

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

William Kuk

26 Esther Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903

ckennykuk@stny.rr.com

June 2020 was a bit warmer than average regarding temperature and slightly drier than normal. July was four degrees warmer than the long-term norm and was drier than average. August was also warmer than normal and had about two and one-half inches more rainfall than average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Ten birds, including four juveniles, were seen and photographed there. This was the fourth year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh, and is the only place in the Region with confirmed breeding so far in 2020 atlas work. There were perhaps ten blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region.

Conveniently visible from a viewing platform at Pharsalia State Forest two adult Sandhill Cranes and a colt were photographed on 22 June by Mike DeWispelaere. They were again observed and photographed on 14 August in the same general area. 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 Common Nighthawks migrating through the Region though the numbers seemed down from last year.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was just one Sanderling seen in the Region in late August. However, a juvenile Stilt Sandpiper was seen on 29 August in a small pond in Chenango County.

There were 77 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 208 reports in the 2019 summer season. Most reports came from the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. It is not clear why there is such a fluctuation in numbers of Great Egrets from year to year. For example, in 2018 there were just 27 reports during the summer season.

Swainson's Thrushes were recorded singing in New Michigan State Forest on 21 June by different observers. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed breeding. 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.

Similar to last season there were only a few reports of Pine Siskins. However, there were 21 reports of Red Crossbills contrasting with only four reports last year.

There were two sightings of Yellow-breasted Chats in Tioga and Otsego Counties. The sightings were well documented with photographs and recordings. They both were observed for a week or so, but there was no confirmed breeding.

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

In summary, 182 species (last year 181) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations 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 88,272 observations (which is about twice as many as last year) 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. The increase in observations could be attributed to the pandemic, breeding bird atlas work, and the steadily increasing use of eBird.

CONTRIBUTORS

Diane Allison, Catherine Barron, Marty Borko, Ted Buhl, Adrian Burke, Garrett Camasi, Mike Cammer, Jeremy Collison, Sandy Covington, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc., Ian Davies, Renee DePrato, Michael DeWispelaere, David Diaz, Deborah Dohne, Sarah Dzielski, William Earley, Gertrude Federici, Pete Fenner, John Gaglione, Lisa Gorn, Bob Grajewski, Derek Green, Bob Grosek, Larry Hall, Linda Hall, Mary Hall, David Harrison, Derek Hameister, Peter Harrity, Sam Heinrich, K. Holm, Jim Hoteling, Jacob Jensen, Michael Jordan, Sara Kinch, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch, Al Kresock, Bill Kuk, Victor Lamoureaux, Tim Lenz, Art Levy, Mitch Light, Evan Mann, Andy Mason, JoAnne Mattucci, Wes MacKenzie, David McCartt, Jay McGowan, Gary Meyers, Dennis Miranda,

Pedro Miranda, Lukas Musher, Naturalists' Club of Broome County, Dave Nicosia, NY eBird, Susan Owen, Ruth Pedersen, Bill Purcell, Jason Rashkow, John Roosenberg, Andrew Ryan, Tom Salo, Livia Santana, Julian Shepherd, Rod Spangle, Cynthia Staley, Suzanne Summers, Tom Tasber, Tioga Bird Club, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, Alison Van Keuren, Lance Verderame, Fred von Mechow, Brad Walker, Dan Watkins, Jon Weeks, Glenn Wilson, Colleen Wolpert, Chris Wood, Rich Youket, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aqua Terra P, BROO; **Bpd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FLT** – Finger Lakes Trail; **FMHW** – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NMSF** – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **TomakRd** – Tomak Rd, TIOG; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO. Note also breeding codes.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

American Wigeon: Trout Pd TIOG 21 Aug, only report.

Ring-necked Duck: arr ULCP 18 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: 2 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 24 Jun, 2m, rare for date.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 235 reports throughout Region.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 182 reports throughout Region.

Common Nighthawk: max 10 SusRB BROO 20 Aug; 16 other scattered rep in late Aug, numbers down from last year.

Chimney Swift: max 174 Owego TIOG 20 Aug, roost.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 1156 lines in eBird, about twice as many reports as last year.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 10 SHM 3 Aug, 6 ad, 4 juv, ph.

Sora: SHM 25 Jul & 3 Aug, ph; SusRB Aug 20, only reports.

Common Gallinule: max 10 SHM 23 Jun, 6 ad, 4 juv, ph, (MD), *intro*, all reports from SHM.

Sandhill Crane: max 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 23 Jun, 3 ad; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 22 Jul & 14 Aug, 2 ad, 1 juv, ph, (MD), *intro*.

Semipalmated Plover: max 6 SHM 3 Aug, ph.
Stilt Sandpiper: Buckley Hollow Rd CHEN 29 Aug, only report.

Sanderling: ULCP 17 Aug, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 25 SHM 12 Aug, ph.

Pectoral Sandpiper: ULCP 13-26 Aug.

American Woodcock: max 3 West Winfield OTSE 20 Jun, 1 ad, 2 juv.

Wilson's Snipe: max 6 SHM 27 Jul & 3 Aug, ph.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 11 WHP 30 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 13 Stupke Pd CORT 20 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SHM 27 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr SHM 3 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Glimmerglass SP OTSE 11 Jul, ph.

Laughing Gull: Glimmerglass SP OTSE 11&13 Jul, ph, only reports.

Caspian Tern: arr 2 Plymouth Res CHEN 18 Jun.

Black Tern: Chenango Ri Binghamton BROO 8 Aug.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 3 Otsego L OTSE 18 Jul.

American Bittern: Chenango Creek Marsh CORT 5 Jun; Whitney Pt BROO 21 Jul.

Great Egret: max 8 SusRB 26 Aug; 77 rep thru Region, less reports this year than last.

Black Vulture: 3 reports from DELA and OTSE.

Osprey: max 5 SusRB 8 Jun, ON.

Northern Goshawk: DELA 31 Aug, only report visible on eBird (it is a sensitive species so some reports are not visible in eBird).

Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 48 scattered reports.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Palmer Rd Sherburne CHEN 19 Jun, A.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Red Brook SF CHEN 28 Jun, only report.

American Kestrel: max 10 Bond Rd CORT 11 Aug, feeding on grasshoppers; 8 TomakRd 15 Aug.

Merlin: max 4 SUNY Delhi Golf Course DELA 17 Jul, FY; 4 DorP 1 Aug, FL.

Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Binghamton BROO 24 Jun, 1 ad, 3 juv, 9 reports of resident downtown Binghamton pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: FMHW 24 Jun, ph; Fly Creek Valley Rd OTSE 13 Aug; Buckley Hollow Rd CHEN 29 Aug; T Middleton DELA 31 Aug, only reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 4 Richfield Springs OTSE 29 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Long Eddy DELA 6 Jun; Hewitt SF CORT 30 Jun; Oxford CHEN 29 Aug, only reports.

Eastern Phoebe: max 31 TomakRd 26 Aug (AdTr).

Horned Lark: max 5 MHL 5 Jun.

Purple Martin: 6 scattered reports.

Brown Creeper: max 13 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 14 Jul, FL.

Winter Wren: max 7 FLT Bainbridge CHEN 28 Jun, 2 ad, 5 juv, FL.

Marsh Wren: most reports from BPd, MHL, and CG.

Swainson's Thrush: max 3 NMSF 21 Jun, ph, recordings, *intro*; 3 T German CHEN 13 Jun; 12 other reports most from CHEN.

Red Crossbill: 21 reports most from state forests in CHEN and CORT, last year 4 reports.

Pine Siskin: 3 scattered reports in BROOM and TIOG in Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Long Creek Rd 20 Jun-18 Jul, ph; only report.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 TomakRd 8 Aug; Fairfield Rd TIOG 15 Jun; 2 Lockwood Rd TIOG 25 Jun; Ridge Rd TIOG 26 Jun, ph; Long Creek Rd TIOG 20 & 24 Jun; Beech Hill Rd DELA 22 Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 25 TomakRd 28 Aug (AdTr); 20 Lisle BROO 30 Jun (AITri).

Yellow-breasted Chat: TomakRd 4 Jun; Galpin Rd TIOG 7-15 Jun, ph, audio recording; Parslow Rd Conservation Area OTSE Jun 27-Jul 8, ph, audio recording.

Bobolink: max 120 Morgan Rd BROO 17 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: 12 scattered reports in Jun, most of singles.

Worm-eating Warbler: ULCP 10 Aug, audio recording; only report.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 4 Parker St CORT 25 Jun, FY.

Northern Waterthrush: max 4 Jam Pd CHEN 7 Jun.

Mourning Warbler: max 8 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 5 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 3 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 3 Jul, CF.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Warren Rd DELA 4 Jul;

ADDENDUM

Blue-winged Teal x Green-winged Teal hybrid: Upper Lisle CP, BROO (Jonathan Weeks, mob, phs) 22 Mar-25 Apr. Photos were published in KB 70.3 but record omitted in error in species accounts.

