

# Hudson-Delaware Region

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Heat and drought marked this season. Temperatures in Philadelphia, for instance, soared above 90° F. for 20 days in July, with a maximum of 103° July 15. Except for a few northern and western upland thunderstorms in July, serious rain deficiencies built through June and July, and worse was to come. Hot, dry weather was generally favorable for nesting, however, and the drought's greatest long-term effect will probably be on the winter's food supply.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*barrier beach at Townsend's Inlet, Cape May, NJ*); BBS (*Breeding Bird Survey*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City*);

*Little Creek (Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Kent Co., DE)*; Logan Tract (*unit of Little Creek Wildlife Area s. of Kitt's Hummock, DE*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N.W.R., n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY*); NY D.E.C. (*New York Department of Environmental Conservation*); Little Galloo (*Little Galloo I., e. Lake Ontario, off Henderson Harbor, Jefferson, NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bay shore e. of Little Creek, Kent, DE*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*); SCMM (*South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ*).

## Grebes to Cormorants

Pied-billed Grebes need surveying. While they remain thinly but widely spread north and west, few breeding sites persist farther south. None were confirmed on Long Island (Jamaica Bay may have become too brackish). In New Jersey, 2 locations were confirmed in *Monmouth* and 2 in *Burlington*, plus 3 other possibles (*vide* WD, TBa). In Delaware, five Pied-billeds at Bombay Hook and one at the Logan Tract in late July (NP) probably bred.

A trip 90 mi e. of Lewes, DE to Wilmington Canyon June 4 (CDC *et al.*) found Sooty Shearwaters most common (300) as expected at the end of spring, along with 70 Greater, 12 Cory's, and one Manx. Along the Continental Shelf between Hudson and Block Canyons out of Montauk July 28 (PAB, RJK, m.ob.), the best find was ≤ six Audubon's Shearwaters. Thirteen Cory's Shearwaters and two Sooties were off the Avalon seawatch July 16 (DWa). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were, as usual, the commonest birds offshore (500 & 250 on the 2 trips to the Shelf). Remarkable numbers were inshore from Long Island to Delaware, whether the biggest counts were 79 off Cape May June 14 (PDn, D. Turner) and >1500 at a Leatherback Turtle corpse off the mouth of Delaware Bay July 22 (DGi). The Avalon seawatch tallied 163 for July (DWa). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was a good find at Wilmington Canyon June 4 (CDC *et al.*).

Ever more Am. White Pelicans wander into the Region. Two were on Oneida L., July 10-17 (C. Adams),

and one was seen widely along the Jersey shore of Delaware Bay June 5+ (PDn, m.ob.). The Brown Pelican movement up the coast was mostly late and scattered, the only major concentration being >140 on sand bars at Barnegat Light, NJ July 24 (E. Bruder). The biggest count in Delaware was 30 at Cape Henlopen June 23 (GKH), and 12 on Long Island at Jones Inlet, *Suffolk*, July 19 (NY RBA).

The Double-crested Cormorant explosion resumed after a pause last summer when the L. Ontario alewife population crashed. The megacolony on Little Galloo doubled to 7500 pairs (3700 last year, 5000 in 1993; GSm), and a grand total of 13,007 nests were counted on both shores of L. Ontario (BMi). Beyond the established colonies on Oneida L., Four Brothers I. (L. Champlain), Gardiner's I. off e. LI, and in New York harbor, prospectors are everywhere. This season a few nested in Buffalo harbor and in *Jefferson*, NY, and attempted nesting at Manasquan Res., *Monmouth*, NJ. Efforts are being made to keep them off other islands in e. L. Ontario, but the long-range prospects depend on the alewife population, which may well decline (BMi).

The recent run of Anhinga reports continued with two at Hibernia Park, *Chester*, PA June 6 (PH, E. Wolf, M. Page).

## Hérons to Waterfowl

Western New York's first Great Egret nests in the Niagara R. near Buffalo, mentioned last season, did produce five young, but some were killed, perhaps by vandals (WW, WD'A, RA). This range extension has been anticipated since atlas days, since some breed in Ontario and Quebec.

Thirteen Tricolored Heron nests were located on the ground amidst a large Herring Gull colony in the Rehoboth marshes, DE (LG-I), a state maximum and an unusual situation. A sub-ad. White Ibis was at Bombay Hook June 6 (EP, PL, E. Short). A White-faced Ibis was carefully identified there July 29 (BP, MGu).

The Mute Swan population at Jamaica Bay, recently surpassing 200, is being controlled by egg shaking (DR). There are now 3 pairs at Rochester (RGS), as this troublesome import establishes itself around L. Ontario. Green-winged Teal, a very rare breeder in New Jersey, nested at 2 sites in Friendship Bog, *Burlington*, NJ (WD), while Blue-winged Teal may have bred at Meshoppen, *Wyoming*, PA (R. Daniels), at the recently restored Embreeville Marsh, *Chester*, PA (PHu), and at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, *Ocean*, NJ (BO).

A ♂ Com. Golden-eye was photographed at Assawoman W.M.A., Indian R. Inlet, DE July 29 (C. Donofrio); another,



entering eclipse plumage at Green I., *Albany*, after July 21 may have arrived there on molt migration (WE). Ruddy Ducks no longer breed at Jamaica Bay, which has become too brackish (DR), but a brood at Mannington Marsh, *Salem* (WD, D. Merkh), provided a 2nd or 3rd record for s.w. New Jersey.

### Raptors

Osprey recovery continues, right into the edge of cities, such as 3 nests at Jamaica Bay, (2 last year, DR). New Jersey's biennial aerial census found 236 nests, up from 200 in 1993 (CC). Eastern Pennsylvania's 3 populations had a "pretty good year." In the Poconos, where the hacking program is now complete, 11 nests (including 2 new ones) produced 21 young; in the Tioga-Hammond area, where the hacking project was completed last year, 4-6 pairs attempted to nest, and one fledged three young at Cowanesque L., *Tioga*; the 2-4 pairs on the lower Susquahanna R. in *Lancaster* have colonized up from the Chesapeake Bay on their own (L. Rymon).

It was the best season for kites in memory. The last two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites from spring in Brecknock Twp., s. of Reading, PA, were seen June 10, and the last Mississippi Kite was there June 6 (Philadelphia Birdline). Cape May also had both species: An Am. Swallow-tailed at Hidden Valley June 4 (K&J Lukens), and several Mississippis between June 1-9, cresting with six at the Beanery June 8 (B. Sullivan, PLe, DSi, T. Parsons).

Bald Eagles increased again, with a little bit of help. New York had a record 25 territorial pairs, of which a record 23 attempted to breed; 19 produced a record 30 young, compared to 21 last year (BL). New Jersey's 11 breeding pairs (up 2 from last year) produced 20 young, mostly along Delaware Bay (CC). In Pennsylvania, hacking stopped 5 years ago and birds are now coming into breeding condition. There were 2 new nests this year, both in *Pike*, bringing the population in the e. part of the state to nine (20 statewide) (DBr). Delaware's 9 nests produced 11 young (LG-1).

The *Accipiter* map is being redrawn. The only Sharp-shinned Hawk nest reported was at Eckville Twp., near Hawk Mt., *Schuylkill*, PA (LG). Cooper's Hawks, by contrast, drew comment Regionwide as they adapt to suburbia. Successful nests were reported in backyards and suburban woodlots near Bethlehem, PA (AK), in Pompey and Rome, NY (DC), near Ithaca, NY (SK), and a possible near Centreville, DE (GKH). In n.w. New Jersey they were "remarkably common" (DH). Dasey commented that in s.w. New Jersey Cooper's Hawk "may have over-

taken Am. Kestrel as the 2nd most common nesting raptor." A N. Goshawk nested remarkably far south in Lacey Twp., *Ocean*, NJ (JL, B. Seng).

Point-blank photographs of a 2nd-year Swainson's Hawk at New Lisbon Twp., *Otsego*, NY on the remarkable date of June 8 (T. Salo) have been referred to the state rarities committee. The Central Park, NYC, Red-tailed Hawks (now with a new female) successfully fledged young on a Fifth Avenue apartment building on the 3rd try, cheered on by hundreds of onlookers.

An imm. Golden Eagle at Greece, *Monroe*, NY July 18 (K. Griffith) provided a first summer record for the Rochester area. A pair continued to hang around in s. New York, but there was no sign of nesting (BL).

Merlins bred in the Adirondacks for the 3rd consecutive year, with 2 nests in the L. Placid area (JMCP). Peregrine Falcons still increase. New York had a record 25 territorial pairs, all of which bred and fledged, with a record 46 young. There is one new cliff site in the Adirondacks and 3 new bridge sites around New York and the lower Hudson Valley (BL). New Jersey has 15 active pairs, the same as last year, all on man-made structures. More Peregrines were hacked in Pennsylvania than ever before: five in Allentown, five in Reading, seven in Harrisburg, and six in Williamsport, some with private funding (DBr).

### Rails to Shorebirds

A **Yellow Rail** calling at Mobley, *St. Lawrence*, NY July 2 (PAB) offered a tantalizing hint of possible breeding. Common Moorhen was missing from some traditional spots like Jamaica Bay (now too brackish) and around Delaware City (APE), but encouraging reports included 4 broods at Utica, NY (T. O'Connell), and 21 juveniles at Hyper Humus, Lafayette, *Sussex*, (T. Halliwell, a 3rd confirmation for n.w. New Jersey). This season's errant Sandhill Crane flew over Williams Twp., *Northampton*, PA July 14 (AK). We learned belatedly that a Sandhill Crane and a Com. Crane, possibly both escapes, have produced young for 2 years in s. New Jersey (*vide* J. Walsh).

The great Delaware Bay shorebird concentration peaked at the end of May with 109,000 birds, but dropped off more rapidly than usual in early June, possibly because many horseshoe crabs are taken as bait for eels and conch (CC). Shorebird habitat was poor along the Great Lakes, but excellent on L. Champlain, where 16 species were observed in July, many of them locally early. The most unusual were a Whimbrel at N. Plattsburgh July 26 (C. Hess), a W. Sandpiper far north at Ausable Pt., July 21 (B. Krueger, L. Stevenson), a Purple Sandpiper



Two views of an immature Swainson's Hawk in Otsego County, New York, June 8, 1995. Photograph/Tom Salo.



there July 22 (C&J Hess), and a red-headed, white-necked Ruff there June 25 (J. Hays). Farther south, Brig and Bombay Hook had favorable water levels for the annual shorebird extravaganza.

Many Arctic-breeding shorebirds arrived early: Am. Golden-Plovers at Bombay Hook July 23 (H. Armistead) and at Wainscott, *Suffolk*, LI July 29 (NY R.B.A.); Hudsonian Godwit July 12 at Bombay Hook; Marbled Godwit record-early at the Logan Tract July 23 (NP). Brig had 18 species of shorebirds as early as July 28 (LA), and one party tallied 20 species in central Delaware July 16 (*vide* APE).

Piping Plovers hold their own where human traffic can be limited, but they are heavily predated by such human commensals as crows, raccoons, and gulls. Even a Com. Tern was seen killing one chick at Breezy Pt., LI (MH). The Long Island population climbed about 34 pairs to 243, but high tides, heat, and predators reduced pro-

ductivity to .96. At Westhampton Beach, LI, foxes learned how to get under the protective shelters (M. Alfieri, NY D.E.C.). At Breezy Pt., LI, where closing the beach to vehicular traffic arouses intense opposition, signs were vandalized daily (MH). New Jersey was slightly up at 134 nesting pairs (DJ). Delaware's efforts to pull this species back from the brink of extinction paid off: Six active nests at Cape Henlopen S.P. (none remain at Delaware Shores) produced 10 chicks, the best result in several years (LG-I). Restrictions provoked "the ire of vacationers," but some surf fishermen expressed support (APE).

~ An Am. Oystercatcher bred successfully at S. Amboy, *Monmouth*, the first New Jersey nest away from the outer coast (J. Williams, J. Bickall, LL); like last year's nest at Rye, *Westchester*, the first off Long Island in New York, it demonstrates successful adaptation from beach to salt marsh. Oystercatchers nest now on all the islands in Jamaica Bay (DR).

~ Black-necked Stilts had an excellent breeding season at Bombay Hook, their only regular breeding site in the Region. At least 50 nests were at Bear Swamp and Sheerness (APE), plus two stragglers were at Broadkill Beach, DE 31 July (WWF). In New Jersey, where they have bred once this century (1993), 2 pairs were at Brig June 15 (JDD) and two singles at SCMM June 11 (T. Parsons).

~ Upland Sandpipers are hanging on in coastal New Jersey. One newly discovered site at Hammonton, *Atlantic* (JL) had one pair (4 last year), and 6 pairs were at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, *Ocean* (BO). Whimbrels were numerous coastally. The best counts were >120 at Sea Girt, *Ocean*, NJ July 26 (J. Herder), and 248 in July at the Avalon seawatch (DWA).

~ Returning Pectoral Sandpipers were few, perhaps for lack of inland grassy pools. Stilt Sandpipers were only coastal and in single digits, unlike the usual dozens at places like Bombay Hook and Jamaica Bay. A Curlew Sandpiper lingered into the first week of June at Brig (Philadelphia Birdline), and returnees were there July 14 (T. Jones) and at Bombay Hook July 16 (PDt).

~ In addition to the Ruff on L. Champlain, another was at Brig July 16 (B. Machover), a Ruff and a Reeve at Broadkill Beach, DE the same day (WWF, D. Gardner), and the same at Freeport, *Nassau*, LI from late July into August (M. Levine). Most of the action was at Bombay Hook, which claims now to be the "Ruff Capitol" of North America (APE). Three high-plumaged males were there all summer, rising to four or five July 9 (F. Rawlings).

~ Short-billed Dowitchers built up early to

8000 on N. Line I., Great South Bay, LI, July 9 (AJL, A. Baldelli). Five returnees were unusual inland at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, PA July 26 (JHo, K. Crilley, m.ob.).

~ Wilson's Phalarope probably bred again at Chazy R., *Clinton*, on L. Champlain. A female in alternate plumage June 13 at Bombay Hook (APE) reminds us that breeding should be looked for elsewhere in this Region. Seven there June 24 (M. Smith) were probably already on the move, however. The best place for Wilson's again was Bombay Hook, where they exceeded 30 in mid-July (JDD, PDt, JKM). Two in basic plumage at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, PA July 27 (JHo) provided a good inland record. The only Red-necked Phalarope reported ashore was at N. Line I., LI, July 16 (RJK).

### Gulls to Skimmer

The Laughing Gull colony in Jamaica Bay, adjacent to JFK airport, still numbers 5000-5500 pairs, despite runway control measures. The New York-New Jersey Port Authority shot >6000, as last year, but well below the 14,000 of 1993 (DR). Curiously, no other colony has formed on Long Island, although many hang around. The Rehoboth Marshes, DE contained 9032 pairs this summer (LG-I). A first-year Franklin's Gull was with 250 Laughing Gulls at Pickering Beach, DE July 9 (CDC *et al.*), and one was reported (age unspecified) at Bombay Hook July 16 (PDt).

~ A Com. Black-headed Gull was at the Logan Tract July 15 (BP, MGu) and at Pickering Beach the next day. A 3rd-year California Gull at Port Mahon June 24 (BP, MGu) was Delaware's first, subject to state committee review. The once-enormous Herring Gull colony at Captree S.P., *Suffolk*, LI raised hardly 30 young. The main culprit is apparently nocturnal eggging; someone evidently finds gull eggs a delicacy (JB, MGo).

~ A few Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now normal in summer. This season a first-summer bird was identified June 6 at SCMM (RC *et al.*), and another at Port Mahon June 24 (BP, MGu). Great Black-backed Gulls were reduced, apparently by eggging, to 2 pairs at Captree (MGo, JB). One at Budd L., *Morris* (A. Boyd), furnished only the 2nd or 3rd summer record in n.w. New Jersey.

~ Gull-billed Terns are testing their n. frontier. About ten made a failed nesting attempt in Joco Marsh, Jamaica Bay, at the edge of JFK airport (DR), and several pairs were present in the Great South Bay, LI, where they have nested before (JZ). Three prospectors were unprecedented at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, *Westchester*, NY June 18 (MU, AF). In addition to the usual Brig population, a pair was at Barnegat (JB) and 2-3 pairs in Hereford Inlet (DGi, M.

Smith). Curiously, they remain uncommon in Delaware, with only a couple at Bombay Hook (APE).

~ The Region's only Caspian Tern colony at Little Galloo remains stable with about 800 pairs (GSm). A few Caspian and Royal terns were present in June in coastal New Jersey, where they have occasionally bred, but no nests were found. Four Sandwich Terns were more than usual, in the absence of a major tropical storm. In addition to two at Barnegat July 12 (J. Zamos) and one at the Avalon sea watch July 30 (DWA *et al.*), one was at Robert Moses S.P., *Suffolk*, LI July 8 (RJK).

~ Evidence of Roseate Tern breeding in New Jersey still eludes us, despite the usual stragglers around Cape May, Barnegat, and Hereford Inlet. Long Island's Great Gull I., where c. 1000 chicks were banded (HH), remains the Region's (and the world's) premier colony. To reduce over-concentration, the Gull I. crew used decoys to establish about 100 pairs at Fort Tyler, off Gardiner's I., a traditional site. Now that Cedar Beach is sadly diminished, this becomes the Region's 2nd largest colony. Two small colonies persist in Shinnecock Inlet (ES) and one-two pairs nested for a 2nd year at Breezy Pt. (MH).

~ The once great Cedar Beach, LI, Com. Tern colony began diminished with c.1000 pairs, and then failed. Holed eggs point to Am. Crows, newly resident on the barrier beach (JB, MGo). Elsewhere on Long Island, Great Gull I. banded 13,000 young, the most ever (HH), and the Breezy Pt. population swelled to about 3500 individuals for the 2nd year, but this chased off Least Terns. Upstate, 511 Com. Tern nests were censused on 7 islands in Oneida L. (C. Kochersberger, C. Adams, M. Richmond), and 811 pairs in the Buffalo/Niagara area (N. Horning, L. McBrayer). Along the St. Lawrence R., 620 nests at 27 sites, half natural islands and half navigation cells, were the 3rd most since 1982 (L. Harper). Two prospectors were on the Susquehanna R. at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, PA June 26 (RMS), and a pair on an offshore rock in N. Milton Harbor, Rye, constituted the first *Westchester*, NY nest (MU, AF). Only 13 nests were censused in Delaware coastal bays (LG-I).

~ First-year "portlandica" Arctic Terns, which are supposed to pass their first summer in the s. seas, were at Cape May Pt., June 11 (PL, RC, SF) and Democrat Pt., Robert Moses S.P., *Suffolk*, LI July 7 (PAB, F. Buckley). The new Forster's Tern colony in Jamaica Bay, in its 4th year, increased to 85 pairs (DR). Once again a few summered as far east as Shinnecock Inlet, LI, without proof of breeding (JZ, ES).

~ New Jersey's biennial census of Least

Terns counted 1767 adults at 15 sites, about the same as 1993 (DJ). Delaware was down to about 217 pairs; some had moved south into Maryland (LG-I).

Delaware's now annual **White-winged Tern**, whose arrival in the Little Creek-Logan Tract area provided a first spring record, remained all summer for the first time.

Black Terns were not surveyed in New York this summer, but a local study in the Tonowanda/Iroquois/Oak Orchard wetlands of w. New York found 42 breeding pairs, a slight increase, and productivity tallied at least 57 (J. Hickey *et al.*) They bred again at Montezuma after nearly 20 years (SK), but were nearly a total loss around Rochester (RGS). The NY D.E.C. has proposed upgrading its status to *endangered*, but the new state administration has taken no action. A few lingered in s. New Jersey and Bombay Hook, as sometimes happens, and returnees were apparent by July: Avalon sea-watching counted 35 for the month (DWa).

Black Skimmers are adapting to salt marsh at Tobay Pond, *Suffolk*, LI (JZ), as they have for many years in New Jersey. The biennial census in New Jersey counted 2406 adults at 14 sites, up from 2 years ago. They were heavily concentrated in 3 colonies: Hereford Inlet, *Cape May* (1100), and Barnegat (460) and Tow Island, both *Ocean* (DJ). Several hundred summered again at Little Creek, Logan Tract, and Bombay Hook, but there was no evidence of breeding in Delaware (APE, DAC).

### Owls to Shrikes

Northern Saw-whet Owls breed more regularly than we realize. A dead juvenile furnished the first *Clinton*, NY evidence of breeding (JMCP); another was territorial in Stokes S.E., *Sussex*, NJ (FT).

The most positive Com. Nighthawk reports came from the New Jersey Pine Barrens with at least 7 sites (WD, TB), including 3 pairs in Double Trouble S.P., *Ocean* (T. Boyle). Elmira, NY had the only urban populations reported this season. It is pure speculation, but Am. Crows moved into the cities at about the time rooftop populations of Com. Nighthawks began to disappear. Whip-poor-wills were reported as still "abundant" in the Jersey Pine Barrens (WD), but there were only 4 reports in the Adirondacks (JMCP).

A Three-toed Woodpecker at Ferd's Bog, *Hamilton*, NY July 13 (G. Lee) was the only one reported. Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from 11 locations in the Adirondacks (*vide* JMCP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher bred again on Dutch Mt., *Wyoming*, PA (S. Conrad, DGr), near its s. limit. A W. Kingbird was extremely early, as well as unusual inland, at

Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lebanon*, PA July 15 (Philadelphia Birdline). An ad. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** settled at Bombay Hook for a record stay July 21–October (D. Mueller, R. Anderson, SHD, M. Moffett).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were showing signs of irruption by late July. Yunick banded his 2nd-greatest number in n. *Saratoga*, NY and some appeared at Tyler Arboretum, Philadelphia (NP). Nesting was confirmed in new areas w. of Allentown, PA (J&N Boyer, *vide* AK) and on the e. end of Long Island (J. Ash, ES).

Carolina Wrens continue low in upstate New York and n.w. Pennsylvania after the winter 1993–1994 kill-off. Winter Wrens bred in a box at Jenny L., *Saratoga*, NY, a repeat of behavior first documented in 1989 (RPY). They also nested s. of Allentown, the 2nd confirmed nesting there (J. Puschock, S. Thorpe). Sedge Wrens were found at this Region's 2 extremes: Small colonies continue at Port Mahon and Bombay Hook, DE, and along the s. shore of L. Ontario at Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY (RGS) and the Niagara R. at Buckhorn Island S.P., *Erie* (PY). They were gratifyingly widespread in *St. Lawrence* and *Jefferson*, NY, where 24 were recorded at 14 sites (*vide* B. Long).

In the New Jersey Pine Barrens, atlasing has revealed Veeries to be much common than once thought in *Ocean* (T. Boyle) and *Burlington* (D. Jones, T. Wilson, WD). A Loggerhead Shrike at Cape May June 10 (JL) was the sole report of this almost vanished species. The only breeding population now known in our 4 states is in s.c. Pennsylvania (S. Hunter, DBr).

### Vireos to Finches

Warbling Vireos have increased in n.e. Delaware, *Burlington*, NJ, and around Philadelphia, and one was singing in downtown Wilmington June 21 (APE).

Golden-winged Warblers were absent on the Ithaca Summer Bird Count (SK), but five singing males at Montague, *Sussex*, NY (FT) offered a ray of hope. A ♂ Tennessee Warbler sang at Ferd's Bog, *Hamilton*, NY June 24 (K. Beale, R. Boehm). The major warbler event was the discovery of approximately 20 singing ♂ Palm Warblers in Piercefield Twp., *St. Lawrence*, NY (DDiT). Palm Warblers were first discovered breeding in New York during atlasing (1984), but the new location, Massawepie Mire, was not accessible then. This species may be limited in n. New York mainly by the rarity of extensive bogs, such as it inhabits in Maine.

Blackpoll Warbler fledged successfully in *Wyoming*, PA (DGr, DBr, S. Conant), where last year's attempt provided a first state breeding record. Worm-eating Warblers showed widespread increase: in the Prince-

ton Institute Woods, where there is no breeding record (LL); Ridley Creek S.P., Media, PA, present for first time in 4 years (NP); six–seven singing males in the Ithaca area, the first in the Cayuga L. basin in 30–40 years (SK); and one at Marlboro, *Monmouth*, NJ (D. Sutherland, BO), where it is a very rare breeder.

Blue Grosbeaks may have bred at Murtontown, *Suffolk*, LI (K. O'Leary, M. Levine, m.ob.), well n.e. of the one confirmed New York state nest. Even farther afield, one was reported to N.Y.S.A.R.C. from Phoenix, *Oswego*, NY (R&K Slack). Two–four singing ♂ Dickcissels in *Kent*, DE aroused hope before disappearing at the end of June (SHD, BPe, m.ob.). None were found on e. Pennsylvania BBSs (DBr).

Clay-colored Sparrows are better established in n. New York than we supposed. One was in Andover Twp., *Allegany*, near the initial New York breeding area (EBr). A male sang June 2–10 at Crown Pt. State Historic Site on L. Champlain, *Essex* (MGr, JMCP, D. Spaulding, J. Ciaccio), while one paused briefly July 5 in a yard in Williams Twp., *Northampton*, PA (AK). Most remarkable were ≤20 singing males at Fort Drum, *Jefferson*, NY (B. Johnson).

Vast uncut fields in *St. Lawrence* and *Jefferson*, NY are the Region's best habitat for grassland sparrows, while farther south they are limited to a few vestigial areas, including airfields. The figures that follow draw on surveys at Fort Drum, *Jefferson* (B. Johnson), and at the closed Plattsburgh A.F.B., *Clinton* (MGr). The best reports of Vesper Sparrow were 29 in *Jefferson*, including 20 at Fort Drum; 11 at Plattsburgh June 14; five–six at Wantage, *Sussex*, NJ (FT); "good numbers" around Ithaca (SK); and a new area around Wapwallopen, *Luzerne*, PA, containing about 6 sites (R. Koval, WR). Savannah Sparrow ranged from 22 at Plattsburgh June 14 to two at Wantage, *Sussex*, NJ (FT).

Grasshopper Sparrows hang on farther south where habitat permits. Comparable to *Jefferson*'s 20 at 6 localities (N. Leone) and 12 at Plattsburgh were 15 pairs at Hammon-ton, *Atlantic*, NJ (JL), six at Colt's Neck, *Monmouth*, NJ (BO, D. Sutherland), and an amazing 40 near Fairton, *Cumberland* (P. Guris). Three were at Wantage (FT). They are declining in n. Delaware, but persist near Taylor's Bridge, *New Castle* and at Dover A.F.B., *Kent* (APE).

An astounding 51 Henslow's Sparrows were counted in night singing surveys in the Perch L. area, *Jefferson* (N. Leone), plus nine during the day at Fort Drum (no night access). We are aware of no Henslow's sites now in Delaware or New Jersey, in New York s. of Ithaca and Saratoga Battlefield (14 territorial males, R. Mazur), or in Pennsylvania s.

of *Wyoming*, where Reid reports that the traditional W. Nicolson field, where at least 2 pairs fledged young this summer, was cut clean in July; one summered and probably bred near Folkston (WR).

↘ The most remarkable sparrow of the season was a singing ♂ **Le Conte's Sparrow** in Lisbon Twp, *St. Lawrence*, NY June 23–July 28 (DDiT, m.ob.), the Region's first summer record. The bird apparently remained unmated.

↘ House Finches suffering with conjunctivitis were very widely reported, and in some areas, such as n. *Saratoga*, NY (RPY) they seemed "very scarce."

### Exotics

A Black Swan was at SCMM July 8 (K. Seager); two Spotted Doves were at Whitesboro, NJ June 13 (RC *et al.*).

**Observers:** (Subregional compilers in bold-face): Leif Anderson, **Robert Andrie** (Niagara Frontier Area), **Tom Bailey** (TBa) (coastal NJ: 87 Wyndham Pl., Robbinsville, NJ 08691); **Irving Black** (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apr. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), Daniel Brauning (PA Game Commission), Elizabeth Brooks, P.A. Buckley, Joanna Burger, **T. W. Burke** (NY Rare Bird Alert), C.D. Campbell, Gary & Karen Campbell, Cathy Clark (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), Richard Crossley, **Dorothy Crumb** (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 3983 Gates Rd., Jamesville, NY 13078), **Willie D'Anna** (Niagara Frontier, NY: 2257 Cayuga Dr. Ext., Niagara Falls, NY 14304); J. D. Danzenbaker, **Ward Dasey** (s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), Paul DeBenedictis, Dean DiTommaso, Paul Dumont (PDt), Pete Dunne (PDn), S. H. Dyke, **A. P. Ednie** (*New Castle and Kent*, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Walter Ellison, Andrew Farnsworth, Ed Fingerhood, Shawneen Finnegan, **W. W. Frech** (*Sussex*, DE: Carr. Rte. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer (Delaware Division. of Fish and Wildlife), Dave Githens, Laurie Goodrich (Hawk Mt. Sanctuary), Doug Gross, Mike Gochfeld, **Jane Graves** (Hudson-Mohawk, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), Michael Gretch, **K. C. Griffith** (Genesee, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Mary Gustafson, **David Harrison** (n.w. NJ: 126 Westchester Terrace, Annandale, NJ 08801), Mary Hake, Helen Hays (Great Gull I.), G. K. Hess, **Armas Hill** (Philadelphia Birdline), Phyllis Hurlock, Dave Jenkins (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), Jason Horn, **Steve Kelling** (Finger Lakes Region, NY: 732 Old 76 Rd., Berkshire, NY 13736), **Arlene Koch** (Lehigh Valley, PA: 1375 Raub-

sville Rd., Easton, PA 18042), R.J. Kurtz, **Laurie Larson** (n.c. NJ: 69 Alexander St., Princeton NJ 08540), A. J. Lauro, Paul Lehman, Jerry Liguori, **R. E. Long** (St. Lawrence, NY: 2807 Citation Dr., Pompey, NY 13138), Barbara Loucks (NY D.E.C.), Bob Miller (BMi) (NY D.E.C.), Bill and Naomi Murphy, Bob Olthoff, Bruce Peterjohn, **J. M. C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Nick Pulcinella, Vivian Pitzrick, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Don Riepe (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge), Eric Salzman, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), R. M. Schutsky (Early Bird Nature Tours), Dave Sibley, Franklin Smith, Gerald Smith, **R. G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), **Pat Sutton** (Cape May Bird Observatory), William Symonds, Fred Tetlow, Phil Vanderhorst, **Michael Usai** (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: 70 Virginia R., Apt. 18A, N. White Plains, NY 10603), Dave Ward, William Watson, W. J. Wayne, **Al Wollin** (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), Peter Yoerg, R. P. Yunick, John Zarudski.

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# Middle Atlantic Coast Region

## MARSHALL J. ILIFF

Weather in June was about average, with most of the precipitation at the end of the month. July was very hot and dry, Ringer noted. Thanks to all who reported their sightings, and especially to the county compilers and hotline operators who made all their reports available. Thanks also to Jim Stasz for his exceptional work in compiling and organizing the reports, and to Gene Scarpulla and Jim for help editing my first season report.

Abbreviations: Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Black. (*Blackwater N.W.R., MD*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R., VA*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); MD D.N.R. (*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*); P.N.A.S. (*Patuxent Naval Air Station, MD*).

## Loons to Waterfowl

Nine reports of Com. Loons were about average and were mostly summering non-

