

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

Spencer Hunt

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

The weather for the season was slightly above normal for temperature. June had 19 days above normal and 11 below normal temperature. July had 15 days above normal and 15 below normal. August had 21 days above normal and 8 below normal. When looking at the total precipitation for the period it appears that it was a slightly wetter season than normal. However 3.19" or 29% of the precipitation came on just two days in July. The number of days with .01" or less precipitation was 59 out of the 92 total days and 72 days with a tenth of an inch or less. In summary the season was slightly warmer and slightly drier than normal. Probably the weather did not have a deleterious effect on nesting this year.

Only one Great Egret was reported during the season along the Susquehanna River. The only other uncommon Ardeidae reported was American Bittern on Bob Donnelly's BBS route.

Hopes for a repeated nesting of Bald Eagles in Tioga County on Hiawatha Island in the Susquehanna River just east of Owego were dashed during the spring. The female was killed on nearby Rt. 17/I-86. A welcome sign of success is that Bald Eagles are no longer being reported as highlights, but as a relatively common occurrence for one birding along the Region's waterways. The lone Northern Goshawk sighting was of a nesting bird in Treadwell, Delaware County. From the lack of reports for the second year, American Kestrel numbers appear to be down, however The Naturalists' Club of Broome County found 22 in northern Broome County on 8 August.

Shorebird reports were down for the second year, which is surprising due to the low water conditions opening up more shorebird habitat. A **Black Tern** was observed in northern Broome County in both June and July.

The Naturalists' Club of Broome County observed a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** both flying and on a roof in Port Crane, Broome County. A NYSARC report has been submitted on this uncommon sighting (see Fig. C, p. 322).

Gary Kohlenberg reported an **American Three-toed Woodpecker** in the Pharsalia area, Chenango County, to Matt Young as Matt arrived with a Natural History Class. Matt commented that "It is a fairly reasonable and straightforward ID, Gary gave good details, the area has 1000s of acres of spruce, and many Black-Backed and a few Three-toed woodpeckers made a flight out of their normal boreal zone last fall - it was one of the best flights since perhaps the late 70's - - -. So, seems plausible one could still be lingering at Pharsalia. This area is huge and incredibly underbirded."

Ten different Tyrannidae were reported, with summer reports for the first time in the last five years of both **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Acadian Flycatcher**. Reports of Eastern Wood Peewees were low.

There were several reports that Veeries and thrushes seemed to be more abundant, along with comments that some were found in less than typical habitats. The Pharsalia area in Chenango County continues to be a good site to find Swainson's Thrushes. Red Crossbills were reported in several areas of central New York but the Pharsalia area remains the best location to find them along with occasional White-winged Crossbills.

Notable birds missing from the Region were American Black Ducks. Scarce birds included the American Woodcock, Purple Martin, and Northern Waterthrush. A species that has had a great drop in numbers reported is the Chimney Swift. There were 156 species reported for the season, two more than last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, John Birkett (JBi), Eleanor Carson, Delaware Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS), Bob Donnelly, D. France, Dorian Huneke, Spencer Hunt, Gary Kohlenberg, John Knapp, Bill Kuk, Naturalist's Club of Broome County (NCBC), Bob Pantle, Sandy Perry, Marie Petuh, Tom Salo, Mark Tanis, Tioga Bird Club (TBC), Dan Watkins, Don & Joanne Weber, Jon Weeks (JW), Anne Whitaker, Don Windsor, Colleen & Paul Wolpert, Rich Youket, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

Ba – Bainbridge CHEN; Bing – Binghamton BROO; BPd – Boland Pond BROO; BPdSF – Basswood Pond State Forest CHEN; BU – Binghamton University Nature Preserve BROO; DHRd – Day Hollow Road, T Owego TIOG; En – Endwell BROO; HI – Hiawatha Island TIOG; JC – Johnson City BROO; PIBA – Pharsalia Important Bird Area CHEN; RtP – Roundtop Park BROO; SR – Susquehanna River; TB – T Burlington OTSE; TCa – T Candor TIOG; TS – T Scott CORT; TU – T Union BROO; WCM – West Corners Marsh BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Wood Duck: max 8 BPd BROO 20 Jun.

Ring-necked Pheasant: CO 1 ad, 3 y T Pitcher CHEN 21 Jun.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 5 SR BROO 229 Aug.

Am. Bittern: BBS DELA 7 Jun, only report.

Great Egret: SR BROO 21 Aug, only report.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: SR JC BROO 26 Aug, only report.

Bald Eagle: 2 ad, 2 y Ba CHEN 20 Jul; 3 HI TIOG 14 Jul.

N. Harrier: Ba CHEN 31 Aug; TIOG no date, only 2 reports.

N. Goshawk: CO Treadwell DELA 10 Jun to 20 Jul, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS); PIBA CHEN 6 Aug, only reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: RtP BROO 25 Jul; PIBA CHEN 6 Aug; T Smyrna CHEN 26 Aug, only reports.

Am. Kestrel: max 22 n BROO; numbers down.

MERLIN: En BROO 11 Aug, only report.

Peregrine Falcon: imm Bing BROO 21 Jul.
Virginia Rail: 1 ad 2 y BU BROO 17 Jun, only report.

Com. Moorhen: max 3 BPd BROO 6 Jun.

Greater Yellowlegs: HI TIOG 14 Jul, only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Ba CHEN 20 Jul, only report.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 WCM BROO 25 Jul; TB OTSE 1 Aug, only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Ba CHEN 20 Jul, only report.

Wilson's Snipe: BBS DELA 7 Jun (BD).

Am. Woodcock: TIOG Jun, only report.

BLACK TERN: BPd BROO 13 Jun (JW); BPd BROO 14 Jul (JW); uncommon.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Port Crane BROO 18 Aug (NCBC), NYSARC report submitted.

Com. Nighthawk: Bing BROO 4 Jun; Bing BROO 18 Jul; SR Sidney OTSE 27 Aug; one other report; scarce.

Chimney Swift: max 40+ SR Ba CHEN 18 Aug; 15 JC BROO 28 Aug; one other report, numbers are down.

AMERICAN THREE-TOED

WOODPECKER: PIBA CHEN 9 Jul (GK).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: BPdSF CHEN 9 Jun (DOAS).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 4 BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS); few reports.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: TCa TIOG Aug (BP).

Alder Flycatcher: 2 Finch Hollow Nature Center BROO 5 Jun; 2 BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS).

Willow Flycatcher: max 2 WCM BROO 12 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 2 BPd BROO 6 Jun; BBS OTSE 10 Jun (TS).

Purple Martin: max 11 T Tioga TIOG 4 Jul; few reports; missing from known nesting sites.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 5 TU BROO 27 Jun.

Bank Swallow: max 8 BPd BROO 6 Jun.

Cliff Swallow: CO DHRd TIOG Jun; max 4 T Kirkwood BROO 10 Jul.

Marsh Wren: BPd BROO 14, 22, 24, 28 Jul, only report.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: PIBA CHEN 11 Jul, only report.

Veery: max 3 TU BROO 10 Jun (mob).

Swainson's Thrush: 8(h) PIBA CHEN 1 Jul; 4 PIBA CHEN 4 Jul.

Wood Thrush: max 6+ Waterman Nature Ctr TIOG 13 Jun.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: JC BROO 20 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: max 20 PIBA CHEN 1 Jul (mob).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: BPdSF CHEN 9 Jun; TS CORT 27 Jun; max 2 PIBA CHEN 11 Jul.

Blackburnian Warbler: Long Pond CHEN 9 Jun; PIBA CHEN 11 Jul, only reports.

Pine Warbler: 2 Rtp BROO 25 Jul.

Blackpoll Warbler: TS CORT 11 Jun; TU BROO 22 Aug, only reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: TS CORT 11 Jun; only one other report.

N. Waterthrush: 3 TB OTSE 6 Jun, only report, numbers seem down.

Mourning Warbler: max 6+ TB OTSE 9 Jul; 2 other reports.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: juv JC BROO 5, 8, 12, 14 Aug.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 T Conklin BROO 1 Aug, only report.

Bobolink: max 3 TU BROO 15 Aug; few reports, numbers are down.

Red Crossbill: max 45 PIBA CHEN 7 Jul (MY).

White-winged Crossbill: 5 PIBA CHEN 4 Jul (MY).

