

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

Spencer Hunt

493 Glenmary Drive, Owego NY 13827

shunt493@yahoo.com

The weather for the season started out above normal for temperature. The first half of June had five days in a row averaging close to 16° above normal and the month had 20 total days of above normal temperatures. June 2008 ended up as having the fourth highest monthly average temperature since 1951. July was only slightly above normal for temperature. There were 11 days below normal and 17 days above normal with only five days more than five degrees different from the normal. August was the opposite of July, with 21 days below normal and nine above normal. Only three days were more than 5° from normal. Precipitation for the period was only 0.55" below normal and fairly even throughout, with June having 3.06", July 4.46", and August 3.67". Except for the beginning of June, summer 2008 was fairly close to an average year. Nesting this year should not have seen any problem due to weather.

The first Common Loon in five years was reported on Otsego Lake, Otsego Co. in June. Several Great Egrets were reported during the season throughout the Region. The only other uncommon Ardeidae reported was American Bittern by Mark Tanis in Chenango Co.

Multiple observations of Osprey were an improvement over the single sighting last year. Bald Eagles with young in nests were reported in Tioga and Chenango Counties. Last year the lone Northern Goshawk sighting was of a nesting bird in Treadwell, Delaware Co. Apparently the same bird tried nesting this year but abandoned the nest. American Kestrel numbers are down for the third year with limited reports. A year after The Naturalists' Club of Broome County found 22 in northern Broome Co., they were only able to find six this year. Merlins are becoming more commonly reported. This year Otsego Co. was the place to be. Besides single individuals in other places in the county, a pair took up residence in Cooperstown and another pair fledged three young in a park in Oneonta. The adult female in Oneonta was banded, so maybe in the future it may be determined if these are the same Merlins moving around the Region from year to year. The Peregrine Falcons in Binghamton fledged young, with as many as four reported in the nest at one time.

For the second year shorebird reports seemed to be on the upswing, with the variety about equal to previous years. Killdeer, the most common species, seemed to be doing especially well.

Olive-sided Flycatcher and Acadian Flycatcher were reported for the second year in a row. Reports of Eastern Wood Pewee were better than in previous years and without any comments on scarcity as seen in the past.

The Pharsalia area in Chenango Co. is a good site to find Swainson's Thrushes and both of the crossbills. Warblers can be found in good numbers as evidenced by many of the maximum numbers in the record that were seen by Matt Young on 15 June. Another indicator of Pharsalia resembling more northern habitats was Matt's finding a pair of Evening Grosbeaks that possibly were nesting. Additionally, Matt provided comments and notes on crossbills in the area: "In June, a good cone crop on spruce, larch, and white and red pine developed. In response to the cone crop, in July and August Type 1 Red Crossbills were again found singing in the townships of German, Otselic, Pharsalia, and Truxton. The highest number of breeding Red Crossbills was again recorded from the Pharsalia area. Also of note, White-winged Crossbills invaded the area in July and were heard singing on territory in the townships of Preble, Truxton, Pharsalia, Otselic, and Pitcher."

A Clay-colored Sparrow was observed on two days in June in the Town of Springfield, Otsego Co.

A bird notably missing from the Region was the Greater Yellowlegs. Other scarce birds included: American Black Duck, American Woodcock, and Purple Martin. While Common Nighthawk was still seen in low numbers of individuals, there were more reports than in previous years. Chimney Swift reports continue to be extremely limited. Marie Petuh of Broome Co. spent seven evenings in August observing known nesting sites with few swifts to report, exclaiming: "not like the numbers of past years." Jeannette Baldwin in

Tioga Co. reported: "no Chimney Swifts after having them nest in our silo for 57 years." And Don Windsor in Chenango Co. commented: "this is the first summer in 42 years that I have not seen any in the City of Norwich."

There were 161 species reported for the season, five more than last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Sandy Bright, Germaine Connolly, Pete Fenner; Becky Gretton, Steve Hall (SH), Dorian Huneke, Spencer Hunt, Bill Kuk, Andy Mason, Jeffrey Murray, Naturalist's Club of Broome County (NCBC), Bob Pantle, Marie Petuh, Tom Salo, Mark Tanis, Tioga Bird Club (TBC), Dan Watkins, Don & Joanne Weber, Jon Weeks, Don Windsor, Rich Youket, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pond, BROO; BPdSF – Basswood Pond State Forest, CHEN; BU – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; CL – Candarago Lake, OTSE; CR – Chenango River; PIBA – Pharsalia Important Bird Area, CHEN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Black Duck: few CL OTSE 28 Aug, only report.

Com. Loon: Otsego Lake OTSE 6 Jun, only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 8 CR BROO 27 Aug.

Am. Bittern: T Pitcher CHEN 3 Jun, only report.

Great Egret: Sherburne CHEN 13 JUN; T Union BROO 10 Jul; Whitney Point BROO thru Aug (mob); T Union BROO 31 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: mob thru, numbers up.

Bald Eagle: 2 ad, 2 y T Oxford CHEN Jun; 2 ad, y Hiawatha Island TIOG 15 Jun.

N. Goshawk: Treadwell DELA 16 Jun; PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; only reports.

Am. Kestrel: max 6 n BROO, numbers down.

MERLIN: 2 ad Cooperstown OTSE thru Jun; 2 ad, 3 y Oneonta OTSE thru (SB), ad fem banded; 3 other reports.

Peregrine Falcon: FY Bing BROO 19 Jun.

Virginia Rail: T Vestal BROO 11 Jun, only report.

Com. Moorhen: ad, juv T Oxford CHEN 16 Aug; BPd BROO thru.

Killdeer: max 47+ T Chenango BROO 27 Jul, doing well.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 Dorchester Pk BROO 29 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 T German CHEN 16 Jul; 2 T Barker BROO 27 Aug; only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 T Barker BROO 27, 30 Aug, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 9 Tri-Cities Airport BROO 24 Jul; 8 T Barker BROO 26 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 T Barker BROO 26 Aug, only report.

Wilson's Snipe: T Burlington OTSE 2 Jun, only report.

Am. Woodcock: max 4 Stamford DELA 5 Jul, only report.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: max 7 T Vestal BROO 31 Aug; eight other reports; reports up.

Chimney Swift: max 15 Johnson City BROO 17 Aug (MP); few reports, numbers are seriously down.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: T Otsego OTSE 24 Aug (JM); Franklin Mt Hawk Watch OTSE 27 Aug (SH); only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: mob; numbers are up.

Acadian Flycatcher: T Nanticoke BROO 8 Jun (JW).

Purple Martin: max 12+ T Tioga TIOG 9 Jul; few reports.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 8 T Vestal BROO 2 Jul; only 2 other reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; ad, y T German CHEN 28 Jun, only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: 2 PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; 2 T German CHEN 16 Jul; only reports.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: T German CHEN 18 Jun, only report.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 30+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).

Magnolia Warbler: max 30+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 20+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).

Blackburnian Warbler: max 35+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).

Pine Warbler: 3 Roundtop Pk BROO 2 Jun; PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; T German CHEN 16 Jul; only reports.

Palm Warbler: T German CHEN 28 Jun, only report.

Blackpoll Warbler: T Union BROO 2 Jun; BU BROO 7 Jun; T Union BROO 3 Aug; T Lisle BROO 6 Aug; only reports.

N. Waterthrush: max 3 PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; 2 other reports, numbers down.

Louisiana Waterthrush: T Nanticoke BROO 8 Jun; BPdSF CHEN 22 Jun; only reports

Mourning Warbler: max 9 PIBA CHEN 15 Jul; 2 other reports.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Springfield OTSE 27 (BG), 29 (PF) Jun; only reports.

Henslow's Sparrow: T Smithfield CHEN 21 Jul, only report.

Red Crossbill: max 14 PIBA CHEN 16 Jun (MY); nesting in several towns in Jul and Aug (MY), *intro*.

White-winged Crossbill: singing on territory in several towns in Jul (MY), *intro*; max 15+ Pitcher Springs State Forest CHEN 23 Aug (MY).

Evening Grosbeak: 2 PIBA CHEN 15 Jun