

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION



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Summer 1998 was hot, though not abnormally so. A wet period in late June–early July kept total rainfall amounts above normal, after which the south became dry. In the Adirondacks “it rained all summer,” breaking precipitation records set in 1892, wrote Peterson. Storms toppled some Bald Eagle nests and may have lowered productivity in some closely-monitored species like Eastern Bluebirds. The birds’ main problems, however, stemmed from the ever-mounting tide of human activity, and from predators that have prospered in their proximity: gulls, crows, raccoons, foxes, and feral cats.

It is curious how little birdlife gets studied during nesting season. If any June Bird Counts were compiled in our Region, we were not informed of their results. This was an “off” summer for many surveys of colonial water birds. One promising exception to the trend was the Breeding Bird Census taken in Central Park by New York City Audubon and the Linnaean Society of New York. The census takers divided the park’s 834 acres into 20 study areas and tallied every breeding territory, following Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology area censusing procedures, instead of sampling along routes. They confirmed a remarkable 31 breeding species, plus another five possi-

bles. After the ubiquitous Rock Doves, European Starlings, and House Sparrows, the most abundant native species in Central Park were American Robin (207 territories), Common Grackle (19), Baltimore Oriole (17), Northern Cardinal (13), Blue Jay (13), Northern Flicker (10), and Red-bellied Woodpecker (nine). Some of the more unexpected confirmed species included Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Common Yellowthroat, and some neotropical migrants (Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Wood Thrush, Warbling Vireo, and Great Crested Flycatcher). Relatively low numbers of American Crows (a plague in some New York City parks) and Brown-headed Cowbirds contributed to this surprisingly positive result. A follow-up census is projected in five years, as well as similar censuses in other New York City parks, according to Kerlinger.

Glen Morgan Lake, at Carr Recreation Area, near Morgantown, Berks, Pennsylvania, a former mine settling basin, has recently been revealed as a major wetland resource. This shallow lake, about a mile across, is protected by a dense Phragmites edge and is barred to boaters. For the moment, it has not been discovered by Canada Geese or other pests, says Leboe. For stunning numbers of species that otherwise nest sparingly in this Region, see Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot, below; a few Common Moorhens and Least Bitterns also nest there.

Two observers attribute declines in nesting species to overgrazing by deer: Yunick blames this for the disappearance of Dark-eyed Junco at Jenny Lake, Saratoga, New York, and the Murphys think it has eliminated Ovenbirds and Worm-eating Warblers from Fort Washington State Park, Philadelphia.

Stellar rarities included the Region’s second White-tailed Kite and Delaware’s first White-winged Dove.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R.*, near Smyrna, DE); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R.*, Atlantic, NJ); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref.*, New York City); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area*, near Dover, Kent, DE); Montezuma

(*Montezuma N.W.R.*, n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY); NY D.E.C. (*New York Department of Environmental Conservation*); Little Galloo (*Little Galloo I.*, e. L. Ontario, off Henderson Harbor, Jefferson, NY); Port Mahon (*marshes and bay shore e. of Little Creek, Kent, DE*); S.C.M.M. (*South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ*).

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Three summering Red-throated Loons furnished above normal numbers; they included one on the Susquehanna across from Harrisburg, PA, June 7 (Philadelphia Birdline); one at Nummy I., Cape May, NJ, June 21 (T. Bray, J. Greer et al.); and a flightless bird at the n. end of Rehoboth Bay, DE, July 3 (CB). Among the usual Com. Loons summering along Great Lakes, lakes, and ocean shores, three in n.w. New Jersey—two on the Delaware R. in Warren and Hunterdon (D. Briede, B&T Hardiman, RKa, B&B Jones) and one on Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, July 3 (EP)—were unusual, and “many more than in previous years” remained in Delaware (APE). The maximum there was 13 on a pelagic trip June 21 (APE, Friends of Nature Tours).

We lack a general survey of the greatly diminished Pied-billed Grebe population. At Glen Morgan L., a count of 35 in July (probably incomplete) swelled to a staggering 123, including young, Sept. 19 (KL). Other scattered breeding reports included an encouraging 3 pairs at Palmyra, Burlington, NJ, one of which was double-brooded (WD, TBa, DMe).

Sooty Shearwaters, usually the most common tubenose offshore in June, were scarce, the best count being 19 off Montauk June 21. In a half-dozen pelagic trips, Greaters generally outnumbered Cory’s, peaking at 300+ 12 mi off Cape May June 20–21 (D. Githens). Manx Shearwaters were reported off Robert Moses S.P. June 6 (TWB), 10–13 mi s.e. of Cape May June 24 (P&L Dunne, SF, PL, J. Walsh) and again in that vicinity June 26 (M. O’Brien).

Post-breeding Brown Pelicans were again scarce, the highest counts being 10 off Dewey Beach, DE, June 15 (D. Bridge), 10 at Jones Beach S.P., LI, July 9 (A. Ott), and 15 off Barnegat Light, NJ, July 13 (S. Barnes). Double-crested Cormorant populations

continue exploding, with occasional setbacks. One new colony appeared on Swinburne I., off Staten I., NY (DR), and dummy nest building was observed at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA, where cormorants have summered for the last 4 or 5 years (35 birds, AM). Breeding was first recorded in Pennsylvania only last summer, near Harrisburg. The L. Champlain colony at the Four Brothers Is., Essex, NY, increased 17% from the previous high 2 years ago to 1394 nests (JMCP). The great L. Ontario colony on Little Galloo, however, declined by 23% to 5839 nests, possibly because of inadequate prey base. Also, someone shot 850 cormorants (some say 1200) there in July. A reward has been offered for information leading to the identification of the gunmen, but no one has come forward (BMi, BL). In response to pressures from fishermen, the NY D.E.C. is preventing the formation of new colonies in L. Ontario.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Heronries can come and go. Once a normal response to predation or food problems, departures are more alarming today when fewer substitute sites are available. The prodigious heronry at Pea Patch I. in Delaware Bay, which reached an estimated 12,000–15,000 pairs in the late 1980s and was “the largest assemblage of wading birds north of Florida” (K. Parsons, “Heron Nesting at Pea Patch Island, Upper Delaware Bay, USA: Abundance and Reproductive Success,” *Colonial Waterbirds* 18:1 (1995), p. 76), was down to about 3500 in 1998. “Attendance in 1998 was approximately half of 1997, and may reflect (in addition to long-term decline of unknown origin) El Niño disruptions to wintering grounds and migration. Most of the 10 species nesting on the island showed 50% declines from 1997 with the exception of Great Egret, which lost about 15%, and Glossy Ibis, which was down 70%” (KP, pers. comm.). Something was amiss, too, at the New York Harbor heronries. Starting in 1974, as the Clean Water Act of 1972 began to make a difference, these populations began to climb, reaching 4000+ pairs of long-legged wading birds in 1995, plus a few gulls, cormorants, and waterfowl (Jane E. Brody, “A Cleaner Harbor Lures Water Birds to New York,” *The New York Times*, Sept 8, 1998, pp. F1, F6). This summer’s survey, the 14th supported by NYC Audubon, revealed that 2 of the 5 principal islands, Prall’s and Shooter’s, in the Arthur Kill/Kill van Kull between Staten I. and New Jersey, had been deserted. Shooter’s Island

dropped from 400 nests to zero. Human disturbance from a campsite was believed responsible. The birds may have moved to nearby unstudied sites; the implications of this shift may be clearer after next summer’s survey (PK). Despite these local setbacks, Great Egrets seem to be doing relatively well. They continue to breed at their new n. outpost on Motor I. in the Niagara R. (WW). Doing not so well are Glossy Ibis (70% down at Pea Patch, 11% down in New York Harbor) and Cattle Egret. The latter no longer breed in Pennsylvania at all, since the sudden and unexplained collapse of the enormous colony in the Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, in 1988. They have declined over the past 5 summers in New York Harbor, and no longer breed on e. Long Island. These upland feeders may be exposed to agricultural chemicals (KP). Six at Four Brothers I. in Lake Champlain mark their continuing n. outpost (JMCP). The Tricolored Heron far north of breeding range at Greece, Monroe, NY, June 3 (KG) was probably the same bird seen in May. Though they may be declining inland, Black-crowned Night-Herons remain the commonest species in New York Harbor (318 nests), and 164 nests were “a lot” at Four Brothers I. (JMCP). The main Yellow-crowned Night-Heron site in New York Harbor (15 nests) was adjacent to the intruding campsite off Staten I., and none could be found this summer (PK). The White Ibis that showed up in spring in s. New Jersey increased to 15 at Cape May July 5 (A. Robinson) and 14 over the Maurice R., Cumberland, July 31 (R. Barber). An immature was at Bombay Hook after July 7, joined briefly by an adult at the end of the month (APE, m.ob.). Two White-faced Ibis continued at Bombay Hook July 17 (MG, BP).

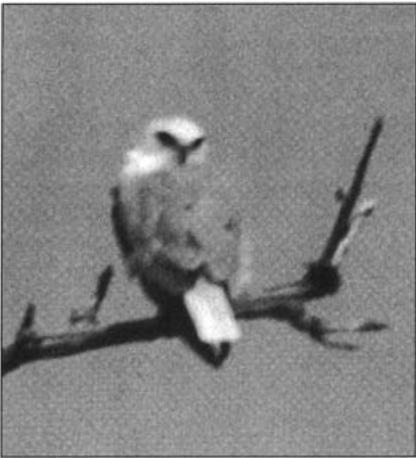
Mute Swans, Canada Geese, and Mallards increasingly dominate the waterfowl picture. The Mute Swan population of Jamaica Bay has reached 300 (RJK, DR). We hear of “discrete countermeasures” taken there and around Rochester. Several family groups of Blue-winged Teal at S.C.M.M. (SF, V. Elia) were noteworthy, for the species rarely breeds there. A female Gadwall with six ducklings furnished only the 3rd breeding record for this spreading western species at Cape May, and Gadwall (4 nests) was the commonest waterfowl after Canada Goose in the New York Harbor heronry survey (PK). American Wigeon chicks at Lasalle Park, Buffalo, July 15 (WW) were near historic locations for this uncommon breeder. At Glen Morgan L., five male and

six female Ruddy Ducks produced eight young, some in a 2nd brood (KL). Summering eiders, unlike recent seasons, went unreported. The usual summering scoters included a White-winged at Cape May July 5 (L&D Thomas), the least frequent of the three scoter species.

RAPTORS

The annual Black Vultures outside of confirmed breeding range in the Region included an emaciated bird at Montauk Pt., LI, from May to June 6. This Region had its first three-kite summer. Following spring reports of Swallow-tailed Kites, another was over the n.e. extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Carbon, PA, July 11 (L. Bevier). The season’s most remarkable find was a **White-tailed Kite** at Cape May June 4 (ph A. Pochek), the first for New Jersey and second for the Region. This expanding species has profited since the 1950s from the replacement of forest by agriculture in Middle America, and since the middle 1980s has wandered increasingly into the southeast and upper Midwest. During April–September 1997 alone *Field Notes* carried reports from North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana (two), and Ohio. In the northeast, however, we are aware only of one in Dutchess County, NY in 1983, and one old (1910) record from Massachusetts. Cape May’s annual assemblage of Mississippi Kites peaked at seven June 19 (PK). They declined rapidly thereafter, though one was occasionally seen in July. Outlying stragglers were found along the Delaware R. n. of Trenton, NJ, June 7 (Phila. Birdline); at Featherbed Lane, near Sharptown, Salem, NJ, June 14 (WD, DJ, J. Liguori); and at Mt Cobb, Lackawanna, June 19 (WR), only the 2nd known to Reid from n.e. Pennsylvania. This species has bred in n. Virginia since 1995: why not in this Region, too?

Although Osprey recovery has been spectacular throughout the Region, productivity in New Jersey’s Atlantic Coast population (0.6 young per nest for the 2nd year in a row) is alarming wildlife officials there (KC). The general trend is still upward for Bald Eagles. New York’s breeding population increased to 35 pairs (28 last year), but slightly fewer chicks were produced than last year (40 vs. 43), in some cases due to storm damage. The breeding population has approximately tripled in New York since 1990 (P. Nye, NY D.E.C.). Pennsylvania had a “healthy increase” to 10 active pairs that fledged 11 young, including new sites at Middle Creek WMA,



Rare kites are regularly seen around Cape May, New Jersey, in late May and early June. This year (1998) White-tailed Kite finally joined the party on June 4. Note the pure white tail, black "shoulder," white head, and, in the flight picture, the black patch in the greater primary coverts on the underwing. This is the second for the Hudson-Delaware region and the first for New Jersey. Photographs/Alexander Pochek

Lancaster, and in *Northumberland* (DB). In New Jersey, 14 active pairs (i.e. with eggs) produced 17 young, about the same as last year (KC). Delaware's 13 pairs, 7 of which were successful, fledged 12 young. Merlins continue to breed in the Adirondacks, where a nest was first discovered in 1992. Young were confirmed at one site each in *Hamilton* and *Franklin* (G. Lee), were probable at Owl's Head, *Franklin* (M. Medlar), and there are most likely more (JMCP). Peregrine Falcons are now spreading under their own momentum. New York's 36 breeding pairs produced a "whopping" 67 young, 20 above last year. (B. Loucks, NY D.E.C.). A number of new sites were reported. A territorial pair on the Cross Valley Expressway Bridge in Plains, *Luzerne*, PA, would be—if they breed next year—the

first in Pennsylvania since recovery to choose their own site (B. Wasilewski, R. Kval, J. Hoyson et al.). A pair that fledged one young on the Dunn Memorial Bridge, Albany, NY, was the first in that area. A platform constructed 3 years ago over the "D" on the Kodak building in Rochester, NY, was discovered to contain a family of Peregrines, in June, with three young.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A pair of King Rails found in May at Makepeace W.M.A., near Hammonton, *Atlantic*, NJ, by the Mahlers had young July 5 (TBa, WD, DMe). A Purple Gallinule came aboard Neil Robbins' fishing boat 14 mi s.e. of Cape May June 15 (*fide* K. Robbins). Following spring reports, a Sandhill Crane was seen in Alabama Twp., *Genesee*, NY, June 10 (J. Wojewodzki). Another was intermittently at Brig June 3 (D. Fussell) & 16 (D. Harrison), and it (or another) was at Cape May June 6 (F. Mears). An amazing 25 Coots were at Glen Morgan L. July 18, a figure that reached 100 with young Aug. 17 (KL). Such figures are otherwise unimaginable in this Region, except perhaps at Montezuma. An adult with four–five young at a restored marsh near Riverhead, LI (ES), was gratifying since they are now absent from former nesting areas near the coast.

Piping Plovers continued to slide downward under the pressures of human beach use and predation. The New Jersey population was "down considerably" once again: 93 pairs (115 in 1997, 127 in 1996). On the plus side, productivity was up; these birds respond well to protection. Red foxes had learned to dig under the enclosures, which thus perversely turned into attractions for the foxes and traps for the birds, so New Jersey officials ringed the enclosures with electric fence. Productivity went up from 0.42 last year to 1.1 (DJ). Delaware's Piping Plover population has fallen from 80 in 1978, to 18 in 1984, and to the present remnant of 6 pairs, all at Cape Henlopen. This summer, aided by beach closure measures, they fledged five chicks (CB, C. Purtlebaugh). Long Island totals were not available at press time. Locally, the bonanza offered by beach reconstitution at Westhampton Beach is now being eliminated by the rebuilding of summer homes (ES).

The only northerly Am. Avocet was at Myer's Pt., L. Cayuga, *Tompkins*, NY, June 30 (M. Young); the post-breeding assemblage at Bombay Hook reached 600 July 27 (Philadelphia Birdline). The s. edge of this Region's Upland Sandpiper breeding range

seems to be Lakehurst Naval Air Station, *Ocean*, NJ, where eight adults and 15 young were found July 2 (RR). The best count of southbound migrants was a good 33 at New Castle Airport, s. of Wilmington, July 25 (B&NM). Quite a few shorebirds hung around in June. Fourteen species were in Delaware June 7, and single Dunlins were record-late on L. Champlain at the Chazy R. mouths, *Clinton*, June 10 and on L. Ontario at Sylvan Beach, *Oneida*, NY, June 14 (MP). Two Lesser Yellowlegs at S.C.M.M. June 27 were believed to be early arrivals (PL). Not all June shorebirds are migrants, however. Sanderlings in basic plumage at S.C.M.M. June 10 were probably not going anywhere (PL), as was perhaps also the case for the Whimbrel at Brig June 19 (C. Krilowicz). It is important for observers to note such lingerers' plumage. The only Curlew Sandpiper reported was a bird in alternate plumage at Bombay Hook July 8 (APE) and some days after. Except for one at Jamaica Bay July 11, Ruffs were found only at Bombay Hook. At least three Reeves were there through June, and up to three different males were there July 3: red, white, and black (APE, m.ob.). Where do these birds breed? No Wilson's Phalaropes bred at the Chazy R. mouths, on L. Champlain, for the first time since they were discovered nesting there 5 years ago, perhaps because of high water.

GULLS TO SKIMMER

The Laughing Gull colony adjacent to JFK airport, *Queens*, NY, remains stable at about 5000 pairs. Shooting on the airport is diminished, partly because gulls are visiting less (DR). We still await the formation of another colony on Long Island. Little Gulls were up a bit. Four were along Raritan Bay during June (RKA), a 2nd-summer bird was at Artificial I., *Salem*, June 7 (WD), and another at Port Mahon in mid-July (Phila. Birdline). The only Black-headed Gull was in basic plumage at Pickering Beach, DE, July 19 (FR, MG). Ring-billed Gulls at Little Galloo, by far the largest colony in the Great Lakes, are down to 53,028 nests from 84,230 in 1990 (BMi). At the Four Brothers I. in L. Champlain, the nest total (13,583) was the lowest since 1982 (JMCP). Lesser Black-backed Gulls now summer regularly in this Region, but an adult on L. Ontario at Sylvan Beach, *Oneida*, NY, June 4 was a first for that area (MP).

Following spring reports, a few Roseate Terns frequented Cape Henlopen S.P., DE, and Cape May, but there is still no evidence of breeding s. of Long Island. There, Great

Gull I., between the e. tip and Connecticut, with 1700 pairs (HH), controls the fate of this species in North America in tandem with Bird I., MA. Since the collapse of the great Cedar Beach tern rookery in the middle 1990s due to red fox predation, Roseate Terns have had few alternative breeding sites on Long Island. This summer there were apparently only three locales: Shinnecock Bay, with about 50 pairs on Warner's I., subject to erosion and heavy predation by a Great Back-backed Gull (M. England), and others (unaccounted) on Lane's I.; the n. end of Gardiner's I., where efforts to create a Roseate colony have been moderately successful with about 25 pairs (HH); and a couple at Breezy Point, at the w. tip of Long Island (DR). Efforts to re-establish the Roseate colony at Hicks I., E. Hampton, have failed (L. Penny). The Com. Tern megacolony at Great Gull I. has reached 10,000 pairs (HH). Forster's Terns maintain their n. outpost on Long Island as far east as Hempstead (JZ). We did not have comprehensive Least Tern figures at press time, but they faced multiple troubles, including pressure from Com. Terns which ordinarily push out Least. No Least Terns at all were fledged in coastal Delaware (CB), and none was fledged in E. Hampton Twp., LI, for the 4th year (L. Penny). Black Terns fared so-so in upstate New York. A NY D.E.C. survey recorded 202 pairs, the lowest number since counts began in 1989 (maximum 285 in 1991). The largest colony in the state is Perch River W.M.A., where artificial nesting platforms support 48% of the 59 nests recorded. *Jefferson* has the most pairs (133), with the Tonawanda complex next (29), and a few each in *Monroe* (16), *Oswego* (14), and at *Montezuma* (10) (I. Mazocchi, BMi)

DOVES TO SHRIKES

Two **White-winged Doves** turned up. One at Cape Henlopen S.P. June 9-11 (E&L Dumont, MG, CB, SHD) was Delaware's first. Another was at Schuylkill Haven, *Schuylkill*, PA, near Reading for a couple of days after June 29 (ph. S. Weidensaul). The ad male of the N. Saw-whet Owl pair whose breeding in s. New Jersey made news in the spring was last seen June 9, when attempts to read his band failed (WD, T&E Manners).

An ad. female *Selasphorus* hummingbird at Villas, *Cape May*, NJ, July 28 (J. Dowdell) was very early, but the date corresponds with Rufous Hummingbird dispersal in the Rockies. Red-headed Woodpeckers, whose range is very spotty in this Region, cropped

up in some new areas: *Dutchess*, NY; *Connetquot*, LI, June 6 (apparently passing through); and Redden S.F. n. of Georgetown, DE (MG). Of special interest was a nest with two young in Wyoming S.F., *Sullivan*, PA (S. Conant). A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers feeding young at High Point S.P., *Sussex* (F. Tetlow), provided New Jersey's first confirmed breeding record, though they nest in the highlands of adjacent states.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers still breed in the Coalbed and Tamarack Swamp areas, *Wyoming*, PA (D. Gross). Acadian Flycatchers have declined dramatically at Unami Cr. Valley, *Montgomery*, PA (KCr), and seemed down around Philadelphia (B&NM). Western Kingbirds ignore the calendar. Late spring stragglers were all over: Alabama Twp., *Genesee*, NY, in June (G. Seamans et al.); Fire I. Light, LI, June 10 (S. Mitra); and Cape May June 8 (K&J Lukens) and June 20-21 (PL, FM). A late spring errant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Cape May June 6 (M. Hannisian).

A pair of Purple Martins used a natural cavity at Jenkins, *Burlington*, NJ, near the site of a former house (E. Bruder). American Crows, formerly rather uncommon on the outer beach in summer, have become established breeders and major predators at several locations along the s. shore of Long Island (ROP, ES). A Carolina Chickadee banded in *Morris*, NJ, n. of the traditional Raritan R. limit, was the observers' first there in 30 years (G&EM). Six or eight Sedge Wrens were at the Nations Rd. area near Rochester, NY (J. Kimball, K. Fox, M. Bellart), and one was reported at Little Creek, DE, July 26. Loggerhead Shrike went unreported yet again.

VIREOS TO FINCHES

An attempt to count every Red-eyed Vireo found in one day around Piseco, *Hamilton*, NY produced a total of 118 (MP). A singing male Tennessee Warbler at Palmyra, *Burlington*, NJ (TBa), a 2nd July record there, was an early migrant. Yellow-throated Warblers were not as rare as was thought in *Northampton*, PA (AK), and several pairs were at Ft. Washington S.P., Philadelphia (B&NM). It is difficult, lacking hard census data, to know what to think about Worm-eating Warblers. In Pennsylvania they underwent a "dramatic decline" from 8-10 pairs to one at Unami Cr. Valley, w. *Montgomery* (KCr), and disappeared from Ft. Washington S. P., Philadelphia (B&NM). In New York, however, a pair bred exceptionally on e Long Island (ES), and one straggled

far north of known breeding range in Carrollton Twp., *Cattaraugus*, in late June and early July (TBd), the first July record for the Buffalo area (RA). Kentucky Warbler, similarly, seemed down in its normal range in Pennsylvania and New York (RJK, B&NM, KCr), but stragglers appeared n. of the known breeding range in *Cattaraugus* June 7 (TBd) and *Onandaga* June 24 (J. Brin). Yellow-breasted Chats have become hard to find, so five in Genesee Twp, near Rochester, NY (J. Kimball, K. Fox), were welcome news, along with new sites in *Dutchess*, NY, and *Lehigh*, PA (AK)

A Black-headed Grosbeak visited Arlene Koch's remarkable yard in *Northampton*, PA, briefly July 26. Dickcissels continue to try to establish themselves in the Region. The Brightview Farm colony between Mt Holly and Ft. Dix, *Burlington*, NJ, was active again, and produced young (WD et al). A singing male was at Bombay Hook up to June 14 (nesting has never been confirmed in Delaware), and a straggler was at Cape May July 19 (L. Zemaitis).

Henslow's Sparrow were in good numbers in the north of the range. They were found in 122 locations in the grasslands around Perch River W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY (N. Leone). Another suitable area, in Genesee Twp, near Rochester, held 23 in June (J. Kimball, K. Fox). Kimball and Fox have had some success persuading farmers to cut their hay later. At the s. edge of the range, the colony continues at W. Nicholson, *Wyoming*, PA, and at least two singing males were reported at Lakehurst Naval Air Station July 2 (R. Radis). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was late at Rye, NY, June 1-4 (TWB).

A few remnant Red Crossbills were widely scattered after the winter's invasion, from several places in *Allegany*, NY (EB, B Chilton, P. Yoerg), to Emmaus, *Lehigh*, PA (J. Horn). The only evidence of breeding, however, came from the Adirondacks. Fewer White-winged Crossbills remained, in *Allegany* (EB) and *Franklin*, NY.

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Wildlife), Kevin Crilley (KCr) (Green Lane Environmental Center), **Ward Dasey** (s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), S. H. Dyke, **A. P. Ednie** (*New Castle and Kent*, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Marilyn England, Shawneen Finnegan, Marcia Fowle (NYC Audubon), **Jane Graves** (Hudson-Mohawk, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), **K. C. Griffith** (Genesee, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Mary Gustafson, Helen Hays (Great Gull I.), **Armas Hill** (Philadelphia Birdline), Dave Jenkins (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), Paul Kerlinger, **Mary Alice Koeneke** (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 362 Nine Mile Pt. Rd., Oswego, NY 13126), R.J.Kurtz, Ken Leboe, Paul Lehman, Jerry Liguori, **R. E. Long** (St. Lawrence, NY: 2807 Citation Dr., Pompey, NY 13138), Barbara Loucks (NY D.E.C.), Glenn and Elaine Mahler, Diane Merkh (DMe), Jim McDougal (NY D.E.C.), Fred Mears, **Dick Miga** (Niagara Frontier, NY: 38 Elm St., Fredonia, NY 14063-1937), Bob Miller (BMi) (NY D.E.C.), August Mirabella, Mark Monroe, Brian Moscatello, Bill and Naomi Murphy, Pete Nye (NY D.E.C.), **Bill Ostrander** (Finger Lakes, NY: 872 Harris Hill Rd., Elmira, NY 14903), Kathy Parsons (Manomet Observatory), **Ed Patten** (n.w. NJ: 9 Cornfield Terrace, Flemington, NJ 08822), Matt Perry, Bruce Peterjohn, **J. M. C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, **William Purcell** (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076); **Rick Radis** (n.c. NJ: 69 Ogden Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866), **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Don Riepe (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref.), Frank Rohrbacher, Keith Russell, Eric Salzman, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), **R. G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), **Pat Sutton** (Cape May Bird Observatory), **Brian Vernachio** (n.c. NJ: 794 Rancocas Rd., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060), William Watson, **Al Wollin** (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R. P. Yunick, John Zarudski.

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middle atlantic coast region

MARSHALL J. ILIFF

This Summer Season maintained the status quo. Populations which have been expanding in the Region continued to do so. Mississippi Kites have continued to be widely reported in both states. Brown Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants continue their expansion in the Bay, with the pelicans establishing a long-anticipated range expansion into the Maryland Bay. Waterfowl lingered in average numbers. Shorebirds were not well surveyed because of poorer than usual habitat at Hart-Miller Island and Chincoteague. There seemed to be no late push of spring migrants early in the season, though, amazingly, White-throated Sparrows figured prominently (three reports) for the first time ever in this season. Several fall migrants returned unusually early, with some record arrival dates set in July. June was somewhat wetter than usual in the District of Columbia area, while July began a long drought that continued well into the fall.

Several species reported without details were not included. All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland, except that each Virginia locale is annotated the *first time* it appears in the text.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I. National Seashore*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R.*); Craney (*Craney I. Disposal Area*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); Hart (*Hart-Miller Island*); Lower Bay (*Chesapeake Bay from Maryland/Virginia line south*); Middle Bay (*Chesapeake Bay from Bay Bridge to Maryland/Virginia line*); Upper Bay (*Chesapeake Bay north of Bay Bridge*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by state records committee*); P.R.N.A.S. (*Patuxent R. Naval Air Station*); P.L.S.P. (*Pt. Lookout State Park*); P.W.R.C. (*Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*); W.W.T.P. (*Waste Water Treatment Plant*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

The **Pacific Loon** at Haines Pt., D.C., was last reported June 11 (SFa). The 7 Com. Loon reports were typical for summer, but



a Horned Grebe at L. Elkhorn, *Howard*, was most unusual June 12 (DE). Baltimore Canyon, *Worcester*, pelagic trips produced 30 Greater, three Sooty, and one Manx shearwaters, and 100 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 14 (AE et al.), and three Cory's, 73 Greater, one Sooty, and one Audubon's shearwaters, and 30 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 21 (AE et al.). Two Audubon's Shearwaters were seen 8 mi off Ocean City, *Worcester*, June 28 (MAT, DC). The Pt. Lookout-Smith I. Ferry in Maryland's Middle Bay continues to be productive for small numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Three seen June 14 (MC) and four June 21 (JLS) were earlier than most previous reports.

American White Pelicans have built and tended nests on Fisherman I. in recent years, but have yet to put forth a legitimate breeding effort. This year a loner sat atop a Great Back-backed Gull nest June 14 (BW et al.). One Double-crested Cormorant nest was found on Spring I. June 21 (HTA), and the Cheeseman I., *Accomack*, colony also appeared to be healthy with at least 34 large young, 19 other small young, and 3 nests with eggs. In addition, 12 nests were found in *Northampton*, VA, June 16 (BW et al.) for a county first; the nests were on a small island just over the county line with *Accomack* (which has only one previous breeding record, from a duck blind near Chinc.). *Holland I., Dorchester*, supports one of the better heronries in the Bay, with pair counts of 10 Little Blue, 15 Tricolored, 35 Great Blue, and two Green herons, 15 Snowy, five Cattle, and 35 Great egrets, 10 Black-crowned and 12 Yellow-crowned