

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

William Kuk

26 Esther Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903

ckennykuk@stny.rr.com

June 2019 was a bit cooler than average regarding temperature and slightly wetter than normal. July was three degrees warmer than the long-term norm and was slightly drier than average. August was slightly cooler than normal but was about average in terms of rainfall.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Fifteen birds, including thirteen juveniles in various stages of development, were seen there. This was the third 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 were photographed and confirmed nesting on 21 June by Mike DeWispelaere. He reported that this nest appeared to be their second attempt, and on 24 June it looked as though they were off the nest and might be tending young, but no colts were seen. There was also a third bird that appeared to be sitting on a nest nearby, but the location was obscured by high grass. Unfortunately, no colts were ever seen. In previous NY Breeding Bird Atlas projects begun in 1980 and 2000, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes breeding in the Region.

In late August there were several reports of good numbers of Common Nighthawks migrating through the Region, many of which were seen near the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was just one pair of Sanderlings seen in the Region in late August compared to multiple reports of Sanderlings last year. On 28 August three Black-bellied plovers were photographed in a marsh in Sherburne, and on 30 August an American Golden Plover was also seen and photographed in Chenango County.

There were 208 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 27 reports in the 2018 summer season. It seemed that Great Egrets were both widespread and relatively numerous. Perhaps low water levels in the rivers made for better habitat, but it really is unknown, at least to me, why there was such an increase.

A Black Vulture was sighted over Owego on 12 June during a Breeding Bird Survey, and there was speculation that it could have been nesting in the area. In the 2000-2005 atlas work there were two blocks with reports of possible breeding in the Region, both in Delaware County.

Swainson's Thrushes were recorded singing in New Michigan State Forest on 8 and 9 July by different observers. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed nesting. The use of audio recordings in eBird seems to be on the increase which is great for documenting breeding behaviors, especially for rare breeding birds in the Region like the Swainson's Thrush.

In contrast to last season with multiple reports and good numbers, there was only one report of a Pine Siskin. Red Crossbills were also scarce with only four reports.

In total, 28 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which included Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers. This number of species is about average for the Region.

In summary, 181 species (last year 182) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations for the Region. If there is 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 44,459 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

Diane Allison, Dennis Anderson, Catherine Barron, Marty Borko, Ted Buhl, Adrian Burke, Mike Cammer, Jeremy Collison, Sandy Covington, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc., Ian Davies, Renee DePrato, Michael DeWispelaere, Deborah Dohne, Sarah Dzielski, William Earley, Gertrude Federici, Pete Fenner, Steve Glynn, Lisa Gorn, Bob Grajewski, Derek Green, Bob Grosek, Larry Hall, Linda Hall, Mary Hall, David Harrison, Peter Harrity, Sam Heinrich, K. Holm, Jim Hoteling, Michael Jordan, Sara Kinch, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch, Al Kresock, Bill Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Tim Lenz, Art Levy, Evan Mann, Andy Mason, JoAnne Mattucci, Wes MacKenzie, David McCartt, Jay McGowan, Gary Meyers, Whitney Mortimer, Naturalists' Club of Broome County, Dave Nicosia, NY eBird, Susan Owen, Samuel Payne, Ruth Pedersen, Pam Peters, Mike Powers, Leslie Preston, Bill Purcell, John Roosenberg, Ken Rosenberg, Alan Ryff, Tom Salo, Julian Shepherd, Andrew Schmalfuss Jr, Rod Spangle, Cynthia Staley, Suzanne Summers, Tioga Bird Club, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, Alison Van Keuren, Lance Verderame, Brad Walker, Dan Watkins, Jon Weeks, Glenn Wilson, Colleen Wolpert, Chris Wood, Rich Youket, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

AqTP – Aqua-Terra P, BROO; **BoPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CaGr** – Carantouan Greenway, TIOG; **CannRes** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NMSF** – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusR** – Susquehanna Ri, BROO; **TomakRd** – Candor, TIOG; **UL** – Upper Lisle P, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 2 Pd Deposit DELA 6 Jun-31 Jul; CannRes 4-24 Aug.
Gadwall: 3 WHP 1 Aug, ph, only rep.
Green-winged Teal: 5 SHM 28 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: 2 SHM 3-7 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: MHL 1 Jun-31 Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 35 reports throughout Region.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 69 reports throughout Region.
Common Nighthawk: max 30 Johnson City BROO 26 Aug; 20 Owego TIOG 28 Aug; 17 Vestal BROO 28 Aug; 15 MHL 28 Aug; 30 other scattered rep most in late Aug, good numbers.
Chimney Swift: max 250 WHP 30 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 623 lines in eBird, many from feeders.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 6 SHM 31 Aug, 2 ad, 4 juv, ph; 4 MHL 14 Jul, recording, mob; TomakRd 21 Aug.
Sora: max 3 MHL 6 Jun; MHL Jul 14, recording, mob.
Common Gallinule: 15 SHM 13 Aug, 2 ad, 13 juv, ph, intro; MHL 31 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 2 Jun, 4 ad; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 28 Jun, 3 ad, CO, but no colts seen (MD), *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: 3 SHM 28 Aug, ph, only rep.
American Golden Plover: Kilroy Rd CHEN 30 Aug, ph, only rep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 7 BoPd 2 Jun.
Sanderling: 2 SusR 28 Aug, ph, mob.
Least Sandpiper: max 17 SHM, 29 Aug, ph.
Pectoral Sandpiper: SHM 10 & 14 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: 7 SHM 14 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 SusR 29 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 8 Cornell Ln Hartford CORT 27 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Pd Deposit DELA 29 Jun; TomakRd 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr WHP 12 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 UL 12 Aug.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 UL 12 Aug.
Black Tern: UL 11 Aug.

LOONS - FALCONS

Common Loon: max 3 CannRes 31 Aug.

American Bittern: MHL 1 JUN; Davenport Center DELA 19 Jun; E. Maine Rd Johnson City BROO 5 Jul.
Great Egret: max 10 UL 28 Jul; 208 rep thru Region, *intro*.
Black Vulture: Owego TIOG 12 Jun, *intro*.
Osprey: 3 Colliersville OTSE 4 Aug; approx. 45 rep throughout Region.
Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 25 scattered rep.
Eastern Screech-Owl: Palmer Rd Sherburne CHEN 12 Jun, juv, ph.
American Kestrel: max 9 T Plymouth CHEN 12 Aug; 6 TomakRd 22 Aug.
Merlin: max 4 Cortland CORT 13 Jul; TomakRd 15 Jun.
Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Binghamton BROO 4 Jun, 2 ad 2 juv, many rep of resident downtown pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: 2 Downsville DELA 6 Jun; AqTP 20 Aug; T German CHEN 21 Aug; FMHW 25 Aug; TomakRd 19 & 27 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: OTSE 21 & 24 Aug; TomakRd 27 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Cranberry Bog Rd Natural Area OTSE 1 Jul.
Horned Lark: 4 Cornell Ln Hartford CORT 15 Jun.
Purple Martin: Lockheed Martin Pd TIOG 12 Aug.
Winter Wren: max 6 NMSF 22 Jun.
Marsh Wren: most reports from BoPd and MHL.
Eastern Bluebird: max 23 TomakRd 24 Aug.
Swainson's Thrush: NMSF 8 & 9 Jul, recordings, *intro*.
Red Crossbill: 4 rep from state forests in CHEN.
Pine Siskin: Smyrna CHEN 18 Jun, feeder, ph, only rep.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: T Bovina DELA 2 Jun, only rep.
Bobolink: max 72 TomakRd 24 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: max 2 Lockheed Martin Pd
22 Jun; 2 MHL 19 Jun; Daisy Hollow Rd
CORT 2 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 3 Griggs Gulf
SF CORT 6 Jun-9 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: Walnut Grove Hill
Rd OTSE 28 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 5 Morgan Hill SF
CORT 27 Jun; TomakRd 28 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: max 6 High Vista Nature
Preserve CORT 16 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: High Vista Nature
Preserve CORT 16 & 17 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: MHL 1 Jun, only rep.