseloh, David Wheeler, Christopher L. Wood.

ABBREVIATIONS

CCP – Canandaigua City Pier, ONTA; CU – Cornell University; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing, TOMP; SHSF – Summer Hill State Forest; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater Scaup: 1 Cayuga Lake 10 Jul thru (JGe, CLW).

Com. Goldeneye: 1 Canandaigua 27 Jun (LJ); 2 Canandaigua 2 Jul (LJ); uncommon in summer, only reports.

Com. Loon: max 42 Cayuga Lake 25 Jul (DSu).

Great Egret: max 67 MNWR 17 Aug (JGr, CWe); 2 Ithaca 1 Aug thru (DNu), nightly roosting at same spot unus for Tompkins Co.

Glossy Ibis: 1 MNWR 22 Jul (JB, LSC); 1 MNWR 30 Aug thru (DNu, BM, AM, MW, DS).

BLACK VULTURE: 1 CU 18 Jun (MH).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 40 MNWR 1 Jun (JM); 3 Town of Ulysses (TOMP) 7-9 Jun (RM, DNu), first recent documentation of breeding in county (also 2010, according to neighbors).

Merlin: 1 Ithaca 2 Aug (MC), first arrival or local breeder.

Sandhill Crane: colts captured near Genoa CAYU & MNWR Main Pool about 21 Jun (MHayes), 1st Reg confirmed nesting, banded and blood sample taken, *intro*; max 6 MNWR 24-26 Aug (MM, DW, DNu).

Black-bellied Plover: 1 Myers 15 Jun (NM), late; arr 1 MNWR 27 Jun (DW).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 30 Aug (DNu).

Semipalmated Plover: max 78 MNWR 1 Jun (JM); arr MNWR 20 Jul (DW).

AM. AVOCET: 1 MNWR 12 Aug (SK); 1 Ithaca 28 Aug (CLW).

Upland Sandpiper: max 17 Seneca Falls 16 Jul (JT, MT), confirmed breeding.

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 Myers 5 Jun (JM); arr MNWR week of 4 Jul (LSC).

Sanderling: arr MNWR 10 Jul (KR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 625 MNWR 1 Jun (JM); arr MNWR week of 4 Jul (LSC).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 15 MNWR 23 Jun (DW); max 90 MNWR 28 Aug (JM), ++.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 7 Jul (JGe, CLW).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 4 MNWR 16 Jul (JT, MT).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 7 Jul (JGe, CLW).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 1 MNWR 27 Aug (LB).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 27 Jun (DW).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1 MNWR 7 Jul (JGe, CLW); various individuals observed throughout Jul-Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 24 Jul (GC); max 4 MNWR 25 Jul (DK).

Laughing Gull: 1 Stevenson Road (TOMP) 29 Aug (KM).

Stercorarius sp.: 1 StP 28 Aug (BE); rare, only report.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Aurora 7-29 Jun (JM, KM, DNic, AP, mob); 1 Farley's Point (CAYU) thru (DSu); 1 Teeter Road (TOMP) 9 Jul (WW).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr SW 24 Aug (JM).

Cliff Swallow: 1 Mt. Pleasant (TOMP) 12 Aug (KM).

Swainson's Thrush: 1 Monkey Run South (TOMP) 1 Aug (CLW), early.

WARBLERS

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: 4 FL Armitage Road (SENE) 9 Jul (JGe, CLW!); 1 ad feeding FL same location 2 Jul (JA), 2 ad same location throughout June (DK, JM, BMc, DS, mob!).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 King Road (SENE) 9-16 Jul (JGe, CLW, mob!).

Red Crossbill: 2 SHSF 31 Jul (BM, DNu, JGK, AM), only report.

Pine Siskin: 1 Yellow Barn Road (TOMP) 5 Jul (KM), only report.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

Spencer Hunt

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

Summer 2011 followed one of the wettest springs on record with 26.57" of precipitation for the year through 31 May (the average is 15.05"). June had only about one half an inch above normal precipitation falling on 13 of the days, but due to the already excessive rainfall the Region did not start drying out until July. Many otherwise normally dry fields and pastures were spotted with wetlands. July was almost the opposite, with 1.40" on eight of the days, more

than two inches below normal. August went back the other way, with rainfall on 15 of the days totaling 8.90" compared to the normal 3.45". The total annual precipitation to 1 September was 41.20", exceeding the normal for the whole year of 38.65". Temperatures were slightly above normal with 24 days below normal and 52 days above normal for the season, with half of the above normal days occurring in July. The highest temperature of 95° F was in July, with only three other days in the 90s in the month. The only additional 90° day was in June.

In summary, temperature should not have been a problem for nesting. Wet conditions were another story. It is likely that ground nesters had quite a problem, and even nesting in shrubs and trees could have been a problem. Several American Robin nests were observed to be literally washed out of the trees. At the end of July Andy Mason reported hearing of a couple of Wild Turkey broods, probably only a few days old, that he considered "were very likely from second nestings as a result of lost broods in our wet spring." On the other hand, waterfowl could have found new territory to nest and feed in with the increased wetland areas.

The bird of the season for Region 4 could possibly be the Whip-poor-will heard and seen by Bob Donnelly in early June at his home in Cherry Valley.

As in past years, there were limited observations of American Black Duck. Two Common Loons were reported on the Pepacton Reservoir in early June but there were no reports to indicate that they stayed in that area. Two sightings of Pied-billed Grebes were seen on opposite sides of Tioga County. There was enough time between the observations that it could have been the same individual. Whitney Point Wildlife Management Area had two single observations of **American White Pelican** and American Bittern.

Richard Guthrie reported an Osprey on 23 August in Oxford, Chenango County, and Brian O'Keefe saw another one on the same day at Tully Lake in Cortland County. Bald Eagles continue to be commonly reported throughout the Region. As in past years, there were few sightings of Northern Harrier. No large numbers of American Kestrel were sighted, but there were sightings scattered throughout the Region. One sighting on Blodgett Road in the Town of Owego, Tioga County noted two parents feeding young seen through wire mesh covering a window of a dilapidated barn.

There were two sightings of **Merlins**, but none that indicated that there may have been successful breeding this year. Members of the Naturalist's Club of Broome County observed the nesting of **Peregrine Falcons** on the Security Mutual building in downtown Binghamton, Broome County and their subsequent appearance in Binghamton throughout the period. There was only one other area with a Peregrine Falcon observation during the season.

Marsh and shorebird reports were greater this year in both numbers and variety, as should be expected with the increased wetland area this year. Short-billed Dowitcher was one of the species found in a flooded area along Interstate 81 in Broome County. The Tri-cities airport proved good once again as a spot to find shorebirds in August.

Reports of the Common Nighthawk were limited, with only one sighting outside of the usual late August migration period. There were over 90 reports on eBird for Chimney Swifts, however only 5 of those reports were of double digit numbers. The number of sightings reported may be up but the numbers are still down from past years.

A species that seems to be doing better than in past years is Eastern Wood-Pewee. Fish Crow and Common Raven sightings have become more numerous both in number of reports and in number of locations where reported

The Pharsalia area, New Michigan State Forest, and German Hollow, all in Chenango County, usually are the places to go to see warblers during the summer season. Bear Spring Mountain Game Management Area on the highway between Walton and Downsville in Delaware County won the prize this year. Its 2000' elevation provides different habitat that is otherwise typically not very accessible. The Mourning Warblers found there are found only in a few of the higher areas in the Region. Blackburnian Warblers were also found there in good numbers by Brendan Fogarty.

There were 19 reports of Bobolinks on eBird, but in greater than single digits. The population is seriously down in numbers from past years. Another bird in serious trouble is the Eastern Meadowlark. A total of ten birds were observed in the seven reports to eBird.

Outside of the usual areas in Chenango County, there were two sightings of Red Crossbills in Broome and Tioga Counties. Matt Young reported in his annual cone abundance survey that there are heavy cone crops in most of the cone-bearing species. This could result in the possibility of seeing siskins and crossbills more widespread this fall and winter.

A notable bird missing from the Region for the summer was American Woodcock. Other birds missed in past years were reported on eBird this season; this is most likely not an indication of a higher population but just a higher level of reporting them.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jeannette Baldwin, Marty Borko, Andrea Burke, Bob Donnelly, Brendan Fogarty, Lisa Gorn, Richard Guthrie, Meena Haribal, Spencer Hunt, Hugh Kingery, William Kuk, Andy Mason, Dave McCartt, Naturalist's Club of Broome County (NCBC), Dave Nicosia, Brian O'Keefe, Bob Pantle, Marie Petuh, Bill Purcell, Tom Salo, Charles Scheim, Cindy Staley, Tioga Bird Club (TBC), Dan Watkins, Don & Joanne Weber, Jon Weeks, Tom Whitney, Glenn Wilson, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bing – Binghamton, BROO; Bpd – Boland Pond, BROO; BSGMA – Bear Spring Mountain Game Management Area, DELA; CGW – Carantouan Greenway Waverly, TIOG; CVSF – Cherry Valley State Forest, OTSE; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP, BROO; DP – Dorchester Park, BROO; End – Endicott,

BROO; GH – German Hollow, CHEN; HSF – Heiburg State Forest, CORT; Ifm – I-81 flooded marsh, BROO; JC – Johnson City, BROO; NMSF – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; TCA – Tri-cities Airport, BROO; TL – Town of Lisle, BROO; TM – Town of Morris, OTSE; TS – Town of Springfield, OTSE; TT – Town of Tioga, TIOG; TU – Town of Union, BROO; TV – Town of Vestal, BROO; UR – Unadilla River, CHEN; WPWMA – Whitney Point WMA, BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Wood Duck: max 15 Bpd BROO 15 Aug (mob).
Am. Black Duck: max 3 HSF CORT 20 Aug; only 3 other reports.

Com. Loon: 2 Pepacton Reservoir DELA 4 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: TO TIOG 3 Jun; CGW TIOG 19, 21 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 12 Bpd BROO 29 Jun.

Am White Pelican: WPWMA BROO 16 Jul, only report.

Am Bittern: WPWMA BROO 1 Jul, only report.

Great Egret: max 5 Bing BROO 26 Jul.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: T Oxford CHEN 23 Aug; Tully Lake CORT 23 Aug; only reports.

Bald Eagle: pr CO Otsego Lake OTSE entire season; mob throughout Region; doing well.

N. Harrier: TM OTSE 16 Jun; TL BROO 15 Aug; TCA BROO 31 Aug.

N. Goshawk: CO Laurens OTSE thru (CS), only report.

Am. Kestrel: 1 ad, 2 y UR CHEN 11 Jun; 2 ad, 3 y TO TIOG 6 Jul.

MERLIN: T Vestal BROO 18 Aug; HSF CORT 20 Aug.

PEREGRINE FALCON: 2 ad 4 y Bing BROO 12 Jun; juv TS OTSE 29 Jul.

Virginia Rail: 2 CGW TIOG 25 Jul; Perkins Pd CHEN 30 Jul.

Sora: Ifm BROO 5 Jul, only report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 3 TCA BROO 31 Jul.

Killdeer: max 37 TCA BROO 8 Aug.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 UR CHEN 11 Jun.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Lime Hollow Center CORT 25 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: TCA BROO 30 Aug, only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 3 Ifm BROO 5 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 3 End BROO 5 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: max 25 TCA BROO 30 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 Ifm BROO 5 Jul, only report.

Wilson's Snipe: T Burlington OTSE 15 Jun, only report.

Caspian Tern: max 6 DP BROO 15 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: Bing BROO 5 Jun (JW); max 30 Bing BROO 31 Aug; few reports.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: Cherry Valley OTSE 8 Jun, only report.

Chimney Swift: max 60 JC BROO 26 Aug (MP); numbers are still down.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 12 CVSF OTSE 19 Aug; mob, doing well.

Alder Flycatcher: max 3 T Hancock DELA 12 Jun.

E. Kingbird: max 50+ TL BROO 15 Aug DW; mob.

Blue-headed Vireo: 2 UR CHEN 11 Jun; 2 BSGMA DELA 18 Jun; 2 Steam Mill SF DELA 10 Jul.

Fish Crow: max 6 TV BROO 6 Aug; 5 TT TIOG thru.

Com. Raven: max 4 TG CHEN 1 Jul.

Purple Martin: max 3 TT TIOG 6 Jul; only 5 reports; doing poorly.

Bank Swallow: max 3 BSGMA DELA 18 Jun; few reports.

Cliff Swallow: max 7 BSGMA DELA 18 Jun.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 CVSP BROO 27 Aug; 3 TU BROO 15 Aug; only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: 2 NMSF CHEN 30 Jul; only report.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 2 TM OTSE 4 Jun.

N. Waterthrush: Ifm BROO 5 Jul, only report.

Golden-winged Warbler: T Roseboom OTSE 17 Aug, only report.

Nashville Warbler: Morgan Hill SF CORT 30 Jul, only report.

Mourning Warbler: max 3 BSGMA DELA 18 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: 2 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 3 Aug, only report.

Magnolia Warbler: max 3 BSGMA DELA 18 Jun.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 20 BSGMA DELA 18 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 3 BSGMA DELA 18 Jun.

Pine Warbler: GH CHEN 8 Jun; Bing U Nature Center BROO; 20 Jul; CVSF 16 Aug; only reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Swamp Sparrow: max 4 CGW TIOG 23 Jul.

Bobolink: max 30+ Greater Bing Airport BROO 20 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: 3 Glimmerglass SP OTSE 13 Jun; 2 TS OTSE; only 5 other reports, scarce.

Red Crossbill: 6 T Richford TIOG 13 Jun; 2 JC BROO 2 Jul.



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings, New York, 13076

wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

The summer season was very warm with above average precipitation, although the first three weeks of June were very dry with only .39" of rain, and both June and July were slightly drier than normal. In June the average temperature was 68.9° F, 3.1° above normal, with 3.31" of precipitation, 0.4" below normal. The July average temperature was 75.8°, 4.9° above normal, with 3.30" of precipitation, 0.72" below normal. In August the averages were 71.9°, 2.1° above normal, and 6.66" of precipitation, 3.09" above normal.

Hurricane *Irene* went to our east on 28 August but the rains on the western edge were enough to ground shorebirds at Fair Haven and Sky High Sod Farms. The few Snow Geese that summered in the Region were expected, but a Brant on Lake Ontario in August was not. The Brant, which could fly, had a lot of primary feathers missing in one wing. Mallards seemed to rebound from the flooding after heavy spring rains with close to normal breeding success, while Wood Ducks were less affected by the high water. June waterfowl holdovers included Northern Pintail, both scaup species, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Common Loon. In a few recent years the water level at Stillwater Reservoir was raised after Common Loons were likely to be on nests so the consistent water level this year did not drown the nests. Gary Lee reported that loons also had a good year on the other lakes in Herkimer County. Great Egrets were scarce this season. There was a single report of Black-crowned Night-Heron at Onondaga Lake and a juvenile at Pratt's Falls in atypical habitat, the latter likely a dispersing bird.

A Black Vulture in Syracuse in June was presumed to be a late wanderer. So far there seems to be of sign of breeding nearby. Non-breeding Bald Eagles and Broad-winged Hawks continued to move past Derby Hill on south winds in June. The female Peregrine Falcon in Utica did not attract a mate this year, and it was unclear if the pair of Peregrines in Syracuse nested this year; the nest box used in past seasons went unused. Merlins continue to increase as breeders. A

young American Coot in Utica Marsh was the only one reported for the season, and the only Sandhill Crane flew over Derby Hill on 1 June.

Birders spent the first week of June checking the Oneida Lake islands south of Constantia with American White Pelican the highlight, while shorebirds included Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, and Red Knot. Typical for northbound shorebirds, numbers changed constantly through the day. A temporary draw down of the Seneca River at Baldwinsville resulted in lowered water at West Dead Creek Marsh for a few days, with good numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers reported. A Willet at Fair Haven on 5 July was an early migrant, and 19 Whimbrel passed Derby Hill in late July after the passage of a cold front.

At Fair Haven, rains on the western edge of Hurricane *Irene* caused a small shorebird fallout including Red-necked Phalaropes, Western Sandpiper, and Red Knot, while at Sky High Sod Farms there were large numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers and the only Stilt Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitcher reported for the season. The sod farm was mostly planted in corn and soy beans this year, so there was little shorebird habitat. Larry Hall found good numbers of Upland Sandpipers in the hayfields in the towns of Fairfield and Deerfield just south of the Adirondack Park. A slight lowering of Delta Lake had attracted a few shorebirds by the end of the season, while the water level on Lake Ontario remained high through August.

An adult Laughing Gull flew west past Derby Hill on 1 June, and a basic plumaged bird was seen at Fair Haven on 28 August as Hurricane *Irene* passed to the east. A young Glaucous Gull remained in Oswego well into June, and an adult Little Gull was seen at Sylvan Beach after the middle of August.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** call was heard several times in Skaneateles one evening, but the bird was not seen nor was it heard from subsequently. If accepted by NYSARC, it would be the first Regional record, although an earlier, single-observer sighting was not accepted without a photograph since it would have been the first state record. Yellow-billed Cuckoo is still a common species in the Region even as the tent caterpillar infestation has declined. There were no owls reported other than the three widespread breeders, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl. There were only a handful of Common Nighthawk reports. Eastern Whip-poor-will was noted in four breeding areas, and one was heard in Onondaga County, where there have been no summer records for over 35 years. Red-headed Woodpecker continues to breed in small numbers in beaver swamps and along the Lake Ontario shore.

Olive sided Flycatcher was reported from two breeding areas in northern Herkimer County: Acadian Flycatcher arrived late at two known breeding sites, and there were no others reported. Common Ravens were seen in Liverpool and Camillus, both in the suburbs of Syracuse. Marsh Wrens were singing at a wetland in Volney, where they had not been previously noted. There seemed to have been little change in breeding warblers, and the Prothonotary Warblers on the north shore of Oneida Lake were much less viewed with the return of Prothonotaries nesting near Montezuma NWR. Prairie Warbler was reported from only one location, and we now receive few reports from the areas they

have occupied in past years. The first Tennessee Warblers, Northern Parulas, and Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Wilson's Warblers had all arrived by the end of the season.

Matt Perry noted that in his area Savannah Sparrow has declined as a breeder as many hayfields give way to corn and soybeans and the remaining hay is cut well before birds can bring off a first brood. Vesper Sparrow might now be lost as a breeder in the same area.

There were some Red Crossbills in the higher elevations but no White-winged Crossbills. One Pine Siskin was reported and no Evening Grosbeaks.

The cone crop for spruce, tamarack and hemlock was excellent, even abundant, while the other conifers had at least good production. Nuts, seeds and berries were generally good across the board, and as Matt Perry noted: "Ash trees have brought forth a bumper crop of seeds this year. Viburnum, Dogwood, Elderberry, and Yellow Birch were all big producers as well. Wild Grapes did moderately well as did Butternut, Bitternut Hickory, and Black Walnut. Hawthorn and Apple also did well".

The species total for the season was 207 species, seven above the past 10 year average. Highlights included Brant, Am. White Pelican, Black Vulture, Sandhill Crane, Willet, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Little Gull, Laughing Gull, Glaucous Gull, Forster's Tern, **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, and Red Crossbill.

CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew Anderson, Faith Baker, Andrew Baksh, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Bernie Carr, Gerald Case, Richard Cohen, Lewis Grove, Bill Gruenbaum, Richard Guthrie, Larry Hall, Gene Huggins, Joshua LaCelle, Josiah LaCelle, Robbie LaCelle, Gary Lee, Kevin McGann, Matthew Medler, Yvonne Merriam, David Nash, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, John Rogers, Margaret Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Andrew Van Norstrand, David Wheeler, Andrea Wiggins, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle – Baldwinsville; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes SP; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1-2 Bvllle and Constantia thru.
Brant: DH 11 Aug (BP), rare summer.

Wood Duck: max 36 DL 23 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 12 DL 31 Aug.

N. Pintail: last OneiL 4 Jun.

Green-winged Teal: max 35 DL 23 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: 2 SVB 5 Jun; last Eatonbrook Res 11 Jun; arr FH 29 Aug.
Greater Scaup: 2 WPd 1 Jun.
Lesser Scaup: WPd to 26 Jun.
Bufflehead: 2 WPd to 8 Jun; Skan L 16-26 Jul.
Com. Merganser: max 59 Redfield 4 Aug.
Com. Loon: good breeding success Adks; OnonL to 7 Jun..
Am. White Pelican: OneiL 4-12 Jun (DW, mob).
Great Egret: max 2 DL after 26 Aug.
Green Heron: max 23 WM 22 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: OnonL 2 Aug; Pratt's Falls 31 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Black Vulture: Syr 6 Jun, no sign of breeding yet.
Bald Eagle: max 20 DH 8 Jun; 11 DH 16 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 200 DH 8 Jun; 54 DH 16 Jun.
Peregrine Falcon: Oswego 11 Aug; female Utica thru.
Com. Moorhen: max 34 Volney 1 Aug.
Am. Coot: juv. Utica Marsh 23 Jul.
Sandhill Crane: DH 1 Jun.
Black-bellied Plover: max & last 7 OneiL 5 Jun.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 SHF 23 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Marcellus 31 Jul; max 10 DL 31 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 W Winfield 2 Jun; max 19 Bville 18 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 Redfield 4 Aug.
Willet: FH 5 Jul (MS), early.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 87 Bville 18 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: 4 Fairfield 16 Jun; max 15 N Gage 4 Aug (LH).
Whimbrel: 19 DH 26 Jul, after cold front; 2 Oswego 10 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 29 OneiL 5 Jun (KM); 6 FH 28 Aug.
Red Knot: max 5 OneiL 5 Jun (DW); FH after 28 Aug.
Sanderling: max 75 FH 28 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last OneiL 5 Jun; max 17 DL 23 Aug.
Western Sandpiper: FH 28 Aug (DW).
Least Sandpiper: max 36 Marcellus 31 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 25 SHF 28 Aug (LG).
Baird's Sandpiper: FH 30 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Bville 18 Jul; max 2 SHF 28 Aug.
Dunlin: last Oswego 1 Jun.
Stilt Sandpiper: 2 SHF 28 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: SHF 28 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: 5 FH 28 Aug (DW).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 330 SVB 15 Aug.
Little Gull: SVB after 15 Aug.
Laughing Gull: ad DH 1 Jun (BP); FH 28 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 1200 Oswego 25 Jul, good summer count.
Glaucous Gull: Oswego 24-26 Jun.
Caspian Tern: max 90 Oswego 25 Jul.
Black Tern: 2 OneiL 5 Jun; no reports from Lake Ontario marshes.
Com. Tern: max 230 SPd 31 Aug.
Forster's Tern: OnonL 29 Aug (GH).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Skan 26 Jul (KB, NYSARC).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 11 sites Jun; max 3 GLSP 30 Jul.
Com. Nighthawk: SVB 6 Jun; 3 WM 22 Aug.
E. Whip-poor-will: T's Constantia, Ohio, Vienna, Salisbury in Jun; TR after 15 Jun, unusual ONON.
Red-headed Woodpecker: DH 28 Jun; Oriskany Falls 4 Aug; FH 19 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Poland 3 Jun, migrant; Stillwater Res 13 Jun; Wheeler Pond 17 Jul.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Gray 5 Jun; South L 16 Jun; arr SFNS 24 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Camillus 10 Jun; Whiskey Hollow 12 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 20 WPd 22 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: Wheeler Pd 17 Jul; arr Fulton 30 Aug.
Com. Raven: Liverpool 11 Jul (RG); 5 Camillus 27 Jul.
Horned Lark: max 8 Tully 29 Jul.
Purple Martin: max 110 WM 22 Aug.
Barn Swallow: max 1000 WM 22 Aug.
Marsh Wren: 4 Volney 1 Aug, new site.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Camden 19 Aug, migrant.
Veery: 40+ 2 sites OSWE 20 August, night flight.
Swainson's Thrush: Redfield 25 Jun.
N. Mockingbird: Tioughnioga WMA 27 Jun, unusual.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: last VB 3 Aug.
Prothonotary Warbler: pair WM Jun.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Hastings 23 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: GLSP 5 Jun, unusual there.
N. Parula: arr Hastings 8 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Camden 27 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last DH 1 Jun; arr Hastings 23 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: Tully 6 Jun, only report.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Salisbury 18 Aug, 4 other reports.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: GLSP, Fulton, Richland and Salisbury.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 3 Adk reports.

Bobolink: max 170 WM 2 Aug.
Rusty Blackbird: 2 Stillwater Res 13 Jun.
Com. Grackle: max 3800 WM 18 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: GLSP & VB; Cicero 5 Jul.
Red Crossbill: to 8/day Georgetown thru 30 Jul; Boylston 16 Aug.
Pine Siskin: Hamilton 26-28 Jun.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617
jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

Overall, summer was warmer and slightly wetter than average, with above normal temperatures all three months, but precipitation falling disproportionately during the late summer. June and July were both between 2° and 3° warmer than normal, and August was just 1.1° above average. Precipitation was all over the place, as June's total of 3.1" was almost exactly average, the 2.0" that fell in July was 1.3" below normal, and August's tally of 6.5" was 3.3" above normal. Hurricane *Irene* contributed modestly to local rainfall totals, but this storm was largely a non-event in Region 6, causing neither the devastation wrought in eastern New York nor the bonanza of avian rarities seen coastally.

Waterfowl were generally unexceptional except for a **Barnacle Goose** photographed by Michele Nelligan in Alexandria Bay on 31 July. This goose apparently was unbanded and showed no obvious signs of captive origins, but given the date it seems highly unlikely to represent natural vagrancy. Less exceptional but still unusual were two reports of Northern Shoveler in Jefferson County. Late summer Wood Duck numbers at Upper and Lower Lakes and Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Areas were substantially lower than that reported in 2009 and 2010 but were typical or above average elsewhere.

At least two observers reported seeing fewer than normal Ruffed Grouse broods and suspected that the very wet spring resulted in low nest success. Perhaps other early ground-nesting species also suffered high nest losses, but hard evidence supporting reduced nest success is lacking for any species. The Spruce Grouse nest found in Parishville during late May was abandoned by mid-June, and the female was not seen again.

Peregrine Falcons apparently nested successfully in Region 6 for the first time in recent history. Pairs at Payne Lake and on the Ogdensburg Bridge fledged one young each, but a nest on the Long Sault Dam apparently failed. These three locations have supported nests for at least two-three years with no known successful nesting attempts. Merlins on the other hand appear to be

nesting all over the place given ongoing increases, with many reports of nesting pairs or summering individuals.

The towns of Ellisburg and Lisbon hosted Sandhill Cranes for the fourth and third consecutive years, respectively. A juvenile crane observed in Ellisburg on at least two dates suggests that this pair successfully reproduced, although the juvenile was fully capable of flight by the time it was observed and thus could potentially have come from somewhere else. At least three adults spent the summer in Lisbon, but no young or indications of nesting behavior were noted.

As has been the case in recent years, shorebird numbers were low this summer, but more species were seen than during any recent summer, including some of the seasonal highlights for Region 6. Chief among these was a **Marbled Godwit** found by Tony Shrimpton in a flooded cornfield near Lake Ontario on 3 June. Six Ruddy Turnstones were on a cement navigation cell in the St. Lawrence River on 5 June, and I have since received word that this species regularly shows up on navigation cells in late May and early June, with some turnstones even predated Common Tern nests. Two White-rumped Sandpipers at a marshy farm pond in Dekalb on 14 June marked the end of the northward shorebird migration. Notable southbound migrants included two Stilt Sandpipers at the Canton Sewage Ponds and a Red-necked Phalarope at Wilson Hill, both on 26 August. American Golden-Plovers are rarely reported in Region 6 during the summer, so individuals on Fort Drum 16 August and Waddington 20 August were notable.

While taking the boat tour to Boldt Castle from Alexandria Bay, Nick Kiehl, a visiting birder from Pennsylvania, was surprised to see an adult **Laughing Gull**. This was the best of several reports submitted to eBird that I likely would not otherwise have known about. The Common Tern nesting population on the St. Lawrence River continues to increase in response to work funded by money from the New York Power Authority. The 1177 nests found this year was a new record total and is a 37.8% increase since 2009. All of this year's nests were found on the New York side of the river. Black Terns also made a good showing, with reports from several locations in addition to the usual nesting spots at Perch River and Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Areas.

Black-billed Cuckoos were unusually scarce in Region 6 this summer, but relatively high Yellow-billed Cuckoo numbers continue five years after the end of the last big tent caterpillar outbreak. The unusual result was that the two species were present in roughly equal numbers throughout. Red-headed Woodpecker numbers on Fort Drum also seemed down through June and most of July, as these birds were largely silent when surveys were conducted, but once young were out of the nest it became clear that the usual 9-10 pairs were present.

Henslow's Sparrows were at Fort Drum, where annual surveys found fewer than during the previous three summers; at Perch River Wildlife WMA, where several birders from other regions but apparently no local observers found up to five singing males; and in large hayfields in Hammond, where six males were reported in June but subsequent visits failed to find any. At least 11 Sedge

Wren territories on Fort Drum constituted the majority of reports, with one or two in three other locations. Upland Sandpipers were slightly more widespread but still found in low numbers compared with 10 years ago. Unfortunately, there is a growing tendency for most birders to visit either Fort Drum or Perch River to look for Henslow's Sparrows and other rare grassland birds, leaving most of the Region's potential habitat unexamined.

The obvious passerine highlight of the summer was a **Western Kingbird** Gabe Luongo found on Fort Drum 12 July (and this Regional Editor cannot resist commenting on his frustration at being on vacation and away from Fort Drum at the time). This kingbird was in an oak savannah area that seems very similar to nesting habitat in the western United States, and in combination with the date might suggest a breeding attempt, but this bird was only definitively seen on one day. A **Dickcissel** on Fort Drum on 3 August was the only other truly rare songbird report. A singing Golden-crowned Kinglet on Fort Drum 22 June was the first summer record for the installation, and a juvenile was found nearby during August. Surveys throughout the St. Lawrence Valley turned up good numbers of Golden-winged Warblers with few Blue-winged Warblers, but the latter species continues to increase on Fort Drum. Although Blue-wings remain scarce in St. Lawrence County, hybrids are increasing, and the northward expansion of Blue-winged Warblers seems inevitable. A very uncooperative Louisiana Waterthrush was at Downerville State Forest, where this species is annual. Irruptive finches were mostly absent, with one report each for Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. Although Red Crossbills were reported elsewhere in the state, efforts to find this species at Leonard Pond and other St. Lawrence County locations with suitable habitat were entirely unsuccessful.

For the season I received reports of 203 species in addition to Barnacle Goose and Trumpeter Swan. This tally is the highest for the summer reporting season since I began compiling reports in 2005. This species tally was aided by visits to Region 6 by many birders from around New York and other states, as few birders who live in the Region submitted any sightings. Highlights include several rarities, with Western Kingbird being the clear stand out; improved shorebird diversity over recent years; and evidence suggesting that Sandhill Cranes nested in the Region, although solid confirmation remains elusive.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ginny Alfano, Andrew Baksh, Alan Belford, Jeff Bolsinger, Tom Burke, Richard & Marion Brouse, Bernie Carr, Carol Cady, Kelly Close, Joan Collins, Wayne Fidler, Lee Harper, Anne Johnson, Steve Kelling, Nick Kiehl, Josiah LaCelle, Monica LeClerc, Patricia Lindsay, Gabe Luongo, Mike McBrien, Shai Mitra, Michele Neligan, Robert Scranton, Tony Shrimpton, Kimberly Sucy, Mary Beth Warburton, David Wheeler, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Hans & Madeline van der Zweep.

ABBREVIATIONS

CB – Chaumont Barrens, T Chaumont, JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent; CWF – Canton wastewater facility; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; LPd – Leonard Pond trail, T Colton; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; SLR – St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WISP – Wellesley Island SP; WS – Winthrop Swamp, T Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: CV 4 Jun (WF), late.

BARNACLE GOOSE: Alexandria 31 Jul (MN, photos!), date suggests escaped exotic.

Trumpeter Swan: max 9 PRWMA 3 Jul, presumably included y but report lacked details; no other report suggested successful reproduction.

Wood Duck: Aug numbers on ULLWMA & WHWMA impoundments only 10-20% that seen Aug 2009 & 2010; plentiful elsewhere.

Gadwall: max 25 PRWMA 24 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: max 25 PRWMA 24 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 26 CWF 29 Aug.

N. Shoveler: 3 Antwerp 30 Jul; 3 Murray Isle 3 Aug.

N. Pintail: ULLWMA 7 Aug, only-report.

Green-winged Teal: max 12 CWF 28 Aug.

Redhead: max 32 WHWMA 26 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 136 WHWMA 26 Aug.

Com. Merganser: 5 reports 1-2 outside Adirondacks Jun & Jul.

Red-breasted Merganser: 7 WISP 4 July; ED 24 July.

Ruffed Grouse: broods reportedly scarce.

Spruce Grouse: Parishville nest abandoned by 14 Jun, no further reports from area.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 58 ULLWMA 7 Aug.

Red-necked Grebe: ad SLR Ogdensburg 28 Aug (JB).

Least Bittern: 2 StPt 24 July; 2 WHWMA 15 June.

Great Egret: max 126 WS 22 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: up to 20/day PRWMA thru; max 50 Murphy Is, 19 Jul.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Am. Kestrel: max 12 together FD 26 Jul.

Merlin: nesting population continuing to increase.

Peregrine Falcon: nests at Payne L & Ogdensburg Bridge fledged 1 y each; nest on Long Sault Dam apparently failed.

Com. Gallinule: max 21 PRWMA 21 Jul.

Sandhill Crane: Clayton 9 Jul (ML); pr with juv Ellisburg several dates Jun & Jul apparently first nesting Region 6 (GS, GA); 3 ad Lisbon thru Jul (AJ, MBW).

Am. Golden-Plover: FD 16 Aug; ad Waddington 20 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: northbound max 8 Ellisburg 4 June; southbound max 8 CWF 29 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 several locations Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 CWF 26 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 35 CWF 29 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 3-4 terr FD Jun; White River LEWI 7 Jun; Chaumont 11 Jun; 2 CV 30 Jul; 4 Dog Hill Rd T Orleans 22 Jul; apparently-migrating: 3 FD 26 Jul; 1 FD 1 Aug; 1 FD 5 Aug.

MARBLED GODWIT: Ellisburg 3-4 Jun (TS, DW, JB, photos!, report to NYSARC).

Ruddy Turnstone: 6 on concrete navigation cells SLR Massena 5 Jun.

Sanderling: 3 flying up SLR past WHWMA 20 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: with Ruddy Turnstones SLR Massena 5 Jun only northbound report; 4 reports 1-2 late Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 5 CWF 26 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 at marshy pond Dekalb 14 Jun, only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: 2 CWF 26 Aug (JB).

Red-necked Phalarope: WHWMA 26 Aug (JB).

LAUGHING GULL (R6): ad SLR Alexandria 23 Jun (NK).

Caspian Tern: 5-30/day PRWMA thru.

Black Tern: 30-45/day PRWMA thru early Aug; 20-30/day ULLWMA Jun; 20 Wilson's Bay CV 11 Jun; 4 LWMA 4 Jul.

Com. Tern: 1177 nests SLR highest in recent history and 37.8% increase since 2009 (LH).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 25+ reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: about 30 reports; much scarcer than most years.
Long-eared Owl: FD 15 Jun.
N. Saw-whet Owl: FD 15 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: 8-12 per day FD thru mid-Aug; no other breeding season reports.
E. Whip-poor-will: max 41 heard on 10-stop survey route FD 15 Jun.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 8-10 pr FD, where difficult to find until y fledged mid-Jul.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Parishville 4 Jul; max 3 LPd 5 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: migrant ULLWMA 14 Jun; breeding reports from High Falls Trail & Fox Marsh.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr FD 16 Aug; 4 additional reports late Aug.
W. KINGBIRD: FD 12 Jul (GL, photos!, report to NYSARC).
Philadelphia Vireo: MM 2 Jul, only report.
Gray Jay: 2 ad w juv White Hill Wild Area T Parishville 12 Jun; max 10+ MM 27 Jul; 8 LPd 5 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 11 FD 29 Jul.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: singing m FD 22 Jun & juvenile nearby 22 Aug, first documented breeding at this location.
Carolina Wren: Louisville 20 Aug; singing m Canton yard 30 Jul first in this location since Apr.
Sedge Wren: arr Ellisburg 3 Jun; max 11 FD 7 Jul, where y on several terr mid-Jul; 2 Dog Hill Road T Orleans 22 July; Hammond 2 Aug.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: South Sandy Creek Jun; different locations FD 10 Jun & 2 Jul.
N. Mockingbird: 2 pr FD thru, where nest w 3 y 25 Aug fledged 26 or 27 Aug (late); PRWMA 28 Jun; Hammond 12 July.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: Downerville SF 26 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: many on surveys FD, Indian River Lakes, and W. St. Lawrence Valley.
Blue-winged Warbler: approximately as common as Golden-winged Warbler FD; much less common STLA; several presumed terr m resumed singing FD 18 Aug thru.
Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrid: increasing STLA; 2 terr m

“Lawrence’s” FD Jun; migrant “Lawrence’s” FD 22 Aug
Tennessee Warbler: singing m FD 2 Jul not seen again; different location FD 10 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: 2 Winona SF T Lorraine 3 Jun.
Cap May Warbler: arr FD 22 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: 2 Rossie 11 Jun; Dekalb 14 Jun; 5-7 singing m FD Jun.
N. Parula: apparent very late northbound migrant FD 27 June; southbound arr FD 25 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 22 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: many migrating last week Aug.
Yellow Warbler: migrating by 25 Jul.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr FD 22 Aug.
Palm Warbler: singing m Parishville, new location; well documented MM but not elsewhere in Adirondacks.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: apparent migrants FD 1 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: no reports away from traditional breeding sites FD & CB.
Canada Warbler: up to 12/day FD.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 50+ singing m FD Jun & Jul; Henderson 12 Jun (SK); Chaumont 30 Jun (AB).
Vesper Sparrow: 150+ singing m FD thru; no other reports.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 50+ singing m FD thru; 6 other locations JEFF; 2 Hammond 14 Jun.
Henslow’s Sparrow: 6 terr m FD Jun declined to 4 Jul; up to 6 singing m reported Hammond 14 Jun could not be relocated; 5 terr m Dog Hill Rd T Orleans 11-12 Jun & 22 Jul.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: several reports each MM & Horseshoe L Bog; lack of reports elsewhere STLA result of poor coverage.
Dark-eyed Junco: 2 Philadelphia 11 Jun; juv FD 26 Jul; only reports away from Adirondacks & Tug Hill.
DICKCISSEL (R6): apparently migrating FD 3 Aug (JB).
Bobolink: migrating by 29 July; steady migration 16 Aug thru.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1500 feeding in wild rice ULLWMA 28 Aug.
Rusty Blackbird: several reports from High Falls Trail.
Orchard Oriole: Clayton yard thru 23 Jun.
Baltimore Oriole: obvious migrants by 5 Aug.
Pine Siskin: Parishville 4 Jul.
Evening Grosbeak: 4 Hyde L JEFF 28 Jul.

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Melanie McCormack

PO Box 366, Keene, NY 12942

Mruddyduck@aol.com

The summer of 2011 was a mostly enjoyable summer for the Region, with temperatures just slightly above normal for all three months and below average precipitation for June and July. In June temperatures in the Adirondacks were 3.1° above normal, with a warm spell in the second week that brought temperatures into the 90s in some towns, including a high of 93° in Willsboro on 9 June. The warm trend continued into July, with temperatures 3.9° above average in the Adirondacks and 2.7° in the Champlain Valley, setting records as the fifth warmest July on record. The warmest week of the summer came in the third week of July, with temperatures reaching 89° in Tupper Lake and 96° in Chazy on 22 July. The coolest July temperatures were nighttime lows ranging from 45-50° on the 14th and 15th. August temperatures remained warm, with temperatures 1.7° above average in the Region, with the highest temperatures occurring in the first few days followed by a cold snap that brought a record low of 39° in Peru on the 6th. The real story of August, though, was rainfall.

After record-breaking precipitation in the winter and spring months the rain was not missed by anyone during these months, but the rain returned in August to continue the record-breaking trend nonetheless and to produce the wettest August on record. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 2.2-6.5" above normal across the Region. The weather event of the year was certainly Tropical Storm *Irene*, which brought record rainfall totals to some towns and caused flash flooding and widespread damage to roads, homes, and businesses throughout the Region. A series of storms in mid-August had already saturated the ground before *Irene*'s arrival, causing the several inches of rain to pour off the mountainsides in torrents that created new slides on many peaks and made some rivers and streams change course. Official rainfall totals from the storm that hit on 28 August ranged from 5.3" in Lake Placid to 7.5" at Whiteface Mountain, with locals in my town of Keene reporting over 8" of rain. Some of the worst rain fell on the northern side of the high peaks, bringing the Ausable River to a record-breaking height of 19' and causing the worst damage to the towns of Keene, Jay, and Ausable Forks, isolating these towns for days while roads and bridges were repaired.

While road closures created challenges for birders in the Adirondacks post-*Irene*, good shorebird fallouts were still recorded by birders in the Champlain Valley in the days following the storm. On 29 August a high count of 35 Caspian Terns was reported from Port Henry, and on the 30th a high count of 525 Bonaparte's Gulls was reported from Westport. The 31st brought the highest numbers and greatest diversity of shorebirds all season to the always productive Chazy Riverlands, with 11 shorebird species reported in a single day. The highlights included two Red Knots, two White-rumped Sandpipers, two Bairds's

Sandpipers, four Pectoral Sandpipers, and a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**—only the fourth record in Clinton County.

Chazy Riverlands was also the site of excellent birds in the beginning of the season as the last spring migrants passed through. The 3rd of June brought the first sighting since 1998 of a **Cattle Egret** as well as a Glossy Ibis. A pair of **Red-necked Phalaropes** in breeding plumage stopped by on the 4th and is only the third record for the Region. A **Marbled Godwit** was present from the 15-20th of June—only the fourth county record. On 30 July there was a report at the Riverlands of a drake **Ruddy Duck**, a species usually only seen in migration in the Champlain Valley. Another **Ruddy Duck** report of two chicks came out of Madawaska on 16 July, a unique sighting for a species that is only known to breed in western NY.

Record precipitation in the spring and mild temperatures in the summer resulted in an excellent year for berries, cones, and insects, which seemed to have benefited bird populations as well. In my own observations while conducting bird surveys this summer, I noticed very high numbers of Cedar Waxwings, and there were numerous reports of them across the Region. There was an above average number of reports of Black-billed Cuckoos, likely the result of high tent caterpillar populations. A strong number of Red Crossbills was reported this summer, as well as one report of White-winged Crossbills. In late August there was a scattering of reports of flocks of Common Nighthawks feeding on swarms of insects, though there were no reports earlier in the season. An **Orchard Oriole** was spotted in Keene Valley on 21 June, a good find in the Adirondacks.

Lastly I think it is worth mentioning how some of our rarer species and species of conservation concern fared in this season's reports. There was a lone report of **Spruce Grouse**, an adult male from the Osgood River on 14 July. **Black Terns** were reported from Chazy Riverlands throughout the season, with a maximum report of three individuals, fewer than previous years. Bicknell's Thrush was reported from a number of peaks, with as many as six being reported from both Mt. Marcy and Whiteface Mountain. Boreal Chickadees were reported from a number of bogs and high elevation forests in the Region. Gray Jays seemed to be reliable, with sightings in Bloomingdale and Ferd's Bogs this year and with additional reports from Moose River Plains and Paul Smiths. A single **Three-toed Woodpecker** was observed during a BBS in Inlet. There were only four reports of Rusty Blackbirds, including a report of two breeding pairs again present near Chazy Lake. Common Loons met some challenges this year, with record breaking water levels in the spring flooding many of their usual nest sites. Many of the pairs that I observed adapted well, however, renesting later in the season and successfully fledging at least one chick.

In all, this summer was a record breaking season not only for precipitation but for birds as well. The season total was 196 species, breaking the previous record of 192 set in 2004 and rising well above last year's total of 176.

CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew Baksh, Scott Barnes, Alan Belford, Susan Black, Ken Chaisson, Kelly Close, Joan Collins, Jim de Waal Malefyt, Diane Demers, Joe Demko, Gordon Dimmig, Gail Epstein, Jessica Ewing, Suzy Feustel, Elizabeth Fitts, Craig Fosdick, Kenny Frisch, Andrew Garland, Larry Hall, Bob Howard, Brett Haranin, Patti Haynes, Judith Heintz, Betsy Jensen, Elsbeth Johnson, Kyle Jones, Dave Kaddie, Bill Krueger, Gary Lee, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Melanie McCormack, Matthew Medler, Charlie Mitchell, Avery Nagy-MacArthur, Dan Nickerson, Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, Jim Osborn, Justin Potter, Sharon Pratt, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Ben Schweinhart, Scott Schwenk, Robert Scott, Robert Scranton, Marilyn Smith, James Swanson, John and Pat Thaxton, Alison Wagner, Brad Walker, Colleen Williams, Thomas Williams, Robert G Williams III, Chris Wood, Matthew Young, Janice Zepko.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; IF – Intervale Farm, Lake Placid; LA – Lake Alice; LP – Lake Pleasant; LL – Long Lake; Mad – Madawaska, MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Park; OL – Oseetah Lake; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; RF – Reagan Flats Road, Bombay; SPB – Spring Pond Bog; SB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Scotion Creek, Plattsburgh; SLB – Silver Lake Bog; StR – Saint Regis Canoe Area; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve, Ti – Ticonderoga, TL – Tupper Lake; WF – Whiteface Mtn., WM – Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: CR 15 Jun (BK&JO).
Brant: CR 3 Jun (BK).
Canada Goose: max 58 RF 23 Aug (RS).
Wood Duck: max 14 Pt Au Fer 19 Aug.
Gadwall: 2 RF 3 Jun(RS); 6 CR 8 Jun (JO).
Am. Black Duck: max 15 Saranac Lakes 15 Jul (AW).
Blue-winged Teal: CR 15, 28 Jun (BK).
Green-winged Teal: 3 CR 30 Jun (NO).
Ring-necked Duck: 5 OL 12 Jun (GD); 8 TL 26 Jun (JZ); 8 PS 1 Jul (BM); 4 Chub Pond 27 Jul (BH).
Lesser Scaup: CR 11 Jun (BK&JO).
Com. Goldeneye: 2 OL 12 Jun (GD); 2 Port Kent 20 Jun (SP).
Hooded Merganser: 6 Black Pond 15 July (SF); max 8 AP 17 Aug (BJ).
Com. Merganser: max 26 Essex 22 Aug (AW).
Ruddy Duck: CR 30 Jul (BK&CM), drake late rec CLIN; 2 FL Mad 16 Jul (AB&SO).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Chazy 4 Jul (BK&CM).
Ruffed Grouse: max 8 IF 4 Jun (JD).

Spruce Grouse: Osgood Ri 14 Jul (GE), male.
Wild Turkey: max 20 RF 16 Jul (RS).
Com. Loon: max 20 StR 1 Jul (KF).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 CR 8 Jun (JO); PS 9 Jul (JF).
Double-crested Cormorant: 2 SB 1 Jul; max 2050 Port Henry 30 Aug (EJ).
Am. Bittern: max 4 PS 9 Jul (JF).
Great Blue Heron: max 14 Wilmington 13 Jun (GD).
Great Egret: 2 Riley Brook 20 Jun; 2 CR 28 Jun, AP 1 Jul; RF 16 Jul; NP 19 Aug.
CATTLE EGRET (R7): CR 3 Jun (BHo), 1st sighting since 1998.
Green Heron: max 3 SC 31 Jul (NO).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 SC 14 Jul (NO); 3 Valcour I 20 Jul (BK).
Glossy Ibis: CR 3 Jun (BHo).
Turkey Vulture: max 17 Crown Pt 16 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 6 AP 17 Jul (BJ).
Bald Eagle: max 3 12 Jun OL (GD).

N. Harrier: max 4 Essex 31 Jul (DN).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 4 BB 23 Aug (AG).
Cooper's Hawk: Willis L 30 Jul (KC); Malone 24 Jul (KC); Ti 9 Aug (PH).
N. Goshawk: LP 2 Jul (JD); Tahawus 14 Aug (MY); Bigsby Rd 20 Aug (BW).
Red-shouldered Hawk: SLB 4 Jul (KF); TL 10 Jul (JD).
Broad-winged Hawk: max 6 BB 27 Aug (AG).
Red-tailed Hawk: max 2 RF 3 Jun (RS).
Am. Kestrel: max 6 Altona 17 Aug (MMc).
Merlin: max 2 IF 5 Jun (LM); 2 Willsboro 21 Jun (SP).
Peregrine Falcon: IF 4 Jun (LM); Upper Saranae L 17 Jul (AW); Mt Colvin 31 Jul (MM&DD).
Virginia Rail: LA 17 Jun (NO).
Sora: CR 10 Jul (JO).
Com. Gallinule: max 5 CR 25 Aug (BK&CM); Riley Brook 20 Jul (NO).
Am. Coot: CR 31 Jul-27 Aug, mob.
Black-bellied Plover: max 14 CR 4 Jun; arr CR 4 Jul, early CLIN; CR 31 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: 18 CR 31 Aug (JO&BK).
Semipalmated Plover: arr NP 29 Jul (MMc&DD); max 13 CR 31 Aug (BK&JO).
Killdeer: max 10 NP 7 Aug (MMc&DD).
Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 Raquette L 14 Aug (BT).
Greater Yellowlegs: CR 9 Jul-31 Aug; 2 NP 18 July (TW); max 11 CR 31 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 2 Jul-31 Aug, max 22 9 Jul; 2 NP 18 Jul & 6 Aug (TW).
Whimbrel: ESSEX FERRY 29 JUL (DN).
MARBLED GODWIT: CR 15, 20 Jul (JO, BK, CM, NO); 4th rec CLIN.
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 CR 31 Aug (BK&JO).
Red Knot: 2 CR 24, 26 Aug (BK&JO).
Sanderling: 2 CR 24 Aug (BK&JO); 8 Port Henry 29 Aug (EJ).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 NP 7 Aug (MMc&DD); Port Henry 29 Aug (EJ); max 24 CR 31 Aug (BK&JO).
Least Sandpiper: 14 NP 7 Aug (MMc&DD); 2 Port Henry 29 Aug (EJ); max 28 CR 31 Aug (BK&JO).
White-rumped Sandpiper: CR 15 Jun (BK), late rec CLIN; max 28 CR 11 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 13 Aug; max 2 CR 31 Aug (JO).
Pectoral Sandpiper: NP 7 Aug (MMc&DD); max 4 CR 31 Aug (BK&JO).
Dunlin: 2 CR 3 Jun-11 Jun, late CLIN.
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (R7): CR 31 Aug (JO), 4th CLIN record.
Am. Woodcock: max 2 Raquette L 14 Aug (BT).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R7): 2 CR 4 Jun (JO), pair, 3rd CLIN record.
Bonaparte's Gull: 400 CR 19 Jun; 305 NP 9 Aug (CF); max 525 Westport 30 Aug (EJ).
Little Gull: 2 CR 4 Jun-29 Jun, mob.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 6 Port Kent 5 Aug (KJ).
Caspian Tern: 3 SC 14 Jul (NO); 17 CR 17 Jul; 22 NP 29 Jul; max 35 Port Henry 29 Aug (EJ).
Black Tern: CR 18 Jun-10 Jul (JO); max 3 CR 29 Jun; CR 3 Aug (NO).
Com. Tern: 6 RF 3 Jun (RS); 2 AP 20 Jun (SP); 2 CR 17 Jul-31 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: PS 4 Jul (BM); 2 Mad 16 Jul (SO&AB), only reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 RF 3 Jun; 2 Belmont 5 Jun; 2 L Placid 10 Jul; Piscoco 13 Jul; 2 Keene 14 Jul; Essex 31 Jul; Witherbee 31 Jul; Altona 17 Aug.
E. Screech-Owl: AP 17 Aug (BJ).
Great Horned Owl: Keene 19 Jun (J&PT); Willis L 13 Aug (KC).
Barred Owl: max 2 Lewey L 4 Jul (RW).
Com. Nighthawk: BB 18 Aug (MMa); 3 SL 25 Aug (AB); max 20 Plattsburgh 25 Aug; 16 Peru 30 Aug (DR).
E. Whip-poor-will: max 5 Miner Flat Rock 26 Jul (NO); 2 Willsboro 31 Jul (MMc&LS).
Chimney Swift: 4 Ferd's Bog 10 Jun; 6 MRP 25 Jun; max 12 Big Simons Pd 6 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 3 Bigsby Pond 19 Aug (BW); 3 MRP 25 Jun (JZ).
Belted Kingfisher: max 6 OL 19 Jul (GD).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Inlet 7 Jul (CW), only report.
Black-backed Woodpecker: max 4 Moose Pond 22 Jun; 4 Ferd's Bog 18 Aug, many reports.
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: Inlet 7 Jul (CW), only report.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 6 Mad 16 Jul (AB&SO); also multiple reports from BB, SLB, and MRP.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: LA 8 Jun; 5 SLB 11 Jun; 4 BB 18 Jun; max 7 High Peaks Wilderness 18 Jun.
Alder Flycatcher: max 15 IF 4 Jun (LM).
Willow Flycatcher: 2 RF 3 Jun (RS); LA 8 Jun (JO); Dickinson Ctr 4 Jul (AN); SLB 11 Jul (JH).
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 RF 4 Jul (RS).
Yellow-throated Vireo: Rand Hill 27 Aug (JH).
Warbling Vireo: max 3 Malone 24 Jul (KC).
Philadelphia Vireo: SPB 11 Jun (AB); Keene 9 Jul (J&PT); LP 16 Aug; WM 29 Aug.

Gray Jay: max 6 SSP 11 Jun (JP); 3 Ferd's Bog 17 Jun (GL); 4 PS 14 Jul (BM); 5 BB 19 Jul (GD).

Com. Raven: max 5 Pitchoff Mtn 6 Aug (SS).

Horned Lark: 4 CR 8 Jun (JO).

Purple Martin: 6 RF 3 Jun (RS).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 8 RF 3 Jun (RS); 3 Upper Saranac L 16 Jul (AW).

Bank Swallow: 4 RF 16 Jul (RS).

Cliff Swallow: 8 CR 2 Jul; 20 RF 16 Jul (RS).

Boreal Chickadee: LP 8 Jul (JD); 6 Mad 15 Jul; 2 PS 4 Aug; 6 BB 1 Aug with FL; MRP 2 Aug; max 9 Panther Peak 20 Aug;

Tufted Titmouse: LP 8 Jul; 2 Essex 31 Jul.

Carolina Wren: CH 1 Jun-31 Jul (NO); Plattsburgh 12 Jun (BK).

Marsh Wren: max 15 SC 15 Jul (NO).

E. Bluebird: max 6 RF 23 Aug (RS).

Veery: max 6 IF 5 Jun (LM).

Bicknell's Thrush: 5 Porter Mt 11 Jun; max 6 Mt Marcy 18 Jun (KF); 6 WF 18 Jul (AB); 2 Blue Mt 31 Jul (JC).

Swainson's Thrush: 8 Mt Marcy 18 Jun (KF); 3 Blue Mt 3 Jul; max 15 WF 13 Jul.

Wood Thrush: IF 5 Jun (LM); NP 27 Jun (J&PT).

N. Mockingbird: LP 5 Jul (JD); Plattsburgh 2 Aug (NO).

Brown Thrasher: IF 6 Jun (LM); LA 16 Jun (NO); max 3 RF 4 Jul (RS).

Cedar Waxwing: max 40 MRP 25 Jun (JZ); high numbers across Region due to excellent berry crop.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: SPB 1 Jul (T&CW); BB 27 Aug (AB&SO).

Am. Redstart: max 6 RF 4 Jul (RS).

Cape May Warbler: IF 6 Jun (LM); 18 Jun Mt Marcy (KF); 18 Jun SPB (MMc); Inlet 7 Jul (CW).

N. Parula: max 11 Dunlop Rd 12 Jul (SF).

Magnolia Warbler: max 16 IF 5 Jun (LM).

Bay-breasted Warbler: IF L Placid (AB).

Blackburnian Warbler: max 9 StR 1 Jul (KF).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 10 IF 4 Jun (LM).

Blackpoll Warbler: WF 4 Jun; 8 Porter Mt 11 Jun (MMc); max 30 Yard Mt 16 Jul (J&PT).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 StR 1 Jul (KF).

Palm Warbler: max 10 BB 18 Jun.

Pine Warbler: max 7 StR 1 Jul (KF).

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 16 Hurricane Mt 19 Jun (MMe).

Canada Warbler: max 10 Mad 15 Jul (SF).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: RF 3 Jun (RS); MRP 25 Jun (JZ); TL 10 Jul (JD); Malone 24 Jul (KC).

Field Sparrow: BB 12 Jun (AB); CP 20 Jul (C&TW).

Vesper Sparrow: French Settlement Rd 4 Jun (NR).

Savannah Sparrow: max 9 LP 16 Jul (SF).

Lincoln's Sparrow: SPB 18 Jun; SB 1 Jul; max 10 BB 23 Aug (AG).

Swamp Sparrow: max 6 BB 11 Jul (SF).

Scarlet Tanager: MRRA 1 Jun; 3 StR 1 Jul; SLB 4 Jul; 2 PS 9 Jul; max 4 Inlet 7 Jul (CW).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 Clarojast 29 Jun; max 7 Inlet 7 Jul; 4 SLB 18 Aug; 2 Keene 20 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: max 10 MRP 12 Jun; 4 Dickinson Ctr 25 Jun-18 Aug.

Bobolink: 4 CH b7 Jun-15 Jul (NO); 8 Heaven Hill 11 Jun (BS); max 110 Essex 7 Aug (MMe).

E. Meadowlark: 2 RF 3 Jun (RS).

Rusty Blackbird: SPB 18 Jun (MMc); 4 Chazy L 18-19 Jun; Whiteface Landing 20 Jun (MMc); Browns Tract 12 Jul (GL), only reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 8 PS 4 Aug (RS).

Orchard Oriole: Keene Valley 21 Jun (LM), 2nd yr male.

Purple Finch: Inlet 2 Jun (GL); 5 SLP 3 Jul (SF); 5 Witherbee 31 Jul; max 6 BB 10 Aug.

Red Crossbill: 4 BB 18 Jun; LP 5 Jul; 2 Inlet 8 Jul; 3 Vanderwhacker Mt 30 Jul; 3 Boreas R 1 Aug; 3 Minerva 2 Aug; 4 Browns Tract 14 Aug; Tahawus 14 Aug; good number of reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Osgood R 19 Jun (J&PT).

Evening Grosbeak: BB 18, 20 Jun (SB); LL 19 Aug (JC).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534

wyandik@hotmail.com

Summer 2011 was among the wettest at Albany International Airport since record keeping began, mainly due to two tropical storms that dumped up to 15" of rain in some parts of the Catskill Mountains, caused region-wide flooding, and, in some cases, severe damage to habitats both natural and human. June ended a degree and a half warmer than average, with nearly an inch more rain than average. July continued to warm, ending 3.8° above average, with a heat wave topping out at 99° on the 21st. August ended slightly warmer than average, with seven more inches of rainfall than average at Albany. Several towns south of Albany, particularly in Schoharie and Greene counties, received more than 10" of rain from the remnants of Hurricane *Irene*, leading to historic flooding that destroyed entire hamlets and attracted national attention to the unprecedented scale of flooding and damage.

Many birders tried to scan the fields and rivers for hurricane-driven accidentals. Jesse Jaycox reported a neighbor who found a **White-tailed Tropicbird** on the side of the road in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, and attempted to send the bird to a rehabilitator. Unrelated to the storm, but nearly as tropical, many area birders were able to locate a wandering **American White Pelican** in the Capital District from Hudson to Cohoes between 8-16 August.

Although it may be hard for our birding neighbors in the Adirondacks and on Long Island to believe, it is big news in Region 8 that a **confirmed nesting record for Osprey** is at hand for the Hudson River. A pair has nested on one of the navigation stations very near the river border of Columbia and Greene Counties. For reasons difficult to understand, Ospreys have always been fairly common in summer on the mid-Hudson, having access to snags and suitable nesting sites and with broad open stretches of water with suitable prey, but the birds have never successfully bred here. In the 1980s, nesting platforms were erected in several locations along the Hudson, with no reports of success. We'll be keeping an eye out for any future breeding of this species in our Region.

The Region had three reports of **Sandhill Crane** this summer. One report, in Ancram, is the sixth record for that county. The first, according to Alan Devoe Bird Club records compiler, Bill Cook, occurred in 1967. Although increasing statewide, cranes are still a rare occurrence in the Region.

While conducting his annual mid-June dawn survey on Hunter Mountain, Steve Chorvas reported three Ruby-crowned Kinglets singing alternately and defending territories. They are an uncommon breeder on some of the highest peaks of the Catskills in our Region. Steve also recorded 15 Bicknell's Thrush near the Hunter summit this year.

A wet, late spring caused farmers to dive into their hayfields during a dry window in early June and cut as fast as they could, which likely led to poor

breeding outcomes for many grassland nesting birds. Richard Nord reported nesting success for a few pair of meadowlarks in Claverack, Columbia County. Rich frequently talks with the farmers who own the fields adjacent to his home, informs them of the birds' declining status, and asks if they could delay mowing. This sort of local action probably has just as much chance of saving grassland breeding birds as any national policy, and we commend Rich for just this sort of effort.

A few birders drove up to Ames, Montgomery County, this summer and recorded Henslow's Sparrows there, sparking an interesting conversation on where we can still find this sparrow elsewhere in the state and whether we should now consider this species threatened. It's a familiar story in our state, of declining farmland, forest succession, and fragmentation of suitable open grassland habitats, but what is new is a growing discussion of how amateurs, especially using free online software such as eBird, can help to document the status of this species and others between major efforts such as the Breeding Bird Atlas Program. These casual observations cannot supplant systematic study or replace statistical rigor, but so many ears and eyes can surely be put to good use. I would encourage ecologists, land managers, graduate students, and others to notify Regional editors if there are species of concern that we should be taking note of, especially species that might be common here now but declining significantly in other parts of their region- or continent-wide ranges.

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamsen, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Steve Chorvas, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, Tim Dormady, Corey Finger, John Finley, Dave Gibson, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Eric Kranz, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Kelly McKay, Roger Miller, Mike Morgante, Frank Murphy, Gail & Rich Nord, Paul Novak, Tim O'Conner, Mike Peterson, John Piwowarski, Neil Powell, Bill Purcell, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Steph Restuccia, Bill Ruscher, George Steele, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Marlene Vidibor, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Tom Williams, T. Lloyd Williams, Chris Winters, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, John Workman, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

COX – T Cocksackie, GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

N. Shoveler: HR SARA 20 Jul.
Ruddy Duck: Schodack RENS 3 Jun.
WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD:
Presbyterian Hill Rd Stephentown RENS 29 Aug
(JJ), injured bird found along road.
AM. WHITE PELICAN (R8): Hudson COLU
8 Aug; Cohoes ALBA 8-16 Aug (mob).
Am Bittern: 3 HR SARA 14 Jun; HR WASH 29
Jun.
Least Bittern: BCM 17 Jul.
Great Egret: max 6 Cohoes ALBA 6 Aug.
Snowy Egret: New Baltimore GREE 20 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: MR SCHE 10
Jul.
Black Vulture: Ghent COLU 8 Aug; 2
Slingerlands ALBA 18 Aug; Hudson COLU 22
Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 2 Root MONT Jun thru.
Osprey: confirmed nesting along the Hudson R
seems imminent. *intro.*
N. Harrier: max 2 Ames MONT 14 Jul.
N. Goshawk: Dyken Pd RENS 4 Jun; Saratoga
SARA 17 Jul; Partridge Run 5 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Potic Swamp GREE 12
Jun; Saratoga Airport SARA 14 Jul.
Sora: HR SARA 22 Jul.
Com. Gallinule: BCM 4 Jul.
SANDHILL CRANE (R8): Galway SARA 24
Jun; Ancram COLU 6-7 Jul; County Rt 57
GREE 21 Aug.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 Wright's Loop SARA 3
Jun.
Semipalmated Plover: max 16 Cohoes ALBA
16 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: Nassau RENS 22 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 3 Cohoes ALBA 4
Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: COX grasslands 24 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: 4 Ames MONT 11 Jun thru.
Sanderling: VF 15 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: COX grasslands 24
Jul.
Least Sandpiper: max 20 Cohoes ALBA 4 Aug.
Dunlin: HR WASH 14 Jun.
Caspian Tern: COX boat launch Aug 21.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: max 22 Colonie ALBA 22
Aug.
E. Whip-poor-will: Cold spring Rd SARA 9
Jun; Ghent COLU 16 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 18
Jun; max 9 Malta Tech Park SARA 10 Jul.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Niskayuna SCHE 5-
11 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 5 Hunter Mt
GREE 15 Jun; COX grasslands 24 Jul; Partridge
Run ALBA 20 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: 2 Saratoga 3 Jun; Alcove Res
ALBA 5 Jun.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 Hunter Mt GREE 15
Jun, singing territorially.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Austerlitz COLU 28
Aug.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 15 Hunter Mt GREE 15
Jun.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

N. Waterthrush: Chatham COLU 2 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: Partridge Run ALBA 1
Jun-1 Jul; Blackhead Mt GREE 4 Jun; Burnt-
Rossman SF SCHO 16 Jun-14 Aug; 2 Clapper
Hollow SF ALBA 20 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: Coeymans ALBA 6-24 Jun;
New Scotland ALBA 31 Jul.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 Hunter Mt GREE
15 Jun.
Canada Warbler: Hunter Mt GREE 15 Jun; 2
Clapper Hollow SF ALBA 20 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: Saratoga Airport SARA
7 Jul; 2 Ames MONT 16 Jul.
Henslow's Sparrow: MacPhail Rd Ames
MONT 11 Jul.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Rensselaerville RENS 14
Jul.
E. Meadowlark: 5 Ames MONT 14 Jul.
Orchard Oriole: Germantown COLU 11 Jun.
Red Crossbill: Burnt-Rossman SF SCHO 16
July; 3 Burnt-Rossman SF SCHO 14 Aug.
White-winged Crossbill: Edinburg SARA 19
Jul.
Pine Siskin: Cobleskill BBS route SCHO 5 Jun.
Evening Grosbeak: 5 S Glens Falls WARR 11
Jun; Providence SARA 23 Jun.



REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

BochnikM@cs.com

The summer report, which is usually highlighted by the breeding season, was overshadowed by the plethora of first Regional and County records along with many storm related sightings due to the direct hit of Hurricane/Tropical Storm *Irene* in late August.

The season started out fairly wet. June was warmer and wetter than average thanks to heavy rains in the days just prior to 24 June. The month came in 2° degrees warmer than normal, with 4.4" of rain in Poughkeepsie and nearly 6" of rain in White Plains, 2.2" higher than average. July was highlighted by a five-day heat wave from 19 to 23 July, with Poughkeepsie reaching 102° F on 22 July. The month came in a remarkable 3.8° warmer than normal but was dry, with only 2.24" of precipitation. August started out very wet, with 17 of the first 20 days having at least some rain. The month was already the second wettest on record by the 20th.

Hurricane *Irene* then hit New York as a tropical storm and dumped 6-11" of rain on the area on 27-28 August. Tuxedo Park recorded 11.48" in a 24 hour period. The center of the storm traveled over the east side of the Region, and a number of storm related birds were reported. Most birds were seen just after the center had passed on the morning of the 28th. By late in the day, many storm related birds had vanished. August easily broke the record for the wettest month. The month was near normal in temperature, but both Poughkeepsie and White Plains finished with 13.25" of rain.

Storm related birds on 28 August included the following: Andy Guthrie, Tom Burke and Gail Benson observed an immature **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Rye Beach as it traveled from inland to out into Long Island Sound. Details were submitted to this editor. This would be the first record for Westchester County. Benjamin Van Doren reported two adult **Sooty Terns**, two **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and two Black Terns also at Rye Beach. A NYSARC report was submitted for the Sooties and some video of the storm-petrels was taken. On the Hudson River, Lewis & Michael Lolya reported three **Sooty Terns**, eight Black Terns, 20 Common Terns, and a Forster's Tern from Croton Bay. Robert Slechta found five **Sooty Terns** and three Black Terns at Croton Point Park. This is only the second record for Sooty Tern in Westchester. The first were two adults and an immature in Dobbs Ferry 6 September 1979 after Hurricane *David*. David Gange, along with Tait Johansson reported a **Bridled Tern** at Pearson Park, Tarrytown via an eBird report that included a brief but good description on the back, wings, and tail. This would also be a first record for Westchester County, if a NYSARC report is submitted and accepted. Evan Edelbaum found a **Black-necked Stilt** at the old GM plant in Sleepy Hollow. Benjamin Van Doren (photo submitted to this editor), Robert Lewis, Lewis & Michael Lolya were also able to view the stilt. The Lolyas then found three **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** and

Benjamin Van Doren reported two **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** and a Least Tern on the Hudson near the stilt location. Without sounding like a broken record, the Black-necked Stilt would also be a first record for Westchester County. Another Least Tern was on the Hudson at Piermont Pier, Rockland's first sighting since 1977.

The storm also produced devastating flooding in the entire area. The Black Dirt region of Orange County was hard hit by the flooding, but it set up some great shorebirding that lasted into September. Ken McDermott and Danny Messina found a Whimbrel along with an American Golden Plover, five White-rumped Sandpipers, two Baird's Sandpipers, five Pectoral Sandpipers, and a Stilt Sandpiper on 30 August along with other common shorebirds. A second Whimbrel was found in Ulster County at the Saugerties Lighthouse Trail on 31 August. Three Hudsonian Godwits, in three different inland counties, were found in late August at Piermont Pier, Millbrook, and Kingston. Sanderlings turned up in the Black Dirt region and along the Hudson after the storm.

A Black Tern at the Bashakill on 24 June foreshadowed a huge invasion into the Region just before and especially after the storm. One was inland at Morningside Park 15 August followed by a report from Saugerties 20 August. Then, just before the storm, seven were again at Morningside Park on 25 August and 40 at Piermont Pier the same day. Just after the storm, along with the previously mentioned Black Terns, another eight were off Sleepy Hollow in the Hudson, 12 were on nearby Tarrytown Lake, and two were much further up the Hudson at Kingston.

Along with numerous Common and Forster's Terns that were chased up the Hudson, a **Royal Tern** at Piermont Pier 28 August was Rockland's first record since 1960.

Turning to the other parts of the season, a number of waterfowl lingered into June. Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, and Ruddy Duck were found inland; Brant and White-winged Scoter were on Long Island Sound; and Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, and more Brant were on the Hudson. Ken Harris found an adult male Common Eider at Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie on 13 June. The sighting is both rare inland and for time of year. It is the second record for Dutchess County; the first⁴ was in October 1979.

The American White Pelican found in late May in Saugerties remained 'til 1 June. A pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons successfully nested in New Rochelle. There was no word on the small colony in Mount Vernon. Rob Stone found a juvenile **White Ibis**, along with a Sedge Wren, at the NY portion of the Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge in Pine Island, Orange County on 14 July. He also spotted a Sandhill Crane the night before. All three birds lingered until at least 25 July. After a two day absence, a juvenile White Ibis was found 11 miles away at Bashakill Marsh by John Haas on 28 July and then relocated the next day by Scott Baldinger. It disappeared thereafter. This is the first record for Sullivan County. The ibis was then reported from Wallkill on 31 Jul, with sporadic reports into August. In addition, one to two immature Little Blue Herons were found in this same area.

Peter Schoenberger also found and photographed a Sandhill Crane at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR in Ulster County on 5 June. The bird was initially feeding but flew north after a few minutes.

The heavy rains just before 24 June flooded the Bashakill Marsh and wiped out many Common Gallinule nests. John Haas continually surveyed the marsh for breeding success/ failure and reported on his blog:

- American Bittern – at least three adults – first nesting most likely lost, currently nesting again.
- Least Bittern – between six and eight birds minimum, with five adults and one juvenile photographed. Some of the first nests were lost, birds are nesting again.
- Common Gallinule – at least 25 pairs of moorhens present. First nesting was a total loss, but birds are nesting again, with ample time for a successful season.
- Pied-billed Grebe – at least three adults and one newly hatched chick present. This is the first confirmed breeding in many years (2004). [He subsequently found three half-grown Pied-billed Grebe chicks.]
- Sora – one or possibly two birds were present up until the last flood. Not seen or heard since.
- Virginia Rails – at least four pairs/family groups present and some confirmed breeding prior to floods, with some chicks seen/heard.

A cold front brought in a good wave of migrants on 23 August. Evan Mark found a Prothonotary Warbler at Rockefeller Preserve in the morning and Lewis Lolya found 14 species of warblers, a Philadelphia Vireo, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher in a mixed flock at the preserve the same day in the evening.

Dickcissels were found in late August at Rogowski Farm in Orange County and at Croton Point Park.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Albantides, John Askildsen, Judith Atwood, Scott & Paula Baldinger, Kyle Bardwell, Robert Bate, Alan Beebe, Gail Benson, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Lynn Bowdery, Tom Burke, David Cartmel, Stephen Chang, Drew Ciganek, Judy Cinquina, Jim Clinton, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Tom & Elda Dow, Jacob Drucker, John & Abby Dux, Evan Edelbaum, Ken & Sue Feustel, Valerie Freer, Richard Fried, Stephanie Garber, David Gagne, Arie Gilbert, John Gluth, Dean Goddard, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Kyla Haber, Ken Harris, Chris Healy, Marcel Jaloveckas, Karen Jaquith, Tait Johansson, Peter Johnson, Deborah Kral, Patrick Landewe, Robert Lebensold, Robert Lewis, Lewis Lolya, Evan Mark, Ken McDermott, Al & Barbara Merrit, Danny Messina, Frank Murphy, Linda Pistolessi, Vince Plogar, Deborah Powell, Scott Rando, Peter Relson, Charles Roberto, Susan Rogers, Jesse Ross, Jim Schlickerrieder, Peter Schoenberger, Edie Schwimmer, Robert Slechta, Ed Spaeth, Dave Spangeburg, Robert Stone, Larry Trachtenberg, Benjamin Van Doren, James Vellozzi, Carol Weiss, Alan & Della Wells, Rosemarie Widmer, Angus Wilson.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; CIES – Cary Institute for Ecological Studies; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; MLR – Mission Land Road, Pine Island; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: Rio Dam 3 Jun (SRa); Poughkeepsie 15-22 Jun (JAi, KJ); Rhinecliff 21 Jun (ESc).
Brant: 17 EGR 6 Jun (TB); 3 EGR 9,13 Jun (TB); Piermont Pier 27 Jun (VP, LP, MJ); 13 Piermont Pier 3 Jul (DCi).
Wood Duck: 42 Bashakill 3 Jun.
N. Pintail: Wurtsboro 4-14 Jun (ABO).
Lesser Scaup: Piermont Pier 8-15 Jul (CW).
Com. Eider: Waryas P. Poughkeepsie 13 Jun (KHAr), 2nd DUTC record.
White-winged Scoter: EGR 1 Jun (TB); Rye 13 Jun (TB).
Hooded Merganser: 2 imm Scott's Corner 11 Jun.
Com. Merganser: f. 5 yg Saugerties 1, 5-6 Jun; 3 Wappinger L 6 Jun; 2 CIES 12 Jun; CPP 3 Jul.
Red-breasted Merganser: Piermont Pier 21, 27 Jun, 8-31 Jul (CH,LP,MJ,CW).
Ruddy Duck: Kiamesha L 1 Jun (RD, VF).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Blue Chip Farm 16 Jun.
Com. Loon: CPP 12 Aug (LL).
Pied-billed Grebe: Bashakill 3, 24 Jun (JH); Saugerties Lighthouse 27 Aug.
WILSON'S STORM PETREL: 2 Rye 28 Aug (BV); 2-3 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (LL,ML,BV, JD, RF, RLew); Dobbs Ferry 29 Aug, video (BV).
Am. White Pelican: north of Saugerties Lighthouse 1 Jun (ABe).
Am. Bittern: 3 ad Bashakill, see *intro*.
Least Bittern: 4 Kingston 11 Jun; Tivoli Bay 15, 16 Jul; 1 juv, 1 ad Bashakill 24 Jun; 6-8 Bashakill, see *intro*.
Snowy Egret: Wappingers Cr 24 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: 1-2 Walkill NWR 23 Jul-10 Aug.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: pair successfully nested in New Rochelle (RLeb).
Glossy Ibis: Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 19 Aug (DGa).
WHITE IBIS: juv Walkill NWR 14-18, 23-25, 31 Jul, 4,6,10 Aug (RSt, KM); juv Bashakill 28-29 July (JH,ABO,SB), first SULL record.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Harrier: SGNWR 16 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Pound Ridge 11 Jun; Mianus River Gorge 12 Jun.
Merlin: Shawangunk 13 Aug.
Clapper Rail: 2 MC 1 Jun, 6 Jul.
Virginia Rail: 4 pr Bashakill, see *intro*.
Sora: 1-2 Bashakill 1-23 Jun.
Com. Gallinule: 28 Bashakill 24 Jun; 23 Bashakill 17 Aug; 25 pr Bashakill, see *intro*.
Am. Coot: Bashakill 15 Jun (JH); Saugerties 12 Jul (DCa).
Sandhill Crane: SGNWR 5 Jun (PS), photo; Walkill NWR 13, 16-18, 23-24 Jul (RSt).
Am. Golden-Plover: 5 Pine I 27 Aug; 2 Skidders Lane, Goshen 27 Aug; 2 Kingston Pt 27 Aug; MLR Aug 30, 31.
Killdeer: 200 MLR 31 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 3 Piermont Pier 21 Jun (CH); 9 Rye 28 Aug.
BLACK-NECKED STILT: Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (EE, BV), first WEST record.
Willet: MC 5, 16 Jun; 2 MC 10 Jun; 2 Hen I, MC 8 Jul; Rye 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 27 MLR Aug 30; 25 MLR 31 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Blue Chip Farm 16 Jun; Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton 16 Aug; MC 31 Aug (TB).
Whimbrel: MLR Aug 30 (KM, DM); Saugerties Lighthouse Trail 31 Aug (PL).
Hudsonian Godwit: Piermont Pier 25 Aug (DCi); Hitchcock Farm, Bangall Road, Millbrook 28 Aug (JAs, DK); Kingston 28 Aug (MD,PS,SRo).
Ruddy Turnstone: 250 Acotch Caps 1 5 Jun; Piermont Pier 27 Aug; 12 Rye 28 Aug.
Red Knot: EGR 28 Aug; 2 EGR 30 Aug.
Sanderling: Rye 28 Aug; Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug; 6 Rye 28 Aug; Piermont Pier 30 Aug; 7 New Hampton 31 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 25 MLR 31 Aug; 125 MC 31 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: 35 MLR 31 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Walkill NWR 4, 5 Jun; 5 MLR Aug 30; 2 MLR 31 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: 2 MLR Aug 30 (KM, DM); MLR 31 Aug (JH).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 15 MLR 31 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: Piermont Pier 25 Aug (DCi); MLR 30 Aug (KM,DM); 2 MLR 31 Aug (JH);

Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton 31 Aug (JH,KM).

Buff-Breasted Sandpiper: 3 MLR 31 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 7 Skinners Lane, Goshen 16 Aug; 2-3 MC 19,21,23 Aug; Piermont Pier 25 Aug; Morningside P 25-28 Aug; Pine 1 27 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: Morningside P 8 Aug.

Laughing Gull: 8 Piermont P 21 Aug.

SOOTY TERN: 2 Rye 28 Aug (BV); 3 Croton Bay 28 Aug (LL,ML); 5 CPP 28 Aug (RSI), 2nd WEST record.

BRIDLED TERN: Pearson Park, Tarrytown 28 Aug (DGA, TJ), first WEST record.

Least Tern: 2 MC 16 Jun; 3 MC 3 Jul; 2-4 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (EE,BV,RLew); 4 Piermont Pier 28 Aug (CH,T&ED,DCi,CW), first record for ROCK since 1977.

Caspian Tern: Piermont Pier 1 Jun; Bashakill 14 Aug; 3 Piermont Pier 26 Aug.

Black Tern: Bashakill 24 Jun (JH); Morningside Park 15 Aug (JH); Saugerties 20 Aug (FM); 7 Morningside Park 25 Aug (JH); 40 Piermont Pier 25 Aug (DCi,CW); 2 EGR 28 Aug (BV); 3 CPP 28 Aug (RSI); 8 Croton-on-Hudson 28 Aug (LL,ML,BV,RLew); 8 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (RLew); 12 Tarrytown L 28 Aug (EE); 2 Kingston 29 Aug (MD,KHab,PS,SRO).

Com. Tern: Piermont Pier 7 Aug; 35 Croton-on-Hudson 28 Aug; 250 Sleepy Hollow 28 Aug (RLew).

Forster's Tern: 6 Piermont Pier 30 Jul; 3 Piermont Pier 7 Aug; 8 Piermont Pier 7 Aug 19; Croton-on-Hudson 28 Aug; 2 Beacon 28 Aug.

Royal Tern: Piermont Pier 28 Aug (CW), first record for ROCK since 1960.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: imm Rye 28 Aug (AGu, TB, GB), first WEST record.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: Piermont 29 Aug (SG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6 Doodletown 12 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: 200 Tuckahoe 20 Aug; 88 Katonah 30 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Esopus/New Paltz 18 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 2 Jun; Woodstock 6 Jun; Lewisboro 2 Aug; Stewart Airport 8 Aug; Rockefeller Preserve 10,22,23,26,29 Aug; MC 31 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 Tarrytown L 30 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 2 Jun; Mianus R. Gorge 12 Jun; Bashakill 19 Jun; Nuclear L 10 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Bashakill 2 Jun; Montgomery 17, 18 Aug; Bear Mt SP 20 Aug; Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Sedge Wren: Wallkill NWR 14-18, 23-31 Jul, 4, 6 Aug (RSt).

Marsh Wren: max 4 MC 3 Aug.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: max 8 Doodletown 3 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: Westbrookville 2 Jun; Rockefeller Preserve 29 Jun; Rockefeller Preserve 24 Aug; Fishkill 25 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Southland Farm, Rhinebeck 4 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug (EM).

Tennessee Warbler: Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: CPP 29 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: Oldfield Preserve, Waccabuc 1 Jun (TJ); 1- 2 Rockefeller Preserve 4-16 Jun (MB,BV,RB).

Hooded Warbler: 12 singing males Minnewaska SP 8 Jun.

Am. Redstart: 12 Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: 3 Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 2, m & f Harriman SP 18 Jun; 3 Rockefeller Preserve 23 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: Nellie Hill Preserve, Dover Plains 29, 30 Jun (JCl).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Red Hook 6,7,27 Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 Indiana Ln, Goshen 4 Jun; CIES 13,18 Jun; Red Hook 29 Jul.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 1 Jul, 11 Aug; 2 MC 7 Jul.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 13 Jul.

Dickcissel: Rogowski Farm on N517, ORAN 27 Aug (DS); CPP 29 Aug (EE).

Bobolink: 100 SGNWR 16 Jun; 1400 Rogowski Farm on N517, ORAN 27 Aug (DS).

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REGION 10—MARINE

Patricia J. Lindsay

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

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314
shaibal.mitra@csi.cuny.edu

In reflecting on this summer's weather in Region 10, one event stands before all others: the passage of Tropical Storm *Irene* through the Region on Sunday 28 August. This storm affected the Region's birdlife in many ways, and the species accounts below are much longer and more detailed than usual. For a discursive analysis of these impacts, please see the summary article on pages 293-298 of this issue.

An eBird report of a Black-headed Gull from Brooklyn on 24 July caught reviewer Doug Gochfeld's eye, despite the existence of many summer records of that species over the years. His query yielded a photograph, which in turn precipitated one of the most bizarre and memorable birding events of recent years: a **Gray-hooded Gull** (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*) on the Coney Island boardwalk! This South American and African species had been recorded just twice previously in North America, in Barbados and in Florida, and needless to say the Brooklyn bird drew huge numbers of geared up ornithophiles into the midst of the mid-summer boardwalk scene.

Ironically, this gull was only the second gray-hooded novelty of the season, coming several weeks after a **Hooded Crow** (*Corvus cornix*) at Great Kills Park, Staten Island. Whereas many observers and commentators could easily envision natural mechanisms for the gull's arrival in New York (e.g., vagrancy to the Caribbean followed by entrainment among migrating Laughing Gulls), an unnatural provenance seemed rather more likely for the crow. Even so, it seems worth emphasizing the distinction between an escaped pet and a ship-assisted wild bird. Ship-assisted dispersal has become a "natural" part of the biology of many wild birds, notably Indian House Crows (*Corvus splendens*), but also European Hooded Crows, which regularly reach Iceland and have even occurred in Greenland.

A **Fea's Petrel** reported by researchers aboard a NOAA vessel near Hudson Canyon would be another potential first state record—this one anticipated by four participants in the most recent round of "Predictions of species to be added to the New York State Checklist" (*The Kingbird* 60: 301-310). It is earnestly hoped that details of this observation will be forthcoming.

It was another good summer inshore for the four common shearwaters, with some locally large aggregations of Cory's Shearwater. One such aggregation off of Robert Moses SP, Suffolk County, attracted a **South Polar Skua** on 11

July—at least the third time this species has been seen from land at this well-watched site. Two Brown Pelicans were reported prior to *Irene*, about average for recent summers, but there was nothing average about this species' status here after 28 August! Three **White Ibises** were reported from two sites during mid August, as the incursion that began during spring continued. In contrast, Tricolored Herons continued to be very scarce and local, with very few reports.

Rare to scarce gulls and terns were once again impressively numerous and diverse through early summer. Indeed, the dizzying upward trend in the occurrence of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Region 10 shows no signs whatever of slowing down. The statewide high count for this species, a rapidly moving target in recent years, was emphatically bested again this summer with a careful count of **70** individuals at Nickerson Beach, Nassau County, on 10 July. This remarkable aggregation consisted of 56 first-summer (= yearling) birds and 14 older immatures; similarly aged birds were more widely distributed this summer than ever, not only as singles, but in groups as large as four, five (two sites) and six. Other young gulls lingering south with us this summer were at least one Iceland Gull, two Glaucous Gulls, and small numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls. Among the terns, no fewer than five Arctic Terns, four Sandwich terns, and up to five Black Terns per day were recorded during June and July—long before we ever heard of *Irene*. Among the flocks of loafing larids near Moriches Inlet were a yearling Roseate Tern (an age class very rarely documented in the Northeast) and a second-summer type Common Tern tentatively identified as belonging to the Siberian subspecies *longipennis*—another example of which was reported from Tuckernuck Island, Massachusetts around the same time (R. Veit, pers. comm.).

Failure of the water-control apparatus at Jamaica Bay's East Pond resulted in dismal conditions for migratory shorebirds and a corresponding paucity of notable counts for many species. Stilt Sandpiper, for example, is generally one of the most highly localized of Region 10's common migrants, and the East Pond ordinarily accounts not only for high counts but also for a very large proportion of all reports. Curiously, reports of this species were much more widespread than usual this summer. Other shorebird highlights not associated with *Irene* included a new statewide max of **14** Marbled Godwits at Cupsogue and an adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Democrat Pt on 5 August.

Suffolk County's first breeding record of Common Raven came to light when a near-fledgling came into care at a Westhampton rehabilitator. The rest of the family, including at least three fledged juveniles, were seen and photographed by many near the nest site (on a water tower) in Hampton Bays. Others were noted again this summer on Staten Island and in Queens and Nassau County. Blue Grosbeak was recorded on territory in Eastport again, and Anthony Collerton recorded what was almost certainly a successful nesting by Summer Tanagers in East Hampton. A male Yellow-throated Warbler was recorded on 4 June in potential breeding habitat at Connetquot River State Park Preserve, and two mid-late June reports of Acadian Flycatcher were suggestive of territorial birds.

A Western Kingbird at Deep Hollow, Montauk on 14 August was very early but at arguably the best site in the state for this species. Three late August Lark Sparrows were about average. There was a very heavy landbird flight on 23 August on Long Island's outer beaches. Observers at Robert Moses SP recorded some very impressive numbers: 199 Eastern Kingbirds, **10,800** Barn Swallows, 35 Northern Waterthrushes, and 27 Northern Mockingbirds actively migrating.

Space precludes a more detailed discussion of summer 2011's birds in Region 10; please be sure to read the species accounts and the summary of *Irene's* impacts statewide, on pages 293-298.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Adamo, Jim Ash, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Jessie Barry, Catherine Barron, Rob Bate, Debbie Becker, Dick Belanger, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlingeri, Shawn Billerman, Melinda Billings, Andrew Block, Shane Blodgett, Jeff Bolsinger, Brent Bomkamp, Ardith Bondi, Marc & Sharon Brody, P. A. Buckley, Sara Burch, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Eva Callahan, Chase Cammarota, Anthony Ciancimino, Anthony Collerton, Mike Cooper, Ed Crowne, Dale Dancis, J. Davis, Joe DiCostanzo, Philip Dempsey, Peter Dorosh, Jacob Drucker, Tim Dunn, Andrew Farnsworth, Ken & Sue Feustel, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Virginia Frati, Louise Fraza, Lila Fried, Rich Fried, Gerta Fritz, Doug Futuyma, Arie Gilbert, Paul Gillen, Joe Giunta, John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Menachem Goldstein, Isaac Grant, Andrew Guthrie, Cliff Hagen, Helen Hays, Dan Heglund, Mike Higgiston, Bill Hollweg, Joel Horman, Bobby Horvath, Deborah Jede, Rob Jett, Richard Kaskan, Dave Klauber, J. Knox, Rick Kopitsch, David Krauss, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Anne Lazarus, Patricia J. Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Jean Loscalzo, Harry Maas, Peter Martin, Michael McBrien, Jacob McCartney, Betsy McCully, Hugh McGuinness, Annie McIntyre, Eric Miller, Karlo Mirth; Shaibal S. Mitra, Tom Moran, Andy Murphy, Mary Normandia, NY Rare Bird Alert, Luke Ormand, Jim Osterlund, Phil Pane, Peter Polshek, Peter Post, Bob Proniewicz, Todd Pusser, Joan Quinlan, Keir Randall, Matthew Rymkiewicz, Tom Roche, Derek Rogers, Robert Rossetti, Steve Schellenger, Sy Schiff, Donna Schulman, Eileen Schwinn, Nate Senner, John Sep, Mike Shanley, Ann Shaw, Pete Shen, N. Sourigi, David Speiser, Carl Starace, Gary Straus, Sam Stuart, Junco Suzuki, Paul Sweet, Tony Tierno, Joe Trezza, John Turner, Christopher Vogel, Steve Walter, Ben Weinstein, Matthew Wills, Angus Wilson, Seth Wollney, Chris Wood, Byron Young, John Zarudsky.

ABBREVIATIONS

CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSPP – Connetquot River SP Pres, SUFF; Caumsett – Caumsett SP, SUFF; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; EH – East Hampton, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GA – Gabreski Airport, SUFF; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; JamBay – Jamaica Bay NWR, QUEE, KING;

JBWE – Jones Beach West End, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; Mtk – Montauk; NYBG – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; PB – Pike’s Beach, SUFF; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; Sagg Pond – Sagonack Pond, Bridgehampton, SUFF.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: lingered JamBay to 2 Jun+.
“Atlantic” Brant: 2 Caumsett 7 Jun (K&SF); 2 CCP 3 Jul.

Mute Swan: 200 + JamBay east pond throughout, new cygnets well into Aug.

Gadwall: CCP 3 & 10 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: east pond JamBay 14 Jun (ALa et al).

N. Pintail: JamBay 31 Jul.

Green-winged Teal: JBWE 8 Jul (BBE).

Greater Scaup: 4 GKP 19 Jun (SWo); 3 males JamBay to 15 Jul+.

King Eider: 2 m E. Marion SUFF 1 Jun (J Sep, RA ph).

Com. Eider: 27 E. Marion SUFF 1 Jun (J Sep, RA); 15 Shinn 5 Jun (SSM, PJJ); 2 (imm m, f) Jones Inlet NASS 10 Jun (M&SB); 54 MP & 6 Montauk Harbor 19 Jun; 5 Jones Inlet 29 Jun (PM); near-ad Nickerson Beach NASS 3 Jul (BBE); 74 Montauk Pt 7 Aug (NYRBA); f Captree 11 Aug.

Surf Scoter: 5 CCP 5 Jun; Fire Island Pines 9 Jun (DF); 2 Riis P/FT 12 Jun (SA, CF, MN); f GKP 19 Jun (SWo); Montauk Pt 7 Aug (NYRBA).

White-winged Scoter: 2 CCP 4 Jun; 7 CCP 5 Jun; Camp Hero, Mtk 14 Aug (MMcB).

Black Scoter: 2 Riis P/FT 12 Jun (SA, CF, MN); RMSP 14 Jul (MN, A Gilbert).

Bufflehead: m JamBay to 2 Jun+.

Red-breasted Merganser: MB 29 Jun (SSM, PJJ).

Ruddy Duck: 7 lingered JamBay to 30 Jul at least, molting into alt.

N. Bobwhite: Cutchogue SUFF 19 Jun, 7 here 26 Jun, 3 calling here 9 Jul; release programs at CRSSP and Seatuck Environmental Center.

Ring-necked Pheasant: f, 5 chicks Cemetery of the Resurrection RICH 14 Jun (ACI); JBSP 10 Aug (RJK), unus loc.

Com. Loon: alt CCP 4 Jun to 3 Jul at least, poss injured.

Pied-billed Grebe: CRSP 3 Jun, calling (K&SF).

FEA’S PETREL: Hudson Canyon 14 Jun from NOAA vessel (T Pusser et al, fide CV), first state record pending review.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: MB 28 Aug (AnW et al., ph).

Cory’s Shearwater: small numbers mid Jun, e.g. 2 RMSP 11 Jun (KF) & “a few” Hudson Canyon 14 Jun (fide CV); larger more inshore early Jul-early Aug, e.g., 80 CCP 3 Jul (PJJ), 150 RMSP 11 Jul (JBo, PJJ, SSM), & 265+ MI to Shinn 7 Aug (GB, TWB); much reduced by late Aug, only 2 reps 28 Aug during *Irene*: MB (AnW) & Riverdale, BRON (PAB).

Great Shearwater: at least 1 RMSP 11 Jun (KF); “a few” Hudson Canyon 14 Jun (fide CV); CCP 25 Jun (TWB, GB et al.); 2 CCP 30 Jun (R Bate); 400 CRESLI boat out of Montauk 3 Jul; 2 RMSP 10 Jul (SSM, JBo) 2 RMSP 11 Jul (SSM, PJJ, JBo); 4 birds 20 mi s of Montauk 31 Jul (ACo et al); 2 CCP 5 Aug (SA et al.); 3 DP 5 Aug (SSM, PJJ et al); 1 CCP 14 Aug; 1-2 CCP 19 Aug (NYRBA); v few rep 28 during *Irene*, e.g., one Vets Memorial Pier (SBI, DGo, HLo).

Sooty Shearwater: 2 CCP 18 Jun (PJJ, SA, MN, ABA, TWB, GB); 1 CRESLI boat out of Montauk 3 Jul.

Manx Shearwater: CCP 18 Jun (PJJ); RMSP 10 Jul (SSM, JBo); RMSP 11 Jul (PJJ, SSM, JBo); CCP 5 Aug (SA et al); DP 5 Aug (SSM, PJJ, C Wood et al); CCP 14 Aug.

AUDUBON’S SHEARWATER: 4 Hudson Canyon 14 Jun (fide CV); Riverdale, BRON 28 Aug (PAB).

Wilson’s Storm-Petrel: scarcer inshore than in most recent summers, max 40 CCP 29 Jun (SA, CF); 18 FT 3 Jul (IG), many for so far west; 3 reps from protected waters prior to *Irene*: 2 e LI Sound 17 Jun (SSM), 4 Culloden Pt 24 Jun (AnW), & e LI Sound 26 Aug (SSM); rep from all counties except for QUEE 28 Aug during *Irene*, inc 12+ Fort Schuyler, BRON and 7+ Hudson R, NEWY; rel few along ocean-front: 6+ Jones Inlet (SSM et al.); 1 Fire Island Inlet (John Gluth); 4 MB (AnW et al).

LEACH’S STORM-PETREL: 7+ reps 28 Aug during *Irene*: Riverdale, BRON (PAB); 2-4 Fort Schuyler, BRON (PAB); 2+ Hudson R, NEWY (AF, JDr, Lila Fried, Rich Fried); 4 Vets Memorial Pier, KING (SBI, DG, HL); 3+ Jones Inlet (DF, K&SF, PJJ, mob); 8 MB (HMk, P. Polshek, MMcB, et al); Fort Pd, Montauk (AnW).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 2 reports 28 Aug during *Irene*: Jones Inlet (PJJ, SSM, et al); Fort Schuyler, BRON (PAB).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: 3+ rep 28 Aug during *Irene*, plus 2 more later of deceased birds: ad Hudson R, NEWY (A. Bondi, D. Dancis, P. Post, S. Stuart ph); imm Hudson R, NEWY (N. Sourigi, J. Knox); ad Pt Lookout, NASS (SWa ph); deceased Rockaway Beach, QUEE, date unknown (NY RBA); deceased E. Marion, SUFF, date unknown (J. Sep).

N. Gannet: small numbers of imms present along ocean coast thru: 25 CCP 18 Jun (PJJ); 15 CCP 3 Jul (PJJ et al); 6 RMSP 11 Jul (SSM, PJJ, JBo); 5 DP 5 Aug (SSM et al); Camp Hero 14 Aug (MMcB); 2 Culloden Pt. Mtk 24 Jun. unus site for date; essentially no *Irene* reps.

Great Cormorant: arr Lake Montauk Inlet 29 Aug (SSM, PJJ).

BROWN PELICAN: two reps prior to *Irene*: CCP 5 Jul (SWa) & Sagg Pond 21 Aug (J. Ash); 7 reps during and immediately after *Irene*: imm Lake Montauk 28 Aug+ (AnW, mob); Great Gull I 29 Aug (JDi); Patchogue R jetty 29-30 Aug (J. Davis et al.); Old Fort Bay, Southampton, SUFF 30 Aug (fide DF); Nickerson Beach, NASS 30 Aug (D. Krauss); JBWE 31 Aug (R. Bate); Tiana Beach, SUFF 31 Aug (E. Schwinn).

Am. Bittern: CCP 21 Jun (NYRBA); CCP 24 Jul (MC).

Least Bittern: Brookhaven Hamlet SUFF 16 Jun & 17 Jul (fide LO); m Massapequa Pres 17 Jul (JTU), ad feeding juv here 20 Jul (DS, H Maas), 4 juvs and ad 24 Jul (JTU, DKl), last rep.

Little Blue Heron: East R, NEWY 28 Aug (AF), unus loc, during *Irene*.

Tricolored Heron: scarce even at JamBay all season, max 3 on 13 Aug (RJK); ad & juv North Line Is NASS 29 Jul (SSM, PJJ, JZ).

Cattle Egret: 4 Arthur Kill Rd cemetery RICH 2 Aug (HF).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Sammy's Beach EH 4 Jul (ACo), unus eastern SUFF; CCP 3 Aug (SSM), unus loc; juv Captree Is 10 Aug (JGl), unus loc; ad CCP 20 Aug (RKA); juv CCP 30 Aug (A Murphy fide CS).

WHITE IBIS: flyby RM Causeway 10 Aug (C. Cammarota fide DR); 2 juvs JamBay 11 Aug (SBl).

Black Vulture: 2 Staten Is 29 Jul (C Hagen).

Turkey Vulture: 2 Plum Is 17 Jun (SSM); Hampton Bays 26 Jun (PJJ); NW woods EH 3 Jul (ACo), scarce here; near Muttontown NASS 16 Jul (JL); 9 Eastport 19 Aug; Mtk 23 Aug (ACo); 5 Shoreham sod fields 28 Aug during *Irene* (DH).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: imm Brookville SUFF 14 Jun (PM); 3 imms Cutchogue SUFF 17 Jul (MN); imm Deep Hollow Mtk 28 Aug (MMcB).

N. Harrier: f Captree 11 Aug; f Tobay 12 Aug (SSM).

Cooper's Hawk: 8 nests NASS & SUFF (TT).

Broad-winged Hawk: Cemetery of the Resurrection RICH 15 Jun & 2 near here 11 Jul (ACi); JamBay 12 Aug (SWa), rare here.

Am. Kestrel: pr w two chicks in nest box at St. Charles Cem SUFF 4 Jun.

Peregrine Falcon: 1-2 Robt Moses twin causeway bridge thru Jun; pr nested successfully w fledglings in Jun atop Fed Courthouse, Central Islip SUFF.

Clapper Rail: 17 brought to rehabber in NASS, 28-30 Aug, most from south shore homeowners' yards; all but 2 released (fide BHor).

Sora: ind from OMNSA brought to rehabber in NASS 29 Aug, released (fide BHor).

Piping Plover: Eastport sod fields 28 Aug (PJJ, SSM), v unus loc.

Am. Golden-Plover: 6 Deep Hollow Mtk 28 Aug (MMcB, ACo, PDe); 3 e side Hook Pond, SUFF 28 Aug (AnW); 5 Eastport sod fields 29 Aug (CS).

Semipalmated Plover: 130+ JBWE 10 Aug (RJK); ~300 JamBay 12 Aug (RJK).

Am. Oystercatcher: 235 JBWE 11 Aug (K&SF); 250+ JBWE 16 Aug (R Kopitsch). **AMERICAN AVOCET (R10):** JBWE 28 Aug (CF, mob), during *Irene*.

Spotted Sandpiper: Edgewood Pres 17 Jun (PJJ), where they bred last yr; DP 22 Jun (PJJ, SSM), former breeding site.

Solitary Sandpiper: CLP 3 Jul (CB); 2 JamBay 2 Aug (NYRBA).

Greater Yellowlegs: JamBay 14 Jun (ALa et al); CCP 20 & 26 Jun.

"Eastern" Willet: 75 ads CCP 3 Jul; 120 (2 juvs) CCP 21 Jul (SSM, PJJ), ganging up post-breeding.

"Western" Willet: PB 5 Jun; singles PB, CCP 10 Jun & 20 Jun (SSM); 1S JBWE 3 Jul (MMcB); Ponquogue Bridge 3 Jul (MMcB); 2 CCP 3 Jul (SSM et al.); 18 Willets JBWE 20 Jul were mostly Western (KF); alt CCP 21 Jul (SSM); 6 CCP 24 Jul, 1 SY, 5 alt; 14 Moriches In 3 Aug (PJJ, SSM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr CCP 26 Jun; 6 CCP 3 Jul; poorly reported because of dismal conditions at JamBay.

Whimbrel: arr Cedar Pt Park, Southold 10 Jul, peak of 11 here 28 Jul (J Sep); max 14 MB 23 Jul (ACo); many reports from barrier beaches hence.

Hudsonian Godwit: JamBay 24 Jul-2 Aug (ABa, RJK, mob); JBWE 9 Aug (C. Straus); 2 JamBay 11-13 Aug (SBl, mob); JBWE 11-13 Aug (K&SF, mob); JBWE 20 Aug (SyS); 3 reports 28 Aug clearly related to *Irene*.

Gravesend Bay, KING (SBl, DGo, HLo); **10** FBF (SBl, DGo, HLo); 4 Hobart Beach, SUFF (BBo).

Marbled Godwit: CCP 12 Jul-7 Aug (RA, TM, mob); 2 JamBay 5-13 Aug (ABa, mob); 1-2 JBWE 12-31 Aug (mob); 5 CCP 13 Aug (DR), then 6 on 17 Aug (CS, DBel, mob). 8 on 21 Aug, and **14** on 30 Aug (CS, DBel); Sagg Pond 16 Aug (ES); Hobart Beach 28 Aug (BBo), unus loc; Maidstone GC, East Hampton, SUFF 28 Aug (MMcB), unus loc; 2 DP 30 Aug (K&SF).

Ruddy Turnstone: influx of 450 CCP 3 Jun (SSM).

Red Knot: 70 (30 SY) CCP 3 Jun (SSM); flagged alt ad CCP 10 Jun; 15, most alt, JBWE 10 Jun; 45, most alt, CCP plus 7 PB 15 Jun (SSM); 20 JBWE 16 Aug (R Kopitsch); 28 CCP 20 Aug (RKA); 108 ads JBWE 8 Aug (RJK).

Sanderling: 170 PB 10 Jun, none left on 15 Jun (SSM); arr ads CCP around 20 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: PB ~ 600 most alt 10 Jun, 150 most alt 15 Jun, 120 PB 20 Jun (SSM, PJJ); 421 CCP 25 Jul (SSM); ~400 JamBay 30 Jul (RJK); 2 juvs JBWE 23 Aug, first juvs, late, very few noted this season

Western Sandpiper: CCP 3 Jul (AGu et al.); JamBay 15 Jul (RJK); CCP 21 Jul (NYRBA); JamBay 22 Jul (ABa); worn ad PB 23 Jul (ABa, SA); bas CCP 24 Jul and 3 Aug (PJJ et al); worn ad PB 24 Aug (ABa, SA); juv DP 30 Aug (K&SF); more reports later, as normal.

Least Sandpiper: 3 CCP 20 Jun (SSM, PJJ), arr or non-breeders?; 6 CCP 3 Jul, arr?

White-rumped Sandpiper: 9 alt PB 10 Jun, 15 PB 15 & 18 Jun (SSM); 5 JamBay 19 Jun; MB 3 Jul (MMcB); singles PB and CCP 23 Jul (ABa, SA); poorly reported southbound because of dismal conditions at JamBay.

Baird's Sandpiper: RMSP 19 Aug (K&SF); Heckscher SP 24-27 Aug (K&SF, mob); FBF 26 Aug (SBl); 2 Deep Hollow, Mtk 28 Aug (ACo, PDe); MMcB); FBF 28 Aug (DG, SBlo; PDo et al.); Heckscher SP 31 Aug (KF et al.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 CCP 9 Jul (mob); 2 JamBay 22 Jul (ABa); CCP 24 Jul (K&SF); a few JamBay 25 Jul (KF); 22 FBF 15 Aug (RJ); 7 Deep Hollow, Mtk 28 Aug (ACo, PDe); 13 Pt Lookout 29 Aug (SA, ABa).

Dunlin: a few non-breeders Moriches In, e.g. 3 PB 18 Jun, one to 3 Aug+.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 31 JamBay 22 Jul (ABa); 41 JamBay 25 Jul (ABa); 9 near Ponquogue Bridge 7 Aug (TWB, GB); 14 JBWE 8 Aug (RJK), many for site, and 16 here 14 Aug (K&SF); 2 Mecox 14 Aug (MMcB); 2 Deep Hollow, Mtk 28 Aug (ACo, PDe); *intro*.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: ad DP 5 Aug (Nate Senner, C Wood, J Barry, et al.); Plum Beach

KING 28 Aug (DG, SBlo, HL); 2 DP 29 Aug (AMcf); FBF 29 Aug (SA, ABa).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 150 CCP 18 Jun, mostly SY; *hendersoni* CCP 20 Jun; arr 250 (130 alt) CCP 1 Jul, migrating; *hendersoni* CCP 3 Jul (MMcB; AGu et al); 5 *hendersoni* PB 21 Jul (PJJ SSM); 230 inc 4 *hendersoni* CCP 21 Jul (SSM, PJJ); 300 CCP 24 Jul; 400 Egg Is NASS 29 Jul (SSM, PJJ, JZ); ~600 JamBay 30 Jul (RJK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 JamBay 22 Jul (ABa); JamBay 24 Jul (RJK); bas JamBay 12 Aug (SWa); Mecox 22 Aug (ACo).

Wilson's Snipe: Deep Hollow Mtk 28 Aug (MMcB).

Wilson's Phalarope: f, 2 m JamBay west pond 19 Jun (CF, mob), 22 Jun (fide SyS); 2 CCP 21 Jul (ES et al); juv JamBay 8 Aug (NYRBA); Heckscher SP 26 Aug (BBo).

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 rep prior to *Irene*: FBF 15 Aug (SBlo); bas Napeague 27 Aug (AW); major impact from *Irene* 28 Aug; 39 Riverdale (PAB); 4 Fort Schuyler (PAB); 2 Hook Pond (ACo, PDe, AnW); "large flock" MB (HMc, P. Polshek); 50 Eaton's Neck (BBo); 115 Vets Memorial Pier (SBl, DG, HL).

Bonaparte's Gull: SY Tiana Beach 5 Jun (PJJ, SSM), cont from spring; 6 Crooke's Pt, RICH 29-30 Jun (SWa), 13 here 3 Jul (MMcB) and 11 on 8 Jul (NYRBA), unseasonal; imm Great Gull 129 Aug (JDi et al), day after *Irene*.

Laughing Gull: 91 immes PB 15 Jun, feeding on horseshoe crab eggs; first ind juv JBWE 3 Jul (BBc).

Ring-billed Gull: first juvs (2) Coney Is 29 Jul.

Herring Gull: first juv RMSP 20 Jul.

Iceland Gull: SY RMSP 12 Jul (PJJ, ph), present earlier also; imm Nassau Beach NASS 30 Aug (RJK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: unprecedented numbers of immes summered: many reports from Jones Inlet area, capped by **28** Jones Beach to RMSP 1 Jun (R. Rossetti), **43** Nickerson Beach 3 Jul (GB, TWB, AGu, BBc; 36 1S), & **70** Nickerson Beach 10 Jul (SSM, PJJ, JBo; 56 1S); many others elsewhere, e.g., 6 DP 9 Jun (PJJ); 5 PB 15 Jun (SSM); 4 Coney I. KING 29 Jun (SSM), during storm; 5 Tiana Beach 7 Aug (TWB); first ads arr Great Gull I 28 Aug (JDi, HH, AS, M. Billings) & Fort Pond Bay 29 Aug (RA, JGi, B. McCulley).

Glaucous Gull: Orient Pt 17 Jun, cont from last year w/ injured leg; CCP 11-13 Jul (ES et al.), 23 Jul, 24 Aug (mob).

GRAY-HOODED GULL: ad Coney Is KING 24 Jul-3 Aug (Sara Burch, Jacob McCartney, mob), first State record (see note p. 305).

SOOTY TERN: major impact from *Irene*, all 28 Aug & ads except as noted: Fort Schuyler (PAB); 2+ Hudson R. NEWY (P. Post, mob); 2 East R, NEWY (AF); 2 (ad & juv) Gerritsen Ave/Plumb Inlet, KING (SBI, DGo); 1+ Jones Inlet (MC, CF, mob); Ocean Parkway, e of Jones Beach Tower (PJL, SSM ph early am; later T. Dunn, S. Schellenger); Fire Island Inlet (GB, TWB, AGu); 3+ MB (HM, P. Polshek, MMcB); 3+ Hook Pond (AnW, ACo); 2 Lake Montauk (MMcB); 9 Great Gull I (JDi, HH, AS, M, Billings); 2 Eaton's Neck (BBo).

BRIDLED TERN: major impact from *Irene*, all 28 Aug & ads except as noted: 2 Fort Schuyler (PAB); foot of Hylan Blvd, RICH 29 Aug (IG, Mike Shanley); Vets Memorial Pier (SBI, DGo, HLo), plus 2 there 29 Aug (SBI, DGo, AF); 3+ Jones Inlet (PJL, SSM, mob); Ocean Parkway at West Gilgo Beach (PJL, SSM ph); Cedar Beach Marina (K&SF); MB (HM, P. Polshek, MMcB); Sagg Pond (AnW); 5+ Hook Pond (AnW, MMcB); 3 Further Lane (AnW, ACo, PDe); 7 Fort Pond Bay (AnW, ACo, PDe).

Onychoprion species: Eaton's Neck 28 Aug (BBo); West Meadow Beach, Stony Brook 28 Aug (B. Weinstein).

Least Tern: SY PB 10 Jun, first for age class; TY CCP 10 Jun, first for age class (SSM); notable influx CCP 9 Jul, 50 inc 3 1S and 2 2S; 30 Napeague 27 Aug (AW); several *Irene*-related reports 28 Aug: 10 Fort Schuyler (PAB); Hudson R, NEWY (S. Stuart); Great Gull I (where rare; JDi, HH, AS, M. Billings).

Gull-billed Tern: Nickerson Beach, NASS 9 Jun (A Bondi, ph) 2 ads JamBay 14 Jun (ALa, L. Fraza); Nickerson Beach 29 Jun (NYRBA), 1 Jul (P. Post); 2 Nickerson Beach 3 Jul (AGU, TWB, GB), diving on and pirating fish from COTE at tern colony; 2 JBWE 8 Jul (BBc), prob same birds as Nickerson; 2 JBWE 10 Jul (TWB, GB et al); 3 JBWE 20 Jul (KF); 5 (3 juv, 2 ad) JBWE 23-24 Aug (K&SF, mob); ad and 2 juvs Plum Beach, KING 27 & 28 Aug (DG); Napeague 29 Aug (AnW), unus loc, *Irene*.

Caspian Tern: 2 New Suffolk, SUFF 10 Aug (NYRBA); major impact from *Irene*: Hudson R 23rd-24th St Pier (S. Stuart); Plum Beach (SBI, DGo, HLo); 2 FBF (SBI, DGo, HLo); ad and juv Flushing Meadow-Corona P. QUEE 27-28 Aug (CF, P. Shen, DSch); Fire Island Inlet (PJL, SSM), plus 4 there 30 Aug (AMcI, K&SF); ad & juv MB 29-30 Aug (JGI, mob); Mattituck Inlet (RA).

Black Tern: 3 CCP 18 Jun (PJL et al.), inc SY, first for age class; many reports CCP thru, inc 5 on 9 & 25 Jul (SSM); ad alt JamBay 26 Jun (Menachem Goldstein); 3 Amagansett & 5 Napeague 6 Aug (AnW); southbound migr

evident by late Aug, e.g. 30 migr CCP 21 Aug (NY RBA) & inc rep of 1-4 inds along ocean front, DP to Sagg Pond 21-24 Aug; two rep away from coast during this pre-*Irene* period are noteworthy: 3 Alley Pond Env Center 23 Aug (SWa) & HLSP 25 Aug (SyS); 62 ca. Napeague 27 Aug (AnW) consistent with regular autumn build-up there, but poss rel to impending arrival of *Irene*; major impact, or at least displacement, during *Irene* 28 Aug, with reps from all counties, the most noteworthy being: 7 Riverdale (PAB); 7 Fort Schuyler (PAB); 7 East River (AF); 2 Swan L. Patchogue (Derek Rogers); 10 E Landing Rd, Hampton Bays (Luke Ormand); FBF (SBI, DGo); 7 Flushing Meadow P (Arie Gilbert, Jean Loscalzo); 10 Shoreham sod fields (Dan Heglund et al); 173 Mccox-Montauk (AnW); 300-400 West Meadow Beach, Stony Brook (B. Weinstein).

Roseate Tern: 30 Orient Pt 30 Jun; small numbers at DP, CCP, & Sammy's Beach EH as usual; first summer type CCP 9 Jul (DF, SSM et al), seldom-scen plumage, ph.; 50 Napeague 6 Aug (NYRBA); 100+ Napeague 27 Aug (AW). **Com. Tern:** 570 CCP 10 Jun, inc 6 SY & 6 TY (SSM); 7 SY DP 24 Jun; SY type CCP 25-26 Jun resembled Siberian subspecies *Sterna hirundo longipennis*; 300+ Napeague 27 Aug (AW); some impact from *Irene*, inc reports from Hudson R and other unus sites; most notable storm report "several thousand" West Meadow Beach, Stony Brook (B. Weinstein).

ARCTIC TERN: 5 identifiably different immus CCP 15 Jun-9 Jul: SY 15 Jun (SSM ph); 2 SY 29 Jun (SA ph, CF ph), one more advanced, poss TY; SY CCP 30 Jun (SWa, et al ph), prob same as one of the 29 Jun birds; SY 3 Jul (SSM et al ph); SY 9 Jul (BBo et al ph); 2 reports 28 Aug during *Irene*, neither supported by photos: ad Mattituck Inlet (RA) & 2 ads Riverdale (PAB); a very high level of documentation is desirable for this difficult to identify species, especially in contexts other than its well-established pattern of early summer inshore occurrence.

Forster's Tern: SY CCP 3 Jun, first for age class e LI; impacts from *Irene* not very well reported until after summer season.

Royal Tern: arr 2 CCP 18 Jun (PJL, SSM) & 2 DP 22 Jun (PJL, SSM); max 68 Moriches Inlet 7 Aug; 20 Robins I 19 Aug (Paul Gillen); only modest impacts 28 Aug during *Irene*, with no reports of large numbers from ocean front; the most notable locations 28 Aug were: Hudson R at 70th St (A. Bondi et al) & 23rd St (S. Stuart); 2 East River (AF); 2 Vets Memorial Pier (SBI, DGo, HLo); 5 FBF (SBI, DGo, Peter Dorosh); 3 Hobart Beach (BBo); 10 Mattituck Inlet (RA).

SANDWICH TERN: 4 individually identifiable birds at ocean inlets 25 Jun-11 Jul; ad CCP 25 Jun (RKA, mob ph), nearly alt plum; ad alt CCP 29 Jun (SSM et al ph); MB 3 Jul (DSch ph); CCP 11 Jul (ABa ph); unprecedented incursion during and after *Irene*, all 28 Aug except as noted: Hudson R @ 55th St (AF); FBF (SBI, DGo); Riis Landing (P. Sweet); imm & 1+ ad Jones Inlet (SSM ph, mob); ad Jones Beach Field 10 (PJJ, SSM ph); 2 Tobay Beach (DF, B. Proniewicz); DP 29-30 Aug (AMcl, K&SF); 7+ MB (MMcB ph, mob), 6 still there 29 Aug (K&SF ph, mob); Hook Pond (AnW); Napeague 29 Aug (K&SF); 2 Fort Pond Bay (AnW, ACo, PDe); Lake Montauk Inlet 29 Aug (PJJ, SSM ph); Hobart Beach (BBo); 3 Great Gull I 29 Aug (JDi, HH, AS, M. Billings).
Black Skimmer: at least 150 prs Nickerson Beach 13 Jun (SyS); 50 JBWE 25 Aug (RA); 783 (132 juvs) Nassau Beach, Nickerson Beach NASS 30 Aug (RJK).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: RMSP 11 Jul (SSM, JBo), among large feeding flock of shearwaters; 3 reps 28 Aug during *Irene*: Sea Cliff, NASS (fide A. Bondi, ph), exhausted on beach, to rehab & rel 29 Aug; JBWE (BBo), sitting in parking lot; 2 Hook Pond (AnW ph).

POMARINE JAEGER (R10): 2 (lt morph, imm dk morph) 20 mi s Montauk 31 Jul (ACo et al); imm Hook Pond 28 Aug (AnW ph), only rep during *Irene*.

Parasitic Jaeger: handful of mid-summer reps: CCP 3 Jul (RF et al); imm RMSP 11 Jul (SSM, PJJ, JBo), wrangling with South Polar Skua; PB 6 Aug (K&SF); Amagansett 6 Aug (AnW); several reps 28 Aug during *Irene*: 2 MB (MMcB); 6 Sagg Pond (AnW); 2 Hook Pond (AnW, MMcB); Further Lane (AnW).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: juv Hampton Bays 28 Aug (fide V. Frati ph), to rehab.

jaeger species: Jones Inlet 28 Aug (mob), likely Parasitic; Eaton's Neck 28 Aug (BBo).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: Gilgo 29 Aug (SA, ABA), unus loc.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CRSPP 3 Jun (K&SF); Rocky Pt, SUFF 9 Jul thru (RKA).

Black-billed Cuckoo: PP 10 Jun; JamBay 26 Jun (MG); Rocky Pt 26 Jun (RKA), only reports.

E. Screech-Owl: several reports e LI of vocalizing owls 20-23 Aug.

Great Horned Owl: Massapequa Pres 3 Aug (JTU), scarce in NASS; Caumsett 7 Jun (K&SF); 2 Rocky Pt 15 Jun (RKA).

Com. Nighthawk: PP 11 Jun, formerly more numerous and presumed breeding here (RJ); 3 over Snug Harbor 26 Jun (SINaturalist); 2 Staten

Is 6 Jul (E Callahan); 2 Staten Is 15 Jul (ACi); migr Mt Sinai SUFF 17 Aug (DH); 4 AP Environmental Center, QUEE (SWa); EH 23 Aug (ACo); Verrazanno Narrows 23 Aug (SSM); 6 Heckscher SP 24 Aug (K&SF); Great Gull I 28 Aug, day of Irene (JDi et al); ~75 Wading River Beach SUFF 29 Aug (Byron Young, fide RA); 9 EH 30 Aug (ACo).

Chuck-will's-widow: 3 Sunken Forest & 1 between Cherry Grove and Fire Is Pines, Fire Is 8 Jun (DF); absent from many traditional sites.

E. Whip-poor-will: NONE on survey of CRSPP 3 Jun (K&SF), first time missed over decades of surveys; usual numbers heard around Westhampton & Rocky Pt mid June.

Chimney Swift: 150 migr RMSP 23 Aug (K&SF); ~170, 175 entering NYS Armory chimney RICH 26, 28 Aug (CB).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: EH feeder 30 Aug thru to fall (ACo, ph).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Hoyt Farm Pres, SUFF 23 Aug (NYRBA); CP 29 Aug (MR).

Acadian Flycatcher: CP 1 Jun (TF); FP 2 Jun (KM); CRSPP 3 Jun (K&SF), prob same bird 12 Jun (JGI); Caumsett 7 Jun (K&SF); s High Rock P RICH 4 Jun (SIN); Hourglass Pd RICH 4 Jun & 14 Jun (SIN); Rocky Pt 1-22 Jun (RKA).

Willow Flycatcher: noted as scarcer than usual central LI (RKA).

Least Flycatcher: arr RMSP 11 Aug (K&SF).

Great Crested Flycatcher: 31 CRSPP 3 Jun (K&SF).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Deep Hollow, Mtk 14-19 Aug (MMcB, mob), early.

E. Kingbird: 199 migr RMSP 23 Aug (K&SF, SSM).

Fish Crow: max 68 Heckscher SP 28 Aug.

Com. Raven: Wagner College RICH 29 Aug (HF); carrying food Metropolitan & Selfridge Aves, QUEE 16 Jun (JL); 2 115th St x 85th Ave, QUEE 27 Aug (JL); 2 Plainview NASS 30 Jul (PM); 2 Frick Estate, Roslyn NASS 4 Jun (PM); nest w/ young Hampton Bays: 5 on 3 Jul (PG) and 4 on 9 Jul, first SUFF breeding; Wildwood SP, SUFF 5 Jul (JH).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr RMSP 30 Aug (K&SF).

Tree Swallow: 300 migr RMSP 23 Aug (K&SF).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: nesting in seawall Governor's I NEWY 12 Jun (RJ), first breeding record for this ATLAS block area and third confirmed block in NYC.

Bank Swallow: robust colony in dirt mounds at construction site in Farmingville SUFF, 4 mi from nearest body of water (JTU, fide LO).

Cliff Swallow: 3 migr RMSP 23 Aug (SSM); “a few” Blue Heron P RICH 27 Aug (JTr).

Barn Swallow: 10,800 migr RMSP 23 Aug (K&SF, SSM); counted 7:00-10:00 but more cont afterwards.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Grymes Hill RICH 1 Jul (HF).

Carolina Wren: several reps suggesting scarcity: just 1 CRSP 3 Jun, on 5 mi survey (K&SF); none Caumsett 7 Jun, on breeding survey (K&SF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: migr RMSP 23 Aug (SSM).

Swainson’s Thrush: arr Bryant Park NEWY 30 Aug (BC).

Wood Thrush: conspicuously absent from many woodlands, especially east, this season.

Am. Robin: 345 migr RMSP 23 Aug (K&SF).

Gray Catbird: 70 CRSP 3 Jun (K&SF).

N. Mockingbird: 32 migr RMSP 23 Aug (K&SF).

Cedar Waxwing: 128 migr 23 Aug RMSP (K&SF).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: Rocky Pt 14, 19 Jul (RKA).

N. Waterthrush: arr CLP 26 Jul (CB); 3

JamBay 27 Jul (ABa); Rocky Pt 29 Jul (RKA).

Golden-winged Warbler: EH 23 Aug (ACo); PP 23-24 Aug (P. Panc, mob), first here since 2009 fide PDO.

Tennessee Warbler: EH 23 Aug (ACo); Rocky Pt 24 Aug (RKA).

Mourning Warbler: PP 1 Jun (ECr); arr f PP 23 Aug (KR).

Com. Yellowthroat: 32 CRSP 3 Jun (K&SF).

Hooded Warbler: 2 terr males: sing Rocky Pt 11 dates 10 Jun-7Jul (RKA); CRSP 3 Jun (K&SF) & 4 Jun (JGI); arr 2 PBP 23 Aug (ABl).

Am. Redstart: 20 on one road, Caumsett SP breeding survey 7 Jun (K&SF).

Cape May Warbler: arr RMSP 24 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: CP 5 Jun (JSu).

Yellow Warbler: 55 Caumsett SP breeding survey 7 Jun (K&SF).

Blackpoll Warbler: Greenwood Cem, KING 13 Jun (eBirdNYC); last Bay Shore SUFF 18 Jun (PJL).

Yellow-throated Warbler: CRSP 4 Jun (JGI); Teddy Roosevelt CP, Mtk 29 Aug (SSM, PJL).

Black-throated Green Warbler: last ad m Riverside P. NEWY, singing; 15 Jun (JDr).

Canada Warbler: arr Bryant Park 8 Aug (BC); Rocky Pt 12 Aug (RKA).

Yellow-breasted Chat: arr CP 26 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: 36 CRSP 3 Jun (K&SF).

Vesper Sparrow: bred at GA and in nearby field to the north.

Lark Sparrow: Edgemere Landfill, QUEE 26 Aug (SA, ABa, CF); RMSP 29 Aug (AMcI); CHP 29 Aug (DJ).

Savannah Sparrow: many Edgemere Landfill QUEE 12 Jun (SA, CF, MN).

Grasshopper Sparrow: EPCAL (former Grumman property), Rt 25 radar tower, and Gabreski Airport are still breeding strongholds; Napeague 23 Jul (ACo et al.); juv ph at EPCAL 21 Aug (GB, TWB), seldom detected after fledging.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 Sammy’s Beach EH 12 Jun (ACo).

White-throated Sparrow: arr CP 28 Aug (eBirdNYC).

Summer Tanager: f CP 3 Jun, cont from spring (TF); FP 3 Jun (fide JL); NYBG 4 Jun (DBec); f Great Gull Is SUFF 24 Jun (JDi); pr East Hampton 4-26 Jun+; m seen 1, 2 & 4 Jul; juv seen nearby 24 Jul & 23 Aug (ACo).

Blue Grosbeak: m Eastport (TWB et al) & pr Bridgehampton thru Jun (fide HMcG); ad m sing Southampton 14-15 Jul (HMcG); 2 (first summer m, f) EPCAL 16 Jul (ES, AMcI).

Indigo Bunting: Four Sparrow Marsh, KING 26 Jun (MW).

Dickcissel: RMSP 23 Aug (RJK).

Bobolink: displaying m, f, Edgemere Landfill QUEE 12 Jun (SA, CF, MN); first mig RMSP 11 Aug (K&SF); 62 migr RMSP (K&SF); 2 Caumsett SP 18 Aug (PM), migr?

Red-winged Blackbird: 755 migr RMSP 23 Aug (K&SF).

E. Meadowlark: 2 Caumsett SP 5 Jun thru, on territory (PM; K&SF); 15 EPCAL, former Grumman property 8 Jul, only reported locations for breeders.

Boat-tailed Grackle: CP thru 9 Jun, from spring (TF); v rare away from coast.

Baltimore Oriole: 70 migr 23 Aug RMSP (K&SF).

Provenance Uncertain or Unnatural GREAT KISKADEE: Hudson R near the USS Intrepid, NEWY 31 Aug (fide ABl), provenance highly suspect.

HOODED CROW: GKP 20 Jun- 9 Jul (SWo, mob); poss pres earlier; provenance uncertain.

Pin-tailed Wydah: Crooke’s Pt RICH 3 Jul (EM), exotic.

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

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*

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

Appointed Committees

Archives:

Linda Benedict—6701 Miller Rd., Newark, NY 14513

Awards:

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

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

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New York State Avian Records:

Angus Wilson, Chair

Send reports to:

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

New York State Young Birders Club:

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

Publications:

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Research:

Jeremy J. Kirchman, Chair—New York State Museum
3140 CEC, Albany, NY 12230

Waterfowl Count:

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

Web Site and Information Services:

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

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