

side of the appropriately named Wilson Pond trail off Rt. 22, beyond Brady Pond, Hamilton Co., 10 July (SL, BR).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Clay-colored Sparrow: four blocks, none CO, although a singing male disturbed near Westville, northern Franklin Co., 27 June-2 July (JR, CS), now places this species in three contiguous blocks near the Quebec border in as many years. Although "Vesper Sparrows were in fair numbers," back in 1979, they were judged "hard to find in the last few years." Since then, vespers have been found in 75 Atlas blocks, CO in 14, despite the unfamiliarity of many observers with this sparrow and sketchy coverage of many blocks with suitable habitat. Grasshopper Sparrow: 12 blocks, 2 CO, provides a pleasant regional discovery. Lincoln's Sparrow: known from only 14 breeding locations in the region a decade ago, this species has been recorded in 163 blocks, 61 CO, from southern Hamilton Co. to the Canadian border; this remains the Region 7 success story. Rusty Blackbird: 89 blocks, 37 CO. House Finch: now 63 blocks, 24 CO, spreading toward the interior. The first bumper crop of white spruce cones of the Atlas gave the crossbill maps a much-needed final boost. Red Crossbill: 24 blocks, one CO. White-winged Crossbill: 18 blocks, one CO; this summer's records included a subadult male Mountain View L. 25 July, pair L. Clear Outlet 1 Aug., subadult male Madawaska disturbed by Gray Jays 21 Aug. (SL, JP), singing male Bloomingdale Bog 25 Aug. (A & WC, EJ, JP), and flock Helldiver Pd. late Aug. (GL). Evening Grosbeak: 157 blocks, 23 CO, with many of the 1984 records from eastern Hamilton Co. Finally, House Sparrows are still much less widely distributed than starlings, having shown up in 214 blocks, or 31% of those surveyed, with 141 of those CO.

Discovery Farm, R.D. 1, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

The breeding range of the Yellow-throated Warbler made an amazing leap north this summer. Previously its range extended from the Gulf of Mexico to southern New Jersey, but in 1984 it was found nesting at two locations in mid-latitudes of New York. The Atlas project in its fifth and final year of field work has, with this bird, added a fifth new species to the breeding avifauna of the state. The Region 8 nest was found high in a White Pine in Cairo, Greene Co. in June and the birds continued to be observed through August.

The tiny hamlet of Harlemville in Columbia Co. became a focus of attention for the region when a male Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered breeding with a Chipping Sparrow. Hybrid offspring were produced, straining our definition of the species concept once again. Two of the three eggs hatched and the young were banded.

Black-backed Woodpecker, a new regional breeding species, was added by Dick Guthrie while atlassing near Puffer Pond in Warren Co. Also in Warren Co. blockbusters recorded probable breeding for Philadelphia Vireo and Guthrie found Northern Parula along the Sacandaga River. Nesting Mourning Warbler in Columbia Co. is a first for that county. Olive-sided Flycatchers continue to be found by Atlas workers in the Catskills. A territorial male was observed in

Lanesville in July. Orchard Oriole has been added to the list of breeding birds in Columbia Co. A family of four, with two fledglings being fed, was sighted in Stuyvesant on 1 August. A Rufous Hummingbird visiting the home garden of Jack and Jacky Cook in Castleton may become the first record for the state if accepted by NYSARC. For the third year in a row small numbers of male Tennessee Warblers have shown up in Albany in mid-July and then molted. Scott Terrill wonders how widespread this early migration and molt is. Perhaps the most unexpected migrant shorebird at Basic Creek this season was a Wilson's Phalarope. White-rumped and Western Sandpipers were also well-represented.

The Bald Eagle hacking program is underway at Alcove Reservoir in Albany Co. and gives hope of restoring our national symbol to the capitol district. On a negative note, cuckoo numbers are way down presumably due to the lack of a major gypsy moth outbreak this year. Positive trends include increased numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. An observer of a hummingbird fledgling reports that the plumage of the young bird was all dark brown or black when first seen. A week later the bird's back began to show the emerald green color of the adult and gradually replaced the dark color.

The weather this summer was perhaps more humid than normal. Even though stream levels were down by the end of August it rained nearly every week in Columbia Co. and vegetation remained lush all summer. The Jenny Lake summer was described as hot and humid with far fewer thunderstorms than normal. Cold fronts were lacking and birding was poor. A superabundance of cones however should provide a high winter survival rate for winter finches.

Good birding and may your Christmas Bird Counts be comfortably engaged with few wraps and many raptors.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: Chatham June; Queechy L 20 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: one Basic Creek 24-30 Aug. Great Blue Heron: 34 Basic Creek 14 Aug. Great Egret: one Basic Creek 14-30 Aug.; three Hudson 19 Aug. Snowy Egret: two Basic Creek 14 Aug. Green-backed Heron: one Basic Creek 14 Aug. Canada Goose: 100 Hollowville 26 Aug. Wood Duck: 30 Basic Creek 14 Aug. Green-winged Teal: max six Basic Creek 15 Aug. Am. Black Duck: one Hoag's Corners 11 July. Mallard: at least two broods at Jenny L. Blue-winged Teal: max 40 Basic Creek 30 Aug. Ring-necked Duck: Merwin's Fishing Preserve thru. Hooded Merganser: one Puffer Pond 31 July. A female Com. or Red-breasted Merganser was seen for the second consecutive summer at Jenny L. but with no evidence of breeding.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: suspected nesting in Corinth area (RY). Osprey: one Copake 29 July. Bald Eagle: Stockport 25 Aug. No. Harrier: Castleton 20 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: seven reports thru. Cooper's Hawk: four reports from Knox, Ghent and Castleton all in late Aug. No. Goshawk: nesting at Stony Creek, Warren Co. (RY). Red-shouldered Hawk: subadult So. Westerlo 15 June (KA). Broad-winged Hawk: six reports thru. Red-tailed Hawk: 15 reports from Columbia Co. Am. Kestrel: max five Hoag's Corners 11 July. Ring-necked Pheasant: ten reports Columbia Co. June-July. Ruffed Grouse: female with five half grown chicks Averill Park 10 July; 12 other reports thru. Wild Turkey: six reports from Austerlitz, Nassau and Canaan thru. Lesser Golden-Plover: one adult Basic Creek 11-15 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: max 30 Basic Creek 15 Aug. Killdeer: max 40 Basic Creek 29 July-11 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: max five Basic Creek 11 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs:

max 25 Basic Creek 11-12 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: max 20 Basic Creek 21 July. Spotted Sandpiper: two Columbiaville 17 July; two Basic Creek 24 July thru; one Jenny L July-Aug. Ruddy Turnstone: two Basic Creek 21 July; one 20 Aug. Sanderling: one Basic Creek 21 July-12 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 500 Basic Creek 11-15 Aug. Western Sandpiper: three Basic Creek 11-30 Aug. Least Sandpiper: max 180 Basic Creek 21 July. White-rumped Sandpiper: max ten Basic Creek 12 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 40 Basic Creek 20 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: two adults Basic Creek 21 July and two juv. 11 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 20 Basic Creek 20 Aug. Com. Snipe: one E. Schodack 3 July; one Basic Creek 14 Aug. Am. Woodcock: Ghent and Old Chatham 4 July. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: juv. Basic Creek 26 July. Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were well represented at Colonie landfill all summer. Hatch-year Ring-billed Gulls arrived in mid-July.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: max 20 Cheviot 1 June. Mourning Dove: Adirondack population increasing, 14 Jenny L 28 July. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Lanesville 19 July. Com. Barn Owl: Chatham 7 Aug. E. Screech-Owl: max two New Baltimore 14 Aug. Great Horned Owl: Austerlitz 3 July. Barred Owl: two Jenny L 23 June-4 July; two fledglings Burden L 7 July; two 13th L 30 July. Com. Nighthawk: six Coxsackie 21 Aug. Chimney Swift: one Luther 5 July; one Twin Mt. 22 July. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 36 reports from Columbia and Rensselaer Cos. **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**: Castleton 26-27 Aug. (J & J Cook *fide* ER). Belted Kingfisher: max two Basic Creek 14 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: Nassau 7-13 July. Red-bellied Woodpecker: male Cheviot 1 June. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 12 reports; max four Twin Mt. 22 July. Downy Woodpecker: 30 reports; max three Luther 5 July. Hairy Woodpecker: 25 reports. **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER**: first regional breeding record, carrying food for young, Puffer Pond June (RG). No. Flicker: 30 reports. Pileated Woodpecker: Chatham June.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: male defending territory Lanesville 19 July; one Puffer Pond 31 July. E. Wood-Pewee: max three E. Schodack 3 July. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Twin Mt. 22 July. Alder Flycatcher: one E. Schodack 3 July; one Hoag's Corners 11 July. Willow Flycatcher: 14 reports thru. Least Flycatcher: six reports. E. Phoebe: 25 reports. Great Crested Flycatcher: eight reports. E. Kingbird: 25 reports. Purple Martin: 30 migrants Corinth 12 Aug. Tree Swallow: 30 reports. No. Rough-winged Swallow: five reports Chatham to Castleton thru. Bank Swallow: max six E. Schodack 3 July. Cliff Swallow: eight reports; max 20 Lanesville 19 July. Barn Swallow: 30 reports. Blue Jay: numbers down at Jenny L. Am. Crow: young fledged at Jenny L 18 June. Com. Raven: one N. River 31 July. Black-capped Chickadee: first fledgling at Schenectady feeder 25 June. Tufted Titmouse: max two Luther 5 July. Red-breasted Nuthatch: nine reports; max four Puffer Pond 31 July. White-breasted Nuthatch: scarce this year at Jenny L. Brown Creeper: six reports. House Wren: 20 reports. Winter Wren: one Lanesville 19 July; four Twin Mt. 22 July; one Puffer Pond 31 July; Ghent 1 Aug; Chatham and Austerlitz July-Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Puffer Pond 31 July. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Livingston 6 Aug; Ghent 8 Aug.; Stockport 18 Aug.; Valatie and Hoosick 27 Aug. E. Bluebird: six reports Columbia Co. Veery: max five E. Schodack 3 July. Swainson's Thrush: four Twin Mt. 22 July. Hermit Thrush: nine reports; fledgling Petersburg Pass 24 July. Wood Thrush: 25 reports. Am. Robin: max 20 E. Schodack 3 July. Gray Catbird: max 20 E. Schodack 3 July. No. Mockingbird: 20 reports; max four Claverack thru. Brown Thrasher: 12 reports. Cedar Waxwing: max 15 Jenny L. late Aug. European Starling: max 50 Cheviot 1 June.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: New Baltimore thru (RG). Solitary Vireo: Austerlitz 7 July; three Twin Mt. 22 July; three Puffer Pond 31 July; Old Chatham 9 Aug. Yellow-throated Vireo: max two Hoag's Corners 11 July. Warbling Vireo: max two E. Schodack 3 July. Philadelphia Vireo: Warren Co. (*fide* RG). Red-eyed Vireo: max ten E. Schodack 3 July. Blue-winged Warbler: max two Cheviot 1 June. Tennessee Warbler: male Berne 12 July; one Hoosick and Ghent 27 Aug. Nashville Warbler: Austerlitz 4 July; four Averill Park 10 July. No. Parula: Warren Co. June (RG). Yellow Warbler: max five Cheviot

1 June. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max four Averill Park 10 July. Magnolia Warbler: four reports; max two Twin Mt. 22 July. Black-throated Blue Warbler: five reports; max six Twin Mt. 22 July. Yellow-rumped Warbler: four reports; max ten Twin Mt. 22 July. Black-throated Green Warbler: five reports; max five Twin Mt. 22 July. Blackburnian Warbler: Austerlitz 6 June-4 July; one Lanesville 19 July; one Berlin 23 July. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: first New York breeding record So. Cairo thru. They were first observed on 6 June by David Gagne of NYSDEC. On 9 June they were observed building a nest. Incubation was observed on 15 June and feeding of young on 1 July. The nest was collected on 21 Aug. under Federal Permit #PRT 2-2027BO held by Eugene McCaffrey. The nest is now in the collection of the Am. Mus. of Nat. Hist. Pine Warbler: Castleton 30 Aug. Prairie Warbler: max two Burden L 7 July. Blackpoll Warbler: ten Twin Mt. 22 July. Cerulean Warbler: New Baltimore thru (RG). Black-and-white Warbler: max ten Hoosick 27 Aug. Am. Redstart: max ten Hoosick 27 Aug. Ovenbird: ten banded Jenny L indicate numbers way down. No. Waterthrush: ten reports thru. Louisiana Waterthrush: two Lanesville 19 July; one Berlin 23 July; one Poolsburg 2 Aug. Mourning Warbler: first record for nesting in Columbia Co. at New Lebanon Center thru July (*vide* ER); one Berne 19 July; male Berlin 23 July. Com. Yellowthroat: max five Cheviot 1 June. Wilson's Warbler: male Potter Hill 27 Aug. Canada Warbler: five reports from high elevations.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max three Cheviot 1 June. No. Cardinal: max five E. Schodack 3 July. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 20 banded Jenny L. normal but down from last year's 50. Indigo Bunting: max two Livingston 6 Aug. Rufous-sided Towhee: fledgling Petersburg Pass 24 July. Chipping Sparrow: max ten E. Schodack 3 July; long term decline at Jenny L. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: male bred with Chipping Sparrow Harlemville. Field Sparrow: max three Cheviot 1 June. Vesper Sparrow: Ghent 4 July-27 Aug. Savannah Sparrow: max five E. Schodack 3 July. Song Sparrow: max ten E. Schodack 3 July. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ghent 27 Aug. Swamp Sparrow: max three Cheviot 1 June. White-throated Sparrow: three Averill Park 10 July; one Hoag's Corners 11 July; Old Chatham 17 June-7 July; Jenny L June-July. Dark-eyed Junco: fledglings Twin Mt. 22 July and Petersburg Pass 24 July. Bobolink: max 20 Berlin 23 July. Red-winged Blackbird: max 30 Cheviot 1 June. E. Meadowlark: max two E. Schodack 3 July. Com. Grackle: max 20 Cheviot 1 June; none found in Rensselaer Co. 23-24 July. Brown-headed Cowbird: max ten Cheviot 1 June. Orchard Oriole: first Columbia Co. breeding record Stuyvesant 1 Aug. (BC). No. Oriole: male still singing at Potter Hill 27 Aug. Purple Finch: 153 banded Jenny L. June-Aug. is very low. Few young produced and birds left early. House Finch: max 600 Schenectady. Am. Goldfinch: max ten Cheviot 1 June. Evening Grosbeak: one Twin Mt. 22 July. House Sparrow: max 20 Hoosick 27 Aug. Total 167 species.

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures were cool for the first week of June, and then went into the 90's. By the end of the second week they plummeted to the 60's and never went above the 70's and 80's for the rest of the summer. Rainfall was about twice normal during June and July, but August was quite dry, having only one rainy day. Foliage did not suffer, what with all the ground water left over from the wet spring and early summer; and the forecast is for an excellent fruit and seed crop in the fall.