

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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Some birders felt that summer passed over us this year, going from spring right into fall. While good species diversity was reported, overall numbers of individuals were down.

June's daily average temperature was 64.1°F, about average. The high of 85° occurred on 10 June and the low of 43° on 4 June. July's daily average of 64.7° was 4.5° cooler than normal. July's high temperature was only 80° on 30 July, while a low of 49° occurred on 6, 8 and 20 July. July had 26 days with below average temperatures, 13 of them at least 6-11° cooler than normal. August's daily average temperature of 65.0° was 2.2° below normal. The high was 83° on 9 August and the low was 44° on 21 August. There were nine days that the temperature was at least 6-11° cooler than normal.

The wet spring continued into early summer, with June's total precipitation of 4.68" being 1.08" greater than normal. July was about average with 3.76" and August was about an inch less than normal with 2.46". A fast moving thunderstorm moved through the Region on 12 June. Wind gusts up to 43 mph downed trees in the town of Maine, Broome County, as well as areas in Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties.

Waterfowl numbers were less than average, with low counts reported for both Hooded and Common mergansers. An early Snow Goose was at Upper Lisle, Broome County on 28 August. Wading birds provided two more uncommon sightings, with an American Bittern seen in Waverly and a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Brick Pond in Owego, both Tioga County. Other highlights of wetland species were single sightings of Virginia Rail and Common Moorhen.

Hawks had average to low reports as well. Notably absent were reports for Northern Goshawk, for the third consecutive summer, and Red-shouldered Hawk, the first summer missed in at least the last 11 years. A juvenile Peregrine Falcon was confirmed on 13 June on a ledge near where the adult birds had their nest. The nest was placed behind a large concrete crest adorning the upper reaches of the Security Mutual Building in downtown Binghamton. This is perhaps the most significant successful breeding record this Region has ever had.

Jon Weeks's discovery of a Caspian Tern at Dorchester Park near Whitney Point on 25 July was only the Region's second summer report. Few reports were received for owls. Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl were the only ones reported. Common Nighthawks continue with declining numbers. Tom Salo wrote, "the river bank near Edmeston, Otsego County that collapsed last May from heavy rains after nesting had started has good numbers of Bank Swallows" this summer.

Our Region was touched by the West Nile Virus this summer, along with all other Regions in the state. At least two dead American Crows in Binghamton tested positive for the virus.

Several reports of Common Raven were impressive from Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Good species diversity was reported for passerines, but low numbers of individuals was the consensus among many birders this season. A Mourning Warbler present from the start of the season to at least 7 July in the town of Dickinson, Broome County was unusual. Some of the more noteworthy warbler species seen included "Lawrence's", Northern Parula, **Kentucky**, Hooded and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

Rounding out the rarities this summer were a **Dickcissel** seen by Dan Watkins on 19 June on Webb Road in the Town of Binghamton and an **Orchard Oriole** seen by Jon Weeks on 13 July on Hyde Street in the Town of Barker, both Broome County. Dickcissel was last reported in the summer of 1988 and Orchard Oriole was last reported the summer of 1985 in our Region.

While the cooler, wet early summer played a large role in the lower number of birds seen during the period, another contributing factor was fewer reports received. Though this was the first summer of Atlas 2000, none of that data was received for this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, Vestal BROO; BPd – Boland Pd, Chenango Bridge BROO; BrPd – Brick Pd, Owego TIOG; DP – Dorchester Park, Triangle BROO; GyL – Goodyear L, OTSE; JC – Johnson City, BROO; PaRd – Parsons Rd, Chenango Forks BROO; REEC – Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, CHEN; RTP – Round Top Park, Endicott BROO; WeB – West Burlington, OTSE; WPR – Whitney Point Reservoir and nearby area, BROO; UL – Upper Lisle Park, BROO.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: juv Mirror L Owego 1 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: DP 29 Aug.

Am. Bittern: on various ponds Talmadge Hill Rd east of Waverly TIOG all Aug (TBC).

Great Blue Heron: nesting confirmed T Burlington (TS).

Great Egret: arr 2 Apalachin Marsh 17 Jul (DWa); Greenwoods Conservancy T Burlington after 8 Aug (TS); occasional Portlandville OTSE Aug; Stamford DELA 11 Aug (AM); 4 other BROO and TIOG reports Jul, Aug; above average.

Green Heron: common BROO, TIOG thru; also T Pittsfield and GyL OTSE thru; 5 Portlandville 31 Jul (IW); max 9 BrPd and Mirror L Owego 30 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: TIOG 31 Aug (JB), fifth summer since 1990, uncommon.

Turkey Vulture: up to 6 frequenting Pharsalia Blowdown area CHEN early Aug (DW); max 30-40 GyL occasionally Jul (IW).

Mute Swan: 2 BROO reports, average.

Snow Goose: UL 28 Aug (JW), early.

Canada Goose: max 72 Otsiningo P Binghamton 6 Aug.

Wood Duck: max 40 BPd 21 Jul (MP).

Am. Black Duck: few scattered reports.

Hooded Merganser: CHEN thru; 1- 2 WeB, scarce.

Com. Merganser: nesting at REEC; few Binghamton area reports; max 12 Port Dickinson P BROO 16 Aug; GyL 4 Jun; no others, lower numbers.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Norwich 9 Jul; Portlandville 28 Aug.; TIOG thru.

Bald Eagle: 2 ad WPR Jun, Jul (JW); possible 2nd yr bird WPR 24 Jul (MP); GyL 28 Aug (IW); 3 ad T Hancock DELA 31 Aug (ES); TIOG each month.

N. Harrier: Lisle BROO 24 Jul, 13 Aug; several WeB area thru, though "fewer

than previous years"(TS); TIOG thru; only reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: several BROO reports; 2 CHEN reports Aug; TIOG thru; WeB 27 Aug, uncommon.

Cooper's Hawk: 5 reports BROO; OBBS 11 Jun; Norwich 20 Jun; Willet CORT 8 July; several WeB late Aug, "one eating carrion on side of rd" (TS); TIOG thru; good numbers.

N. Goshawk: none reported; last summer report 1997.

Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports, first summer missed in at least 11 years.

Broad-winged Hawk: common BROO, TIOG; imm found dead Pharsalia CHEN "body still warm, intestinal roundworms still active" (DW); few reported elsewhere.

Am. Kestrel: max 5 between Lisle and UL BROO 8 Jul; pair Lisle 24 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: breeding confirmed downtown Binghamton.

Ring-necked Pheasant: TIOG thru, no other reports.

Ruffed Grouse: 4 reports; low.

Wild Turkey: downy y WeB mid-Aug (TS); several widespread reports.

Virginia Rail: Apalachin Marsh TIOG 17 Jul (DWa); only report.

Com. Moorhen: 2 ad BPd 21 Jul (MP); only report.

Am. Coot: TIOG thru.

Killdeer: max 15 Mirror L Owego 30 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: TIOG each month.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 ad + 1 y Choconut Center BROO (MP); max 4 T Union BROO 3 Jun; Chenango R Norwich thru; GyL occasional thru; TIOG thru.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Edwards Hill Rd Lisle BROO 6 Aug (JW), same area as previous summers; no other reports.

Com. Snipe: "male displaying" WeB "into Jul" (TS); only report.

Am. Woodcock: TIOG thru; no other reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: DP 10 Aug (MP), uncommon.
Ring-billed Gull: Norwich 23 Aug, "chased by crow"(DW).
Herring Gull: TIOG thru; a few BROO.
CASPIAN TERN: DP 25 July (JW), 2nd Regional summer record.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: WPR 7 Jun; Windsor 23 Jun on CBBS; WeB 8 Jul, seen for several days (TS); Waterman Center Apalachin TIOG 11 Jul; T Maine BROO 18 Jul (MP); T Barker BROO 21 Jul (JW); TIOG thru.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Stamford DELA 6 Aug (AM); TIOG no date (RP); scarce.
Eastern Screech-Owl: WeB 31 Aug; TIOG thru.
Great Horned Owl: Apalachin TIOG 16 Jun; other TIOG sites thru.
Com. Nighthawk: Binghamton 3 Jun; 2 JC, 1 Endicott BROO 13 Aug (MP); UL 28 Aug; max 10 Binghamton 15 Aug (JR); TIOG thru; not many reports.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: TIOG thru, max 2 BrPd; Chenango Forks thru; not as many reports as usual.
Hairy Woodpecker: 2 at nest hole UL 11 Jun.
N. Flicker: 2 at nest hole T Maine BROO 19 Jun.
Pileated Woodpecker: pair WeB 17 Jun; few reports.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 8 BROO 5 Jul; low numbers.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Vestal 19 Aug banded (GK); TIOG 30 Aug (R&RP); uncommon.
Alder Flycatcher: CHEN, BROO Jun and Jul; low numbers.
Willow Flycatcher: 2 OTSE 11 Jun; WPR 24 Jul.
"Traill's Flycatcher": banded Vestal 13 Aug (GK).
Least Flycatcher: max 5 OTSE 1 Jun.

E. Phoebe: max 5 OTSE 11 Jun.
Great Crested Flycatcher: seen regularly; low numbers.
E. Kingbird: max 5 OTSE 11 Jun.
Yellow-throated Vireo: several reports; max 3 OBBS 11 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 7 OBBS 11 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: JC 31 Aug (MP).
Red-eyed Vireo: max 16 OBBS 11 Jun.
Fish Crow: TIOG; only report.
Com. Raven: CHEN 29 Jun, 5 Jul; 5 BROO 18 Jun; TIOG thru; good count.
Purple Martin: 6 BROO 22 Jul; max 8 TIOG 23 Jul.
Tree Swallow: regular reports, low numbers; last BROO 13 Aug.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: uncommon; BROO 28 Jun; 4 WPR 8 Jul.
Bank Swallow: good numbers in bank near Edmeston OTSE.
Cliff Swallow: 12 BROO 14 Jun, active nest site.
Barn Swallow: 8 BrPd 30 Aug; good numbers.
Tufted Titmouse: multiple reports; low numbers.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: several in state forests in OTSE; only report.
White-breasted Nuthatch: multiple reports; low numbers.
Brown Creeper: BROO 17 Jul; BROO 31 Aug; uncommon.
Carolina Wren: several reports; last BROO 26 Aug.
House Wren: max 8 OTSE 11 Jun.
Winter Wren: CHEN, OTSE; 2 BROO 1 Aug.
Marsh Wren: uncommon; 3 BPD 21 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: TIOG 1 Jul; BROO 16 Aug.
E. Bluebird: seen regularly, low numbers.
Veery: seen regularly, low numbers.
Swainson's Thrush: BROO 3 Jun; BROO 18 Aug, banded.
Hermit Thrush: seen regularly Jun and Jul; low numbers.

Wood Thrush: last BROO 14 Aug.
N. Mockingbird: BROO 1 Jul; only report.

Brown Thrasher: uncommon; last BROO 13 Aug.

European Starling: 400+ BROO 16 Aug.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 WPR 8 Jul.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Ben King Rd east of Smithboro TIOG 30 Jun, 1 Jul (JB, R&RP).

Nashville Warbler: imm BROO 7 Aug.

N. Parula: BROO 11 Jun; only report.

Yellow Warbler: max 27 OTSE 11 Jun; last RTP 26 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last RtP 26 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: RTP 26 Aug, fall plumage.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: low numbers; OTSE common in good habitat.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: seen regularly; good numbers.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 4 BROO 5 Jul; BROO 27 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: OTSE 11 Jun.

Pine Warbler: CHEN 4 Aug; 2 RTP 26 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: BROO 1 Jul.

Blackpoll Warbler: imm BROO 7 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: BROO 28 Aug; uncommon.

Am. Redstart: common in good habitat; pair RTP 26 Aug.

Ovenbird: 2 BROO 31 Aug.

N. Waterthrush: pair OTSE 17 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 PaRd 14 Jun.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: BROO 16 Jun (JW).

Mourning Warbler: last BROO 7 Jul; OTSE present in good habitat.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 34 OTSE 11 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: BROO 8 Jul (JW);

RTP 26 Aug (SK).

Wilson's Warbler: 2 banded Vestal (GK); BROO 21 Aug.

Canada Warbler: PaRd 14 Jun; TIOG 26 Jul.

Yellow-breasted Chat: BROO 4 Jun (J&JW).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: low numbers; last BROO 18 Jul.

E. Towhee: low; 3 BROO 31 Aug.

Chipping Sparrow: max 10 BROO 3 and 17 Jul.

Field Sparrow: max 10 BROO 1 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: TIOG; BROO 10 Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 10 BROO 16 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: BROO 8 Jun; CHEN 24 Jun; WPR 8 Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: TIOG 26 Jul; 2 TIOG 30 Aug.

Song Sparrow: max 30 OTSE 11 Jun.

Swamp Sparrow: max 7 BPd 10 Jul.

White-throated Sparrow: CHEN, TIOG only.

Dark-eyed Junco: common; low numbers.

N. Cardinal: common; low numbers OTSE.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common Jun and Jul; BROO 31 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: common Jun and Jul; last 27 Aug.

DICKCISSEL: BROO 19 Jun (DWa).

Bobolink: heard in 8 fields TIOG 4 Jun; 30+ WPR 8 Jul; 2 OTSE 12 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: last BROO 6 Aug; good numbers OTSE "late mowing seems to have helped" (TS).

ORCHARD ORIOLE: 13 Jun Barker BROO (JW).

Baltimore Oriole: BROO 31 Aug.

Purple Finch: PaRd 14 Jun; 2 BROO 18 Aug.

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