

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The summer 2013 season started out with average temperatures and well above average amounts of rainfall that varied greatly across the Region. In Syracuse the total for June was 6.8", 3.49" above the norm, but nothing like what areas to the east received. Parts of the city of Rome received close to 12" of precipitation in June, while some areas of southern Oneida and southern Herkimer counties received even greater totals. The town of Kirkland received 11" of rain in June, and one single storm on 27-28 June brought close to 5" of rain to Colombia Center. These heavy rains brought the West Canada Creek, Oriskany Creek, Oneida Creek, and Mohawk River over their banks in many areas and caused great damage to homes, businesses, and transportation infrastructure. Several Erie Canal locks were also reportedly damaged and the city of Oneida was in an extended state of emergency due to flooding. Unusually heavy rain continued in these same hard-hit areas through the first week of July, compounding the disaster and hampering efforts at mitigation. In July the average temperature in Syracuse was 74.5° F, which is 3.2° warmer than average, and they had seven days with temperatures reaching 90° or above. July also showed disparity in the amounts of precipitation that fell across the Region. While Syracuse received

3.26" of rain, 0.52" less than average, areas to the east were again hit hard. Rome saw another 10" in the month of July. Temperatures in August returned to the statistical average and rainfall amounts for Syracuse were just under an inch below normal. August precipitation varied little throughout the Region and flood waters receded.

Flooding in the eastern half of the Region was undoubtedly responsible for many nest failures. With flooded areas out of reach, the extent of losses can only be presumed and not actually documented. With large sections of floodplain marshes along the Mohawk River and some of its tributaries subjected to extreme flooding during the peak of breeding season, nests of ducks, Pied-billed Grebe, bitterns, rails, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and blackbirds were almost certainly lost. As normally placid woodland streams were transformed into raging torrents, one could easily imagine the nests of stream-side nesters like Louisiana Waterthrush and Winter Wren also being swept away. In Old Forge, Gary Lee reported 3" of rain on 11 June and 1.5" on 28 June. That was enough to raise water levels and destroy nests of some of the loons and ducks that he was monitoring. On 20 June at Big Moose Lake three out of five pairs of breeding Common Loon lost their nests when the water levels rose 18" overnight. Lee further reported that many upland songbirds also had their nests destroyed by the unrelenting rain. Long after the storms departed, high water levels persisted on most lakes throughout the Region, and this resulted in little habitat for migrant shorebirds. With canal levels high, Lake Delta was never drawn down and no mudflats emerged. Traditional shorebird habitat at Sandy Pond also suffered from high water and few birds for the birders that visited the spot. Channel dredging operations conducted from the South Spit also disrupted matters, and the Carl Island sandbar remained under water. A flooded farm field in the village of Madison (Madison County) unexpectedly provided the Region with many of its shorebird sightings for the summer period. Hundreds of mostly common species and a few not-so-common ones visited the spot in late July through early August, until the sun finally dried up the field.

This was an exceptional summer for virtually all wild fruit production and for mast in general. Oak and beech trees produced only moderately well in some areas, while hickory and other nut-bearing trees brought forth bumper crops. The cone crop on spruce trees is fair to excellent throughout the Region, but species of pine were not nearly so prolific. With such good wild food reserves perhaps the Region will host more overwintering songbirds. Reports indicate that impressive fruit and berry crops are widespread and there may be few areas of concentrated, conspicuous activity. The food supply is good news after last winter's overall lack, but many songbird nest predators may survive the winter and rodents may experience a population boom (which does not bode well for songbird breeding success next summer). Perhaps high numbers of small rodents will provide overwintering raptors and Northern Shrikes with good hunting.

Again this summer there were a few Snow Geese that remained in the area. Most notable was a group of eight that stayed on Skaneateles Lake through most of June. One lone Brant was found at the Utica Marsh on the first day of the period, but didn't linger and was last seen flying off to the west. Canada Goose

breeding success was scuttled by flooding, at least in some eastern parts of the Region. Heavier than usual predation on goose nests was also cited as a cause of poor nest production in some places. A pair of Trumpeter Swans produced young again this year at what seems to be developing into a traditional breeding spot—the wetlands along County Route 6 in Volney. Two separate reports of **Ruddy Shelduck** in June and August certainly involved escaped birds, but this handsome species added some spice to the relative dearth of waterfowl diversity in the first half of summer. A report of a single Gadwall on Onondaga Lake on 8 July gave rise to the hope that the species may be nesting, but no breeding was confirmed. An adult male Blue-winged Teal found there on 6 July was intriguing, but this season the only known breeding for that species was at Sterling Nature Center near Fair Haven. Migrant dabbling species picked up in the latter part of August. There were a few migrant diving ducks lingering into June, including one Long-tailed Duck at Little Moose Lake in the Adirondacks and single Buffleheads—one each at Skaneateles Lake and Sterling Nature Center. A male Redhead spent most of the summer period on Onondaga Lake and may be the same bird noted in previous periods.

Despite reported nest destruction from flooding, known Common Loon nests produced at least nine chicks on northern Herkimer County lakes by mid-July. Pied-billed Grebe may have been scarce in some eastern areas of the Region, but at County Route 6 Wayne Fidler counted 18 (including young) on 14 July. Least Bittern reports came from four locations, but all were of single birds with no confirmed breeding. Great Egrets were found in the Region but these sightings likely involved first-year non-breeding birds. Hopefully they'll breed here some day. By August migrant Great Egrets were turning up everywhere, including small backyard ponds where they provided residents with an excellent yard bird! Black-crowned Night-Herons were found at three locations in the Region but most persistently at Onondaga Lake, where one adult and two juveniles were often observed through July. At least one of the night-herons continued through the latter half of August. Will these birds attempt to winter again this year?

The Derby Hill Hawk Watch continued to be manned for the first few days of June. Bill Purcell tallied some respectable numbers of migrants on 1 June. That day strong west winds brought one Black Vulture, 54 Turkey Vultures, 35 Bald Eagles, and 211 Broad-winged Hawks. Several pairs of Bald Eagles were noted breeding in the Region—most from known nest sites. Early in the period they were present at a known site in Verona, but that nesting, if attempted, seems to have failed. The foundation of that Verona nest was a Great Blue Heron nest last used five years before. Interestingly, after the eagles abandoned it this year, a pair of Great Blue Herons was observed preparing it for their own use; turnabout is fair play. On 8 July, Mickey Scilingo observed an unusual sight in Constantia: an adult Broad-winged Hawk joined with American Crows and several Blue Jays to mob a Cooper's Hawk. Scilingo couldn't confirm whether the Broad-winged Hawk was nesting nearby. If it was, that might explain the motivation for a raptor finding common cause with songbirds. A Broad-winged Hawk nest in Constantia came down when its nest tree was cut; three fledglings

were brought in for rehabilitation and were later released. According to Jean Soprano, who rehabilitates raptors at a facility in Pennellville and often works in concert with Cornell and the DEC, the number of cases of West Nile Virus in raptors has been increasing in New York State. This summer there were at least six cases that came into her facility from various parts of Region 5. She has treated numerous infected birds from outside the Region as well. Most cases were confirmed by testing, but there were also instances where the virus was only strongly suspected due to the birds having symptoms consistent with WNV. Raptors affected this summer were mainly Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls, but there was a fledgling Bald Eagle from a Minetto nest that also tested positive for WNV. The same bird was also suffering from Botulism E. Surely the affected birds brought in for rehabilitation represent only a small number of the Region's birds that succumb to WNV in the wild.

Rails were mostly reported in the western half of the Region and only Virginia Rail and Common Gallinule were confirmed as breeding. There was only one report of American Coot for the period. Sandhill Cranes were reported at four locations, and those reports spanned the season, but there were no instances of confirmed breeding. It's just a matter of time before one of these pairs sets up housekeeping. With little shorebird habitat, numbers were poor. The unexpected mudflat that appeared in the village of Madison gave high counts of some common species. Most notable were 32 Solitary Sandpipers on 29 July, an excellent number. Upland Sandpipers were sighted at five locations and confirmed breeding only in Fairfield, Herkimer County by Larry Hall and Elizabeth Frascatore. One Whimbrel was observed by Kevin McGann on Oneida Lake at Constantia and two were seen at Oswego Harbor on the first day of August. Ruddy Turnstones were found at three locations, including the Madison spot. Only two White-rumped Sandpipers were reported, including one late spring migrant at Sandy Pond on 11 June. There was only one report each for Stilt Sandpiper and six Short-billed Dowitchers, both found by Brenda Best at the Madison flooded field and Sylvan Beach, respectively. No uncommon gulls were reported during the period, but Black Tern was found at three locations including Woodman Pond in Madison County, an unusual spot. One adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen at Derby Hill by Dave Wheeler and Bill Purcell on 15 August. Adult Long-tails lack white in the underwings and are thus distinctive.

Numbers of both cuckoo species were down again this year, despite a significant outbreak of Gypsy Moth Caterpillars in some eastern parts of the Region. It seemed that cuckoos were taking advantage of the infestation during the first part of June, but by the end numbers of both caterpillar and cuckoo dropped noticeably off. Matt Perry speculated that this was due to the historic rain events that effectively drowned most of the caterpillars. Perry found many examples of late instars of Gypsy Moth larvae apparently drowned while clinging onto the trunks of their host trees. Owls were hard to come by this summer, and there were relatively few reports of even the common species. This probably reflects a lack of effort on the part of birders when it comes to ferreting out our most secretive nocturnal birds. Most reports of Eastern Screech-Owl

came from the eastern part of the Region. The only uncommon species found by a field observer was Northern Saw-whet Owl, an adult found in Durhamville on 20 August. A juvenile saw-whet was brought in to an Oneida County rehabilitator and later released. After an unusually good Common Nighthawk movement on the Ontario lakeshore in May, August migration was disappointing. Out of only 20 reports, the high count was nine nighthawks over Hastings on 24 August. Five E. Whip-poor-wills were found in Salisbury, Herkimer County, by Barbara & Larry Hall on 21 June. There were only a few singles reported otherwise. Chimney Swift numbers appeared to be significantly down for the period. Birders visiting the formerly-excellent communal roost in Oneida were disappointed to find only a fraction of last year's numbers. Red-headed Woodpeckers were found only in expected areas, and the only confirmed breeding was in a wooded swamp at Verona Beach State Park. There Matt Perry monitored a nest from the time the nest hole was started on 15 June up until 10 August when at least one nestling was observed being fed at the rim of the nest. An interesting observation was that one of the adults disappeared after the second week of July, leaving the remaining parent to raise the young on its own. This understandably slowed down the development of the nestlings and probably delayed fledging. On one lucky July morning, Perry noted the presence of all seven of the Region's expected woodpeckers in the same location at the same time, a possibly unprecedented alignment of circumstances.

Merlins were confirmed breeders in Liverpool when one nestling was brought to Jean Soprano for rehabilitation. Young birds in the same nest were said to be developing normally. Breeding was also confirmed in Thendara, where Gary Lee observed an adult with four young on 23 July. Resident pairs of Peregrine Falcons in both Syracuse and Utica failed to breed this year, but at the latter location the falcons did discover their recently-installed nest box and seem to have adopted it. One badly injured juvenile Peregrine was found standing in shallow water at an Ilion-area pond. The bird was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator in nearby Oneida County, where it later expired. There were five reports of migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher after 19 August, and likewise five reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher after 23 August. During the breeding season Acadian Flycatcher was present at its traditional territory in Whiskey Hollow. The species was also detected at Three Rivers WMA at what might hopefully become a new breeding location for this Regional anomaly. Breeding was not confirmed in either place. At least in some parts of the Region, the other three breeding *empidonax* species were found in lower numbers than normal. This seemed to be the case with Warbling Vireo as well. An American Crow from Parish was confirmed with WNV, and there were at least seven other suspected cases around Region 5. Blue Jays were also found to have the virus. Common Raven family groups were noted in several areas away from their traditional haunts, thus providing more evidence of breeding range expansion. For the second year in a row, the number of breeding Tree Swallows seemed to be noticeably down in areas east of Oneida Lake. Several observers who maintain bluebird box trails noted substantially fewer nest boxes being used by Tree Swallow during the period. Low numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatch

reported for this summer might be explained by the lack of food from last year's cone crop and mast. Hopefully their numbers will rise again this fall given the food reserves now available.

The high count for Wood Thrushes during the period was 18 found in two miles of mature forest growth owned by Hamilton College in the town of Kirkland. With the next highest count at 10, one could wonder if enough breeding-season birding effort is being put into the more promising habitat in the Region. Surely there can be higher counts of vireos, thrushes, and woodland warblers than seen this season. Or were there really fewer birds? Hopefully next summer Region 5 birders will accept the challenge to bird more extensively in places that our neotropical songbirds breed. Disappointing numbers for Louisiana Waterthrush continue in the Region; there were only five records of this difficult to see, but easy to hear, species. Single Golden-winged Warblers were reported from only three locations, and none was reported after 19 June. There were three individual Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids, including one rare "**Lawrence's**" Warbler continuing from the spring period at Great Bear Recreation Area on 15 June. Hooded Warbler seemed to be represented in lower than normal concentration in some areas. One singing male found at Lake Julia in northern Oneida County may represent continued range expansion. Cerulean Warblers were hard to come by away from Howland Island and a few places in Oswego County, with none at some former breeding spots. Prothonotary Warbler was not reported from the traditional Toad Harbor site. Respectable numbers of Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers were tallied in the Woodford State Forest in Sangerfield in southern Oneida County. Are those high counts anomalous or are they typical for tracts of forest of similar size and composition located throughout the southern parts of our Region? Pine Warbler seemed to be well represented in appropriate habitat this summer. Since the species' song can be confused with Chipping Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco, which often occur in the same habitat, observers lacking visual confirmation may have a tendency to under-report them. A Yellow-breasted Chat was found singing at the Camillus State Forest Unique Area by Drew Weber. The bird was first seen on 7 July and remained there for at least four days, by which time it had been seen, heard, and photographed by many birders. Two days later at another Camillus location, Weber found a second chat or perhaps the original bird. The timing of chats in upstate NY is a mystery of sorts. Do they arrive in May, June, or July? Do July first-detections reflect a conspicuous last-ditch effort by a male Chat to find a mate?

This season, Clay-colored Sparrow was confirmed breeding, perhaps for the first time, in southern Oneida County. On 25 June a pair was seen feeding young in an early successional field on the border of Spring Farm Nature Preserve in Kirkland. Several pairs were discovered using the same territory last year, but breeding was not confirmed at that time. Grasshopper Sparrows were found in better numbers than usual this period. A maximum of eight was reported on 4 July by Dave Cesari at Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome. For the last decade or so, it seemed that the breeding population of Orchard Orioles had been building up in the eastern part of the Region, but this

year none were found. Fortunately, populations in the western half of the Region seemed to be present and accounted for. Green Lakes State Park was responsible for the high count of four seen by multiple observers during the last week of June. Winter finches were largely absent, with only a very few sightings. Evening Grosbeak was reported in three areas, but again, only in very small numbers. Linda Salter observed a pair with young at her residence in the Southern Highlands. In fact, she needed to rescue one Evening Grosbeak fledgling that somehow managed to be hanging upside-down from a clothesline.

Detailed interpretation of night flight-call data from the microphone operating at Derby Hill is beyond the scope of this writeup, but it is worth noting good movements and species trends. Am. Redstarts, Yellow Warblers, Ovenbirds, and Canada Warblers were on the move throughout August, with the other warblers joining during the last week. The first Cape May call was noted on 10-11 August, while 58 Cape May calls were recorded on the night of 28-29 August. Because some birds may call twice, the actual count of Cape Mays would be somewhat less, but still an excellent number. The busiest flight overnights in the period were 23-24, 27-28, 28-29, and 29-30 August, on which 292, 266, 502, and 315 flight calls, respectively, were recorded. A broad spectrum of species was picked up on these good flight nights. There were evenings, however, when the Derby microphone picked up far fewer calls than other microphones in upstate NY. Why? Derby is the only shoreline site and may be subject to more wind/wave noise than inland sites. Work remains to fully understand the data. Please note also that these counts are not included in the Synopsis at the present time. For more info and daily night flight-call counts, see www.oldbird.org.

This season a total of 209 species was reported for the season, which is seven more than the recent 10-year average of 202. Highlights included: Brant, Trumpeter Swan (breeding), Redhead, Long-tailed Duck, **Black Vulture**, **Sandhill Crane**, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, Northern Saw-whet Owl, "Lawrence's" Warbler, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, Clay-colored Sparrow, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02 was used to process 29,558 eBird records from 165 contributors.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks (n. HERK); BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Bville – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida Lake at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd. & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; GBTP – Griffiss Business & Technology Park; GLSP – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HF – Highland Forest, Tully; HI – Howland Island WMA, Port Byron; HV – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; KW – Kirkland Woods, Kirkland; LOnt – Lake Ontario; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; MPSP – Mexico Point SP; OF – Old Forge; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; OswH – Oswego Harbor; PPt – Oneida Lake at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; Pville – Pennellville; RPPB – Rome Pitch Pine Bog; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; SR – Stillwater Reservoir, Adirondacks; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; UM – Utica Marsh; VBSP – Verona Beach SP; Volney – County Route 6 wetlands, Volney; WH – Whiskey Hollow; WMSF – Woodford Memorial State Forest, Sangerfield; WP – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 6 Fulton 25 Jun (TW); 8 Skan thru 25 Jun, 1 thru 15 Aug (KB).
Brant: UM 1 Jun (MP), only report.
Canada Goose: max 139 OnonL 12 Jun; poor breeding success in east.
Mute Swan: max 6 FH 10 Jul; 5 Bville 19 Aug.
Trumpeter Swan: max 7 Volney 9-11 Jun (WF, mob), confirmed breeding there.
Wood Duck: max 87 DH 28 Aug; 75 UM 3 Aug; 53 Volney 25 Jul.
Gadwall: OnonL 8 Jul (DW, JT); Jamesville Reservoir 30 Aug (MN); only reports.
Am. Wigeon: no reports
Am. Black Duck: max 4 HI 24 Jul & Litchfield 19 Aug; few reports.
Mallard: max 300 OnonL 22 Aug; 154 Skan

18 Jul.

Blue-winged Teal: pair SNC 12 Jun (RMK); f & yng 22 Jun, same location (JD); ad OnonL 6 Jul (DW).
N. Shoveler: Tully 28 Aug (LG), only report.
N. Pintail: 2 Litchfield 19 Aug; WP 25 Aug; only reports.
Green-winged Teal: 2 WP 22 Aug; 2 Deer Creek WMA 24 Aug; 4 reports.
Redhead: male OnonL 8 Jul – 29 Aug (DW, JT, DWe).
Ring-necked Duck: male Crooked Lake 7 Jun (GH); OneiL 29 Aug; only reports.
Long-tailed Duck: Little Moose Lake 30 Jun (GL).
Bufflehead: f Skan 11 Jun (KB); f SNC 22 Jun.
Com. Goldeneye: male Skan 12 Jun thru (KB).

Hooded Merganser: f & young Volney 9 Jun; 3 Skan 30 Jul; 2 TR 18 Jun.
Com. Merganser: max 11 Skan 30 Jul; 10 OF 28 Aug; few breeding season reports.
Red-breasted Merganser: f OneiL 6 Aug (TA), uncommon in summer.
N. Bobwhite: few sightings from known release sites.
Ring-necked Pheasant: few reports.
Ruffed Grouse: max 11 Hastings 22 Jun; f & yng SFNS 11 Jun; relatively few reports.
Wild Turkey: max 17 Whitestown 27 Aug; 15 Doldgeville 13 Aug.
Com. Loon: max 4 SR 6 Jul; 3 Moss Lake 17 Jul; nest losses due to flooding, *intro*.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 18 (incl imm) Volney 14 Jul; low numbers in east.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 500 OnonL 31 Aug; 200 Const 8 Jun.
Am. Bittern: max 2 Verona 2 Jun (BB); only 5 reports.
Least Bittern: singles CM, Volney, HI & UM, none after 10 Jul.
Great Blue Heron: max 60 SNC 12 Jun, at active rookery; 15 Canastota 22 Jun; 15 Kirkville 26 Jun.
Great Egret: max 7 UM 14 Aug; widespread reports, *intro*
Green Heron: max 22 Volney 4 Aug (WF, MM), good number; 14 WP 25 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 3 (ad & 2 juv) thru 26 Jul; Pulaski 20 Jul; HI 24 Jul (KF).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

BLACK VULTURE (R5): DH 1 Jun (BP), only report.
Turkey Vulture: max 54 DH 1 Jun; 28 Canastota 31 Aug; 22 DB 31 Aug.
Osprey: max 5 GSC 26 Jul & 5 LOnt 1 Aug; 4 DH 24 Jul.
Bald Eagle: max 35 DH 1 Jun (BP); 3 VBSP 15 Jun; 3 TR 25, 27 Jun; 3 Pulaski 13 Aug; active nests reported at TR, Phoenix, & Minetto, fledgling with West Nile Virus at latter site, *intro*.
N. Harrier: 3 DH 1 Jun; approximately 30 singles reported.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: relatively few reports.
Cooper's Hawk: max 3 N Syr 24 Aug; 2 Tully 13 Jul.
N. Goshawk: no reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Cicero 2 Jul; few reports, most from OneiL vicinity.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 211 DH 1 Jun (BP); 3 SH 6 Jul; 3 Camden 22 Jul; *intro*.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 12 DH 1 Jun; 5 with West Nile Virus come into Pville rehabilitator, *intro*.

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Virginia Rail: max 5 (4 ad & imm) Volney 4 Jun; 3 WP 23 Jun.
Sora: max 2 Volney 4 Jun; Verona 2 Jun; CM 9 Jun; only reports.
Com. Gallinule: max 18 Volney 14 Jul; 4 UM 1 Jun; 9 (pr & 7 imm) WP 13 Jul.
Am. Coot: 6 OnonL 29 Jul, only report.
Sandhill Crane: DH 9 Jun (JW); 2 Pulaski 13 Aug (KH); 2 DB 26 Aug (BW); 2 Canastota 27 Aug (SH).
Black-bellied Plover: Madison 1 Aug (JP), only report.
Am. Golden-Plover: OnonL 28-31 Aug (MS, mob), only report.
Semipalmated Plover: last 10 Jun; arr 22 Jul SP; max 5 Madison 2 Aug; 3 SB 28 Jul; 3 OnonL 29-31 Aug; small numbers.
Killdeer: max 82 DB 28 Jul (BP); 50 Madison 24-28 Jul; 42 Sauquoit 23 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 9 Oswego 14 Jul; 5 Madison 29 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: last PPt 2 Jun; arr Phoenix 10 Jul, early; max 32 Madison 29 Jul (BP), good number.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 24 Jul Madison; max 5 Madison 3 Aug; 2 Verona 7 Aug; 2 Skan 12 Aug; poor numbers.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr DB 28 Jul; max 27 Madison 29 Jul; 8 Verona 7 Aug; 11 Sauquoit 23 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: max 7 (2 ad & 5 imm) Fairfield (LH, EF); 2 Oswego Co Airport 9 Jun; few reports.
Whimbrel: last Const 1 Jun (KM); max 2 OswH 1 Aug (RoC, DW, RD), only sightings.
Ruddy Turnstone: last & max 3 Const 1 Jun (KM); arr 29 Jul Madison; 2 Madison 30 Jul; 1 OswH 1 Aug (mob); only reports.
Sanderling: arr 12 SP 22 Jul; max SB 28 Jul; 7 OswH 1 Aug; 2 FH 4 Aug; few reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 5 FH 5 Jun; arr & max 10 SP 22 Jul; 8 Const 4 Jun; 7 OnonL 25 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: arr 12 Syr 14 Jul; max 46 Madison 2 Aug; 20 OnonL 22 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last SP 11 Jun (BP); SB 10 Aug (BB); only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr & max 3 Madison 2 Aug; also 3 Sauquoit 23 Aug; only 5 reports.
Stilt Sandpiper: 1 Madison 3 Aug (BB), only report.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 6 SB 31 Aug (BB), only report.
Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Pompey 17-18 Aug; 2 Whitestown 4 Jul; 2 Madison 27 Jul; only around 10 reports.
Am. Woodcock: 2 SFNS 19 Jun; 2 TR 31 Aug; relatively few reports.

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Bonaparte's Gull: arr OneiL 28 Jul; max 229 SB 10 Aug; few sightings away from OneiL.
Ring-billed Gull: max 900 DB 28 Jul; 430 SB 28 Jul; 350 OnonL 27 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 260 OswH 22 Jul; leucistic OnonL 22 Jul (DWe); 40 MCL 1 Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 18 OswH 22 Jul; 15 SB 6 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 115 OswH 14 Jun (WF); 87 SP 11 Jun; generally good numbers.
Black Tern: max 4 Deer Creek WMA 29 Jun (GL); 3 Const 7 Jun (JB); 2 WP 12 Jun (SH, RC), unusual location.
Com. Tern: max 200 Const 8 Jun (BP); 23 SP 11 Jun.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: ad DH 15 Aug (DW, BP, NYSARC).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Rock Pigeon: max 107 Litchfield 19 Aug.
Mourning Dove: max 54 Dolgeville 26 Aug; 31 Cicero 8 Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 HI 8 Jun; relatively few reports of singles.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 4 HI 8 Jun; 3 SFNS 14 Jun.
E. Screech-Owl: max 2 Pompey 5 Aug; singles Clinton & W Winfield; few reports.
Great Horned Owl: max 2 Clay 1 Aug; relatively few reports.
Barred Owl: max 2 Mexico 28 Jul, 20 Aug; also 2 HI 24, 25 Aug.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Durhamville 20 Aug (BB); juv taken to ONEI rehabilitator.
Com. Nighthawk: last 4 Camden 5 Jun; arr 4 Tully 15 Aug; max 9 Hastings 24 Aug; 5 CM 25 Aug; 5 Boonville 25 Aug; 5 TR 28 Aug; 20 reports of migrants, are there any nesters left in Region?
E. Whip-poor-will: max 5 Salisbury 21 Jun (BLH); 1 Constantia 8 Jun; 1 TR 20 Jun; few reports.
Chimney Swift: max 30 Dolgeville 12 Aug; 20 UM 3 Aug; 30 Oneida 18 Aug; generally poor numbers.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 7 Pulaski 13 Aug; 6 DH 1 Jun; 6 Hastings 1, 2 Jul.
Belted Kingfisher: max 5 UM 16 Aug; also 5 Tully 31 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: DH 1 Jun, migrant; pr New Haven 4 Jun; 2 Bville 2 Jun; confirmed breeding VBSP, *intro*.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 5 HI 20 Jun; also 5 TR 25 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 5 WMSF 27 Jun & Otto Mills 7 Jul.
Downy Woodpecker: max 6 HI 24 Aug.

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Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 Dolgeville 8 Jun, 22 Aug; also 4 VBSP 30 Jun; 4 Rome 26 Jul.
N. Flicker: max 15 Clay 18 Aug.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Bville 4 Jul & 3 Pulaski 13 Aug.
Am. Kestrel: max 15 GBTP 15 Aug (DC), good number, presume family groups; 6 SH 20 Aug.
Merlin: max 5 (ad & 4 imm) Thendara 23 Jul (GL); numerous sightings in Syr; confirmed nest Liverpool (JS).
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Syr 9 Aug & 3 Utica 17 Aug; no known breeding; juv Ilion 29 Aug, injured, brought to rehabilitator.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Litchfield 19 Aug; SFNS 22-25 Aug; 3 other singles.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 11 Cicero 8 Aug; 10 TR 25 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Hastings 23 Aug; max 2 SH 28 Aug; 3 other reports of singles.
Acadian Flycatcher: TR 1 Jun – 4 Jul (JB, TB), new location; WH 14 Jun – 26 Jul (JB, mob).
Alder Flycatcher: max 3 SH 14 Jun; low numbers reported in some areas.
Willow Flycatcher: max 7 Tully Marsh 21 Jun; 4 West Monroe 29 Jun; low numbers in areas east.
Least Flycatcher: max 8 Otto Mills 4 Jun; 4 Camden 27 Jun; 4 Cicero 8 Aug; low numbers in some areas.
E. Phoebe: max 6 Dolgeville 11, 17 Jun & GLSP 5 Jun & Hastings 14 Jul.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 7 TR 25 Jun; 6 VBSP 15 Jun; good numbers.
E. Kingbird: max 10 SSSP 9 Jun; also 10 Madison 5 Aug; 9 Cicero 8 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 VBSP 21 Jun; also 4 WH 17 Jul; ad feeding cowbird VBSP 15 Jun.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Bald Mountain, Adks 22 Aug; 3 Otto Mills 4 Jun; low numbers.
Warbling Vireo: max 5 UM 1 Jun; also 5 HI 20 Jun; low numbers in some areas.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Lake Rondaxe, Adks 23 Aug; max 2 WP 31 Aug (SH); 3 reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 21 Lake Rondaxe, Adks 23 Aug; 20 VBSP 15 Jun; 17 WH 18 Jun.
Blue Jay: max 328 DH 1 Jun, spring migrants; 18 WMSF 27 Jun.
Am. Crow: max 300 Dolgeville 20 Aug.
Fish Crow: max 5 Verona 22 Jun (BB); all other sightings from OnonL.
Com. Raven: max 7 Hastings 7 Jul; 6 Volney

25 Jun; 4 (2 ad & 2 imm) TR 25, 26 Jun (JB); 4 SFNS 24 Jun.

Horned Lark: max 17 DB 22 Aug (BB); 6 reports for Canastota and HI.

Purple Martin: max 20 Const 1 Jun; 16 Skan 6-25 Jun; most sightings from OneiL and Skan.

Tree Swallow: max 500 N Winfield 23 Aug; 50 Madison 28 Jul; low numbers breed in some areas east.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 20 HI 31 Aug; 12 Madison 25 Jul.

Bank Swallow: max 38 Central Square 16 Aug; 29 Tully 5 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 15 Clay 25 Jun, 9 nests on building (AVN); none returned to former nest site in Rome (DC).

Barn Swallow: max 197 Cicero 8 Aug; 110 Skan 5 Aug; 90 DB 28 Jul.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 28 Lake Rondaxe, Adks 23 Aug; 20 WMSF 27 Jun.

Tufted Titmouse: max 6 Marcellus 12 Jul; also 6 HI 24 Aug.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 4 WMSF 27 Jun; 3 BLNC 28 Jun; 3 Lake Rondaxe, Adks 23 Aug, few reports.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 HI 24 Aug; 6 CM 28 Aug.

Brown Creeper: max 3 Lake Julia, Remsen 12 Jun; also 3 VBSP 18 Jun; also 3 RPPB 20 Jun.

House Wren: max 12 SFNS 22 Jun; 10 Dolgeville 30 Jun.

Winter Wren: max 4 WH 17 Jun; 3 HV 14 Jun; 3 Town of Ohio 11-12 Jul.

Marsh Wren: max 5 HI 18 Jul; found in expected locations.

Carolina Wren: max 5 Clinton 14 Jul; 3 Liverpool 20, 28 Aug; average numbers.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 3 GB 19 Jun; also 3 TR 25 Jun; generally hard to come by.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 WMSF 12 Jul; 3 New Woodstock 3 Aug; relatively scarce.

E. Bluebird: max 10 DH 1 Jun; 9 Jamesville 30 Aug; 7 GLSP 27 Jun.

Veery: max 14 WH 4 Jul; 13 VBSP 21 Jun; 12 TR 21 Jun; 12 GB 19, 23 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: max 3 Otto Mills (JB); singing Cold Brook 21 Jun (MP); several reports from Adks.

Hermit Thrush: max 10 RPPB 20 Jun; 8 HV 14 Jun.

Wood Thrush: max 18 KW 18 Jul; 11 HI 20 Jun; 10 WH 17 Jun; 10 Hamilton 26 Jul.

Am. Robin: max 56 CM 28 Aug; 40 GLSP 5 Jul.

Gray Catbird: max 31 CM 28 Aug; 28 Manlius 3 Jul.

N. Mockingbird: max 4 Syr 7 Jun; few sightings east of OneiL.

Brown Thrasher: max 7 GLSP 27 Jun.

Cedar Waxwing: max 50 VBSP 5 Aug; 46 DH 1 Jun.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 22 HF 24 Jun; 16 HV 14 Jun; 16 GB 19 Jun; ad w distraction display SFNS 16 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 2 Marcellus 12 Jul; scarce, only 4 other reports of singles.

N. Waterthrush: max 9 (6 ad & 3 imm) RPPB 20 Jun; 8 BLNC 24 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: singles from Scriba, Pville, and Eaton; none after 19 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 3 Hastings 4 Jun; also 3 Scriba 7, 9 Jun; relatively low numbers.

“Brewster's” Warbler: Hastings 8 Jun (BP); Rome 25 Aug (RC); only reports.

“Lawrence's” Warbler: GB 4-15 Jun (JB, mob), only occurrence.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 Fourth Lake, Adks 20 Jul; singles & pairs found in expected areas.

Prothonotary Warbler: no reports.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Dolgeville 22 Aug; max 3 SFNS 28 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 6 RPPB 20 Jun; 2 Cold Brook 21 Jun; relatively scarce during breeding season.

Connecticut Warbler: Durhamville 30 Aug (BB!).

Mourning Warbler: max 4 WMSF 27 Jun; 3 KW 3 Jun; 3 SFNS 8 Jun.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 15 WMSF 27 Jun; 13 TR 25 Jun; 13 Mexico 17 Aug; pr feeding cowbird SFNS 4 Jul.

Hooded Warbler: max 7 KW 14 Jun (DC); 5 BLNC 10, 24 Jun; 5 WH 2 Jul; m Lake Julia 23 Jun (MS), possible expansion in n. ONEI.

Am. Redstart: max 16 HI 20 Jun; 10 SSSP 30 Jun; 10 Cicero 8 Aug; pr feeding cowbird Trenton 28 Jul.

Cape May Warbler: arr CM 18 Aug; Hamilton 27 Aug; only reports, but see *intro*.

Cerulean Warbler: max 4 HI 17 Jun (KB); 3 New Haven 14 Jun; last 2 HI 18 Jul; none around OneiL.

N. Parula: singing Lake Julia 12 Jun, unusual loc (MP); 7 breeding-season records from Adks/Remsen.

Magnolia Warbler: max 10 WMSF 27 Jun; 3 Orwell 9 Jun; 3 Cold Brook 21 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: MPSP 28 Aug, only report.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 WMSF 27 Jun; also 6 Lake Rondaxe, Adks 23 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: max 23 CM 9 Jun; 12 FH 5 Jun; 12 VBSP 18 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 6 Hastings 24 Jun; also 6 SH 10, 11 Aug; 4 WMSF 27 Jun, 12 Jul.

Blackpoll Warbler: last DH 1 Jun; arr Ohio, Hastings, OnonL 27 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 4 Redfield 23 Jun; low numbers at other expected locations.

Palm Warbler: arr SFNS 25 Aug, early, only report.

Pine Warbler: max 4 Redfield 11 Jun; 3 Otto Mills 4 Jun; 3 Klondike State Forest, Williamstown 12 Jun; good numbers.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 5 WMSF 27 Jun, 12 Jul; also 5 Lake Rondaxe, Adks 23 Aug; relatively poor numbers.

Prairie Warbler: singing male HV 6-23 Jun (MS, mob); Tully 14-16 Jul (DWe, mob).

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 7 Lake Rondaxe, Adks 23 Aug; 4 Ohio 11 Jul; low numbers in some areas.

Canada Warbler: max 6 RPPB 20 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: last TR 1 Jun; arr Hastings 19 Aug; 5 individuals found.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R5): Camillus State Forest Unique Area 7-11 Jul (DWe!, mob, ph); Camillus 13 Jul (DWe), same bird?

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 8 Hastings 2 Jul; 7 GLSP 27 Jun; 5 TR 1, 24 Jun; 5 RPPB 20 Jun; good numbers.

Chipping Sparrow: max 14 Hastings 31 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: pair with young SFNS 25 Jun (MP, mob), 1st confirmed breeding in ONEI.

Field Sparrow: max 10 TR 25 Jun & 10 GLSP 10 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: max 3 WH 29 Jun (JB); reported from 4 locations.

Savannah Sparrow: max 11 Fabius 12 Jun; 9 Tully 7 Jun; 7 Bville 27 Jul; low number in east.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 8 GBTP 4 Jul (DC); 5 Richland 8 Jun (WF).

Song Sparrow: max 19 VBSP 18 Jun; 18 HI 8 Jun; 18 Canastota 31 Aug.

Swamp Sparrow: max 14 CM 9 Jun; 12 Tully

Marsh 21 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 7 RPPB 20 Jun; 5 T of Ohio 25 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 10 GLSP 5 Jun & Pratt Falls County Park 9 Jun; ad feeding cowbird SFNS 22 Jul; nest on man-made shelf on Clinton residence, unusual.

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 WH 4 Jul; 5 SFNS 22 Jun.

N. Cardinal: max 9 CM 28 Aug; 8 SFNS 22 Jun; 8 Erieville 3 Jul.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 6 Erieville 16 Aug; also 6 Whitestown 14 Jun; 5 CM 9 Jun.

Indigo Bunting: max 8 Pratt Falls County Park 9 Jun; 4 BLNC 10 Jun.

Bobolink: max 40 Canastota 31 Aug; 25 Verona 15 Jun; 22 Tully 14 Jul.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 500 CM 27 Aug; also 500 TR 28 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: max 6 FH 12 Jun; 5 West Monroe 29 Jun; 4 Verona 9 Jun; generally low numbers.

Com. Grackle: max 600 TR WMA 30 Aug; 500 HI 25 Aug.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 57 Cicero 31 Aug; 26 Whitestown 26 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: max 4 GLSP 18-29 Jun (GC); 2 Bville 1 Jul; no reports east of OneiL.

Baltimore Oriole: max 7 HI 17 Jun; 6 VBSP 15 Jun; 6 GB 23 Jun; 6 Camillus 23 Jul; low numbers in some areas.

Purple Finch: max 19 Dolgeville 29 Aug; mostly singles seen outside of HERK.

House Finch: max 15 Oswego 5 Jul; 10 New Woodstock 1 Jul; 8 N Syr 8 Aug.

Red Crossbill: 2 SH 19 Aug (SH), only report.

Pine Siskin: pr SH 6 Jun (LS), confirmed breeding.

Am. Goldfinch: max 37 Cicero 8 Aug; 30 Oswego 5 Jul; 21 GLSP 5 Jul.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Ava 13 Jun; 2 Cold Brook 18 Jun; pr w yng SH 10 Jul (LS); only reports.

House Sparrow: max 80 Cicero 7 Aug; 27 Syr 5 Aug.

EXOTICS

Ruddy Shelduck: OnonL 30 Jun (MS); Otisco Lake 12 Aug (KB); presumed escapes.

