

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2018 was about average regarding temperature and slightly drier than normal. July was warmer than the long-term norm but had about two inches more rain than average. August was two degrees cooler than normal but had almost two and a half times as much rain as average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Seven birds, including five juveniles, were seen there. This was the second year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh. There were perhaps ten

blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region, so it is not a very common breeder in the Region.

Conveniently visible from a viewing platform at Pharsalia State Forest, two adult Sandhill Cranes and two recently hatched colts were reported and photographed on 26 June. However, the colts were not seen after that date, but later three adults were seen together in the area from 5-6 August. In previous NY Breeding Bird Atlas projects begun in 1980 and 2000, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes breeding in the Region.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there were several reports of Sanderlings in late July. From 22-23 July, Sanderlings were reported in Broome, Chenango, and Otsego Counties. For the past ten years there have been no reported July sightings of Sanderling from our Region in eBird. Then on 23 July 71 Least Sandpipers were seen and photographed in a Sherburne marsh. The cause of this sudden surge in July shorebird sightings is unknown. On 21 August a Ruddy Turnstone was spotted at Dorchester Park, and the next morning a Short-billed Dowitcher was also seen there by an observer who was searching for the Ruddy Turnstone. From 19-20 August, first one, then two Black Terns were also observed perched on a jetty at Dorchester Park. Lastly, a Baird's Sandpiper was photographed at a pond in Chenango County on 31 August.

In late June a family of bathing Eastern Screech-Owls was photographed by a trail-cam set up near a stream at Broome Community College. This was a rare look at a behavior most of us had not seen before but must happen fairly frequently! In the village of Johnson City, there was a report of breeding hawks, which turned out to be a family of Merlins nesting in a tall spruce. This was a different location from last year's breeding pair in Broome.

In contrast to the many sightings of Red Crossbills last year, there was only one sighting of a Red Crossbill, but this observation had an audio recording as well as a photograph. The recording was analyzed by Matt Young and found to be an Appalachian or Type 1 variety. Pine Siskins were reported in good numbers in June and early July and may have been breeding in the Region, especially in Tioga County.

Possible breeding Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Broome and Tioga in mid-June. A Nelson's Sparrow was seen on 19 August at Upper Lisle Park in Broome by Dave Nicosia.

Good numbers of breeding warblers were seen at Tuller Hill State Forest, which included nine Mourning Warblers and seven Hooded Warblers on 22 June. In total, 27 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which is the same number as reported seen in the last year's summer report and in the fall report for the last three years. The warbler species reported changes somewhat, but the total number of species has remained the same.

In summary, 182 species were reported, with some interesting rarities and behaviors for the Region. If there are a reasonable number of reports, I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers when reporting the number of reports in the Region. There were 33,745 observations

in eBird for our Region, so I want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BoPd – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CaGr** – Carantouan Greenway, TIOG; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusR** – Susquehanna R, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle P, BROO.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 4 Delaware Ri DELA 13 Jun, late, ph.

Brant: 30 Otego OTSE 5 Jun, flyover.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 New Berlin CHEN 26 Jul; 10 T Candor TIOG 31 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: 3 Kilroy Rd Pd Oxford CHEN 31 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 MHL 3 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 48 reports throughout Region.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 41 reports throughout Region.

Com. Nighthawk: max 20 William Hill P Johnson City BROO 23 Aug; 11 Sidney DELA 27 Aug; 8 T Candor TIOG 30 Aug; 11 other scattered rep in late Aug.

Chimney Swift: max 47 Binghamton BROO 2 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 518 lines in eBird, many from feeders.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 6 BoPd 23 Jul, 2 ad, 4 juv; 5 SHM, 4 Jul, 2 ad, 3 juv, ph.

Sora: MHL 15 Jul; BoPd 5-6 Jul.

Com. Gallinule: 7 SHM 25 Aug, 2 ad, 5 juv, ph; BoPd 22 July & 27 Aug; UL 10 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 26 Jun (mob), 2 ad, 2 juv, ph; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 5-6 Aug, 3 ad; *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: DorP 31 Jul -1 Aug, only rep.

Semipalmated Plover: max 8 TriCities Airport BROO 13 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: DorP 21 Aug, only rep, *intro*.

Sanderling: William Hill P Johnson City 22 Jul; SHM 23 Jul; 2 T Springfield OTSE 23 Jul; 3 DorP 21 Aug; *intro*.

Baird's Sandpiper: Kilroy Rd P CHEN 31 Aug (MD), ph, *intro*.

Least Sandpiper: max 71 SHM, 23 Jul, ph, *intro*.

Pectoral Sandpiper: SHM 13 Aug; DorP 31 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: DorP 22 Aug, ph.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 15 William Hill P Johnson City BROO 17 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 SHM 3 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SHM 4 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr SHM 11 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: DorP 15 Aug.

Great Black-backed Gull: Cortland CORT 16 Jul.

Caspian Tern: max 4 DorP 8 Aug.

Black Tern: 2 DorP 19-20 Aug.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 3 Pepacton Res DELA 29 Jul -23 Aug.

Am. Bittern: MHL 14 JUN; Oxford CHEN 3 Jul; CaGr 19 Aug.

Least Bittern: CaGr17 Jun; 3 MHL 15 Jul, mob.

Great Egret: max 5 Wilber L OTSE 4 Aug; 27 rep, many from the Chenango & Susquehanna Rivers BROO.

Black Vulture: 4 scattered rep. from OTSE & DELA.

Osprey: approx. 50 rep throughout Region.

Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.

N. Goshawk: T Windsor BROO 4 -12 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 scattered rep of singles.

E. Screech-Owl: 3 SUNY Broome BROO 29 Jun, ph.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CHEN 12 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: max 9 Round Pond Rd BROO 22 Aug.

Merlin: max 4 Johnson City BROO 12 Jul.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 Binghamton BROO 16 Jul, many rep of resident downtown pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: Downsville DELA 14 & 25 Aug; Oxford CHEN 23 Aug; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Finger Lakes Tr CORT 1 Jun; Vestal BROO 8 Jun; DELA 29 Jul; OTSE 12 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Backus Rd OTSE 8 Jul; rep singles TIOG & CHEN Jun and Jul.

Horned Lark: 2 MHL 2 Jun, ph.

Purple Martin: max 3 Tom Dunn Rd Oxford CHEN 23 Aug; 3 other rep singles TIOG & CHEN Jun and Jul.

Marsh Wren: max 6 MHL 2 Aug; 4 BoPd 30 Jun.

Red Crossbill: New Michigan SF CHEN 29 Jul, Type 1, ph, recording, only report.

Pine Siskin: max 8 Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 10 Jun; 27 other rep mostly from TIOG Jun and early Jul.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 T Candor TIOG 15 Jun; T Barker BROO 9-12 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: UL 6 Aug, ph; King St BROO 29 Aug.

Nelson's Sparrow: UL 19 Aug (DN), *intro*.

Orchard Oriole: UL Jun 2-3; LHNC Jun 4.

“Brewster's” Warbler: T Candor TIOG 24 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 9 Tuller Hill SF CORT 22 Jun; 5 New Michigan SF CHEN 15 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 7 Tuller Hill SF CORT 22 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: max 5 Mase Cold Wetland Preserve DELA 31 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Warren Rd DELA 2 Jul.

Bay-breasted Warbler: UL 19 & 31 Aug; Pharsalia SF CHEN 22 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: CaGr 23 Aug; LHNC 25 Aug; King St BROO 29 Aug; Oxford CHEN 31 Aug.

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