

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2021 was a warmer than average regarding temperature and somewhat drier than normal. July was just one degree warmer than the long-term norm but had about six inches more rainfall than average. August was also warmer than normal and had two inches more rainfall than average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Nine birds, including seven juveniles, were seen and photographed there. This was the fifth 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.

There were three pairs of Sandhill Cranes with colts in Chenango County observed this season. Mike DeWispelaere reported, “In the county there is a pair with a colt at Bliven Pond, a pair with 2 colts at North Norwich and the pair with the colt here (Round Pond, Pharsalia Woods State Forest).” Catherine Murphy and Alex Trifunovic have also documented Sandhill Cranes in the county. 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 low.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was a Baird’s Sandpiper seen in the Region in late August. Also, a Willet was seen on 11 August in the Susquehanna River in Johnson City in Broome County. Then on 20 August a Red-necked Phalarope was photographed at Dorchester Park which borders the Whitney Point Reservoir. This was after Tropical Storm *Fred* had moved through and the water level was higher, creating more habitat along the shore in the grassy areas.

There were 130 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 77 reports in the 2020 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.

A **Roseate Spoonbill** was reported and photographed by Landa Palmer on a small pond in Delaware County on 7 July. Then Susan Thorne reported another on 11 July at Chenango Valley State Park. Many observers were able to see and photograph this exotic looking bird as it foraged along the Chenango River. It was a bit of a surreal sight. Adding to the mystery of this appearance was that another Roseate Spoonbill was seen at the same time at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. There are no previous reports of Roseate Spoonbills in the Region in eBird.

Both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes were recorded singing in the Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area on 10 July by David Nicosia. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed breeding for the Swainson's Thrush. 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. Plus, the recordings of these species' songs are amazing to hear.

Similar to last season there were only a few reports of Pine Siskins. However, there were 50 reports of Red Crossbills contrasting with 21 reports last year.

In total, 29 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which included a Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warblers. This number of species is about average for the Region. In addition, a "Lawrence's" Warbler (hybrid) was reported and photographed from both Cortland and Otsego Counties.

In summary, 189 species (last year 182) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations for the Region. When summarizing the number of reports in the Region, if there are a reasonable number of reports, I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers. There were 74,661 observations (which is about 85% 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.

CONTRIBUTORS

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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; **CornellLn** – Cornell Lane, T Harford, CORT; **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; **PHWMA** – Pharsalia WMA, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **TomakRd** – Tomak Rd, T Candor, TIOG; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO.
C, CF, DD, FL, FY, N, NB, P – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: 3 Deposit DELA 12 Jun, only report.
Trumpeter Swan: Bpd 14-31 Aug, mob, ph.
Lesser Scaup: Plymouth Res CHEN 12 Jun-26 Jul, ph.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 104 reports throughout Region.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 127 reports throughout Region.
Common Nighthawk: max 16 Vestal BROO 21 Aug; 14 WHP 31 Aug; 20 other scattered rep in late Aug, numbers seem low.
Chimney Swift: max 51 WHP 14 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 923 lines in eBird, though not as many reports as last year.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Common Gallinule: max 9 SHM 27 Jul, 2 ad, 7 juv, ph, (AT), *intro*.
Sandhill Crane: max 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 4 Jun, 3 ad, 1 juv, ph; SHM 5 Aug, 2 ad, 2 juv, ph; 3 Bliven Pd CHEN 18 Jul, 2 ad, 1 juv, ph, (MD), *intro*.
Baird's Sandpiper: CornellLn 29 Aug, only report.
Least Sandpiper: max 18 CornellLn 28 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: MHL 21-26 Aug, only report.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 22 Chenango R CHEN 6 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 CornellLn 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr ULCP 8 Aug.
Willet: WHP 11 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr ULCP 12 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: DorP 20 Aug, ph, mob.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 DorP 31 Aug.
Laughing Gull: 2 DorP 19-31 Aug, ph, mob.
Caspian Tern: max 8 DorP 21 Aug.
Black Tern: 6 Chenango L CHEN 19 Aug, ph, after tropical storm Fred came through.
Common Tern: 2 Tully Lake CORT 15 Aug; DorP 30 Aug, ph.

LOONS – PARAKEET

American Bittern: Hartwick OTSE 15 Aug, only report.
Least Bittern: Bpd 30 Jun; MHL 8 Aug.
Great Egret: max 7 SusRB 17 Aug; 130 reports thru Region, more reports this year than last.
Cattle Egret: Barker Hill Bridge BROO 2 Aug, only report.
ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Hamden DELA 7 Jul, ph, (LP); Chenango Valley SP BROO 11 JUL, ph, mob, *intro*, (ST).
Black Vulture: 3 scattered reports in June.
Osprey: 2 SusRB 21 Jun, NB.
Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Blakesley Nurse Hollow Rd CHEN 9 Jul, ph, FL; 62 scattered reports.
Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Lime Hollow CORT 11 Jun, FL.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Moon Hill Rd CHEN 12 Jun, FL.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Springfield Center OTSE 12 Jun, only report.
American Kestrel: max 14 TomakRd 18 Aug.

Merlin: max 5 Milford OTSE 12 Jul, 2 ad, 3 juv, audio recording, FY.

Peregrine Falcon: 7 reports of downtown resident Binghamton pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: Galpin Rd TIOG 1 Jun; TomakRd 20 Aug; MHL 27 Aug, only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: Jam Pd CHEN 29 Jun, audio recording.

Horned Lark: max 2 Caldwell Hill Rd BROO 13 Jun, C.

Purple Martin: 6 scattered reports, same number as last year.

Brown Creeper: max 5 Triangle SF BROO 28 Jun, audio recording, FY.

Winter Wren: max 5 Kinny Rd CHEN 16 Jun, FL; 5 T Taylor FLT CORT 4 Jul, audio recording, FY.

Marsh Wren: most reports from BPd, MHL, and SHM; 3 Summit L Pres OTSE 18 Jun, audio recording, N.

Swainson's Thrush: max 6 PHWMA 10 Jul, audio recordings.

Hermit Thrush: max 12 PHWMA 10 Jul, audio recordings.

Red Crossbill: max 15 PHWMA 1 Jun; 50 reports most from state forests in CHEN and CORT, last year 21 reports.

Pine Siskin: max 4 MHL 17 & 20 Aug; 3 other scattered reports.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Owego TIOG 2 & 4 Jun, ph; MHL 1 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: T Barton TIOG 5 Jun; West Creek Rd TIOG 8 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Elklor Rd TIOG 27 Jun; TomakRd 1 Jul.

Bobolink: max 120 W Terry Clove Rd DELA 21 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: 8 scattered reports in Jun, most of singing males.

Ovenbird: max 48 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 12 Jun, DD.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 6 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 20 Jun, FL.

Northern Waterthrush: max 4 Jam Pd CHEN 20 Jun, CF.

Golden-winged Warbler: TomakRd 15 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: (hybrid): Chlorinator Rd OTSE 19 Jun, ph; LHNC 13 Jul, ph.

Mourning Warbler: max 10 Cuyler Hill SF CORT 29 Jun, CF.

Hooded Warbler: max 4 Taylor Valley SF CORT 4 Jul, P.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Warren Rd DELA 4-5 Jun, ph, P.