

CHANGES TO THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN REVIEW LIST

At its Annual Meeting (9 September 2006), the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) agreed to the following revisions to the Review List. A complete listing of the species that should be submitted to NYSARC can be found on the New York State Ornithological Association website at <http://www.nybirds.org> under the heading 'NYSARC'. For locally unusual sightings of species that no longer require review, we encourage all NY observers to submit documentation to appropriate Kingbird Regional Editors. Several other species were discussed but the Committee felt that additional information was needed before additional changes could be made. It is worth emphasizing that the NYSARC Review List serves as a set of recommendations and the Committee will consider exceptional reports of species that are not listed (exotics, migrants significantly out of season etc). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are uncertain whether a sighting warrants a report.

REMOVED FROM REVIEW LIST

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica*

Since first nesting in NYS in 1984, Yellow-throated Warblers have been found regularly in the summer months along the Delaware River and in Allegany State Park. The species also wanders to Long Island and the New York City area, principally during the spring and late fall. In the past few years, NYSARC has accepted a series of excellent reports from elsewhere in the state, many supported by color photographs. It is clear that the species is now best categorized as a scarce migrant to many Kingbird Regions and an occasional breeder in some. Two subspecies (*dominica* and *albilora*) are candidates to occur and several observers have made valiant attempts to assign subspecies. It may be that birds on the edge of the core breeding range exhibit a mix of characters confounding identification without having the bird in hand or exceptional photographs. In view of the regular occurrence statewide, NYSARC no longer requires submission of documentation for sightings from Upstate.

REVIEW FROM DOWNSTATE ONLY

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

These large and distinctive birds have been reported with increasing regularity from western and central NYS. Since the 1980's, the continental population has undergone a steady increase of close to 4% per year. Better protection of breeding colonies and changes in usage of organochlorine pesticides are thought

to be major factors in this increase. Because the identification is relatively straightforward (although other pelican species should always be considered) and sightings are more than annual, the Committee does not seek reports except for the marine region where the species remains very uncommon. Thus the Checklist designation will change from (N) to (D).

REVIEW FROM UPSTATE ONLY

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

During the 1980's Brown Pelicans underwent a remarkable expansion along the mid-Atlantic coast, with small numbers of birds visiting NYS (Region 10) during the summer and fall months. Again, this may reflect the general recovery of the breeding population to the south of us after changes in pesticide use. Although NYSARC has received very few coastal reports, the Committee recognizes that the species is sufficiently regular and distinctive that documentation should not be required. With the exception of the 2002 incursion (see 2002 Annual Report), the species remains very rare away from maritime habitat and documentation should still be submitted. The Checklist designation will change from (N) to (U).

ADDED TO STATEWIDE REVIEW LIST

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Formerly a scarce migrant to NYS and eastern North America in general, there have been significantly fewer reports of Ruffs (or Reeves) in recent years compared to a decade or more ago. Reasons for this steep decline are uncertain. Careful documentation will help NYSARC to track patterns of occurrence, in particular the arrival of juveniles, which are quite rare on this side of the Atlantic. The Checklist designation will be (N)

Submitted on behalf of the
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