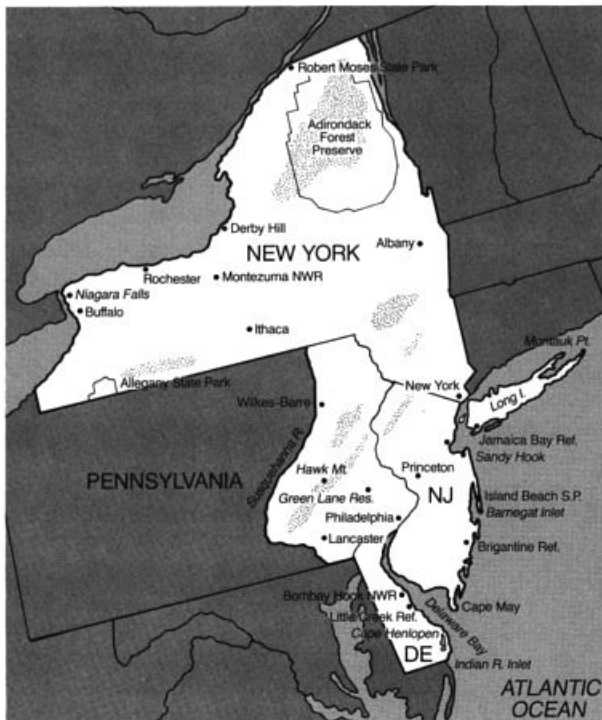


Despres, Ron Donovan, **David Emerson**, Richard Ferren, Dan Finisia, *Cindy Fraer*, Kay Gammons, Barbara Gearhart, Michael Gooley, **The Guillemot**, **Greg Hanisek**, Scott Hecker, *Richard Heil*, David Hoad, *David Holmes*, *Craig Jackson*, *Andrea Jones*, *Kyle Jones*, **Seth Kellogg**, Vernon Laux, *Ron Lockwood*, *Trevor Lloyd-Evans*, Mark Lynch, Frank Mantlik, *Scott Melvin*, Steve Mirick, **Julia Nicholson**, *Blair Nikula*, **Simon Perkins**, **Judy Peterson**, **Robert Quinn**, *Ron Rancatti*, *Chris Raithe*, **Edie Ray**, *Chris Rimmer*, *Norman Smith*, Robert Stymeist, Richard Veit, *Sue Wetmore*.

Wayne R. Petersen, Center for Biological Conservation, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.



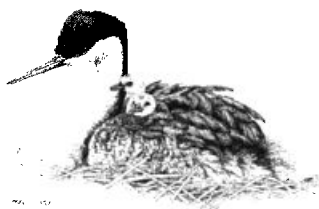
hudson-delaware region



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ROBERT O. PAXTON,
WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.,
and **DAVID A. CUTLER**

A cold, wet spring delayed the last migrants well into June, and the nesting season ran late. Some nests of Ospreys, Peregrines, and Bald Eagles failed in the cold spring. When it finally arrived, a calm, mostly dry summer favored those land birds that are closely monitored (Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds).

Overgrazing by deer was blamed for declines of Ovenbirds near Philadelphia (B&NM) and of juncos in upstate New York (RPY). The Avalon sea watch continued (DWa), giving us new precision about how much coastal movement continues through the summer. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation surveyed Double-crested Cormorants, gulls, and *Sterna* terns in the Great Lakes/Saint Lawrence area, but we go to press too early to have colonial waterbird totals for the rest of this Region. We received results from only one June Bird Count: *Putnam*,

New York (H. Turner), helpfully showing long-term trends. We would like to have many more.

Rarities included Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Garganey (a Regional first), White-winged Tern, Rufous Hummingbird, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: Avalon (barrier beach at Townsend's Inlet, Cape May Co., NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic Co., NJ); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City); Lakehurst (Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Ocean Co., NJ); Little Creek (Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Kent Co., DE); Logan Tract (unit of Ted Harvey Conservation Area s. of Kitt's Hummock, DE); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca Co., NY); NY DEC (New York Department of Environmental Conservation); Little Galloo (Little Galloo I., e. Lake Ontario, off Henderson Harbor, Jefferson, NY); Port Mahon (marshes and bayshore east of Little Creek, DE).

SA Beach-nesting terns, skimmers, and Piping Plovers were hard hit by high tides at the beginning of June, and later by human activity and predation. The protection measures that used to work—establishing refuges, fencing people out, erecting wire enclosures over Piping Plover eggs—are now increasingly canceled out by gulls, crows, foxes, and feral house cats attracted to the nesting areas. When nature was more intact, the birds could move their colonies; nowadays they have no place else to go. Growing concentration of large colonies in a few refuges seems to be making them more vulnerable to disease and predation. The once-great tern/skimmer colony at Cedar Beach, *Suffolk*, Long Island—recently second only to Great Gull Island—was empty this summer, after several seasons of heavy predation, primarily by a family of foxes.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

The usual scattered Com. Loons summered in basic plumage on L. Ontario and as far south in the Atlantic as Cape Henlopen, DE (CB). Far more unusual was a Red-throated Loon in alternate plumage at Ft. DuPont, Delaware City, *New Castle*, DE, June 21 (JJ).

Shearwater reports fit expected patterns: Sooties were early, more Cory's and Greater later. Noteworthy records included a count of 420+ Greater Shearwaters up to 90 mi out of Barnegat, NJ, July 26 (P. Guris, PL, SF, WD et al.); a Manx Shearwater July 12 in warm water on the continental shelf about 100 mi s. of Block I., conditions where Audubon's would seem more likely (PAB, DV); and about seven Audubon's Shearwater reports in late July, one on the aforementioned trip off Barnegat July 26, and others, most surprising, near shore off Cape May in the outflow of Delaware Bay. These included one from the Cape May-Lewes ferry July 19 (PL) and one seen from Cape May Pt. July 23 (RC).

A **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** was studied July 13 in deep water on the continental shelf about 100 mi s. of Block I. (†PAB, DV); the status of this species in the n. part of our Region remains poorly understood.

Single Am. White Pelicans, now annual, visited Strawberry I., in the Niagara R., June 5 (WW), and Oneida L. June 6–20 (m.ob.)—conceivably the same bird. The Brown Pelican incursions that began in 1982 and became massive in the early

1990s, making breeding look imminent, now appear to have been a blip. They peaked this summer at a paltry 14 at Cape May July 11 (S. Sharky); 10 at Indian R. Inlet, DE, July 12 (CB); and eight at Jones Inlet, LI, July 21 (C. Valle).

Double-crested Cormorants nests totaled 9129 in the New York Great Lakes area. Some of the biggest, long-established colonies may be leveling off. Little Galloo, with almost all nests on the ground of this now nearly treeless island, slipped 10% to 7591 nests (BMi). Four Brothers I. in L. Champlain declined 29% to 836 nests, perhaps because the white pines killed by the young birds' guano are now losing their branches (JMCP). But Double-crested Cormorants are still expanding at the frontiers. The 3 new colonies near Buffalo—Reef Lighthouse on L. Erie, and Motor I. and Strawberry I. in the Niagara R.—reached 95 nests. Wade I., in the Susquehanna R. near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's first breeding colony, continued into a 2nd year. In New Jersey, a state poised for cormorant take-off, a new colony was confirmed at Manasquan Res., *Monmouth* (AS).

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

A few Great Egret bred again for the 4th year at Motor I. in the Niagara R. (WW), near the species' n. limit (breeding began recently in Ontario). Three Little Blue Herons, including one adult, provided an extremely rare multiple record on the Susquehanna at Wyoming, *Luzerne*, PA, July 30 (J. Shoemaker). In addition to the White-faced Ibis at Bombay Hook noted in spring, another was reported roosting in the great Pea Patch I. Rookery, off Delaware City (JJ).

A pair of Trumpeter Swans bred for the 3rd consecutive year at Perch River W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY (IM), indicating that the reintroduction program in Ontario (perhaps abetted by some escapes from waterfowl collectors) is having widening effect. The one or two present in the spring on the Susquehanna R. at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, PA, continued into mid-June.

Additional news from the Canada Goose plague. Reid reports that Phelps Pond, *Wyoming*, PA, now has 7 pairs of Canadas and no more Moorhens, Soras, or Least Bitterns (WR). One pair nested in a tree in Royce Swamp (JMCP).

A male **Garganey** at Brig June 9–14 (T. Tarlach, ph. E. Breden, m.ob.), at a date consonant with most authentic vagrants, is the first confirmed for New Jersey and the

Hudson-Delaware Region. An Am. Wigeon nest with 10 eggs at Buckhorn Island S.P., in the Niagara R. (WW), furnished a good record for this very uncommon breeder.

After another big winter assemblage at Montauk Pt., Com. Eiders lingered exceptionally into mid-summer off the s. shore of Long Island. Up to three summered as far south as Cape Henlopen (APE) for the 2nd consecutive year, only the 4th summer sighting for Delaware. A single King Eider, the more normal eider farther south, also summered at Henlopen (APE, M. Barnhill, J. Russell).

Only a handful of scoters (mostly Surf and Black, as usual) summered around coastal headlands. Exceptional among the usual scattering of summering diving ducks was a male Oldsquaw at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, *Dutchess*, NY (S. Seymour). Hooded Mergansers are thriving. They bred at Batavia, *Genesee*, NY (WW); near Rochester (*fide* RWS); and, in Pennsylvania, *Bradford* (WR) and *Luzerne* (2 sites; RKO, JH).

RAPTORS

The only certain Mississippi Kite reports were the usual one or two birds that lingered around Cape May as late as June 27 (F. Mears, T. Parsons, B. Mitchell).

Though Ospreys continue generally to recover, they had a "terrible" year in New Jersey. Productivity was an abysmal 0.6 in the Atlantic Coast population. It was better (1.6) on the Delaware Bay side, lending credence to the speculation that cold sea temperatures kept the fish deep (KC). There was an 80% failure rate around Cape May, and many young died in the nest. Further signs of recovery right into suburbia include probable breeding near Syracuse, NY (BP); a successful 3rd pair within the New York City limits at Jamaica Bay (DR); and a new nest in *Bucks*, PA, just n. of Philadelphia (DB).

Bald Eagles increased to 35 occupied nests in New York, which fledged 43 young. A new pair successfully fledged one chick s. of Albany in *Greene*, the first Bald Eagle raised along the Hudson in a century (P. Nye, NY DEC). Fourteen occupied nests produced 18 young in New Jersey. In Pennsylvania, although 3 out of 4 nests failed on the Susquehanna R., 2 were successful in *Pike*, and a new pair established itself near Columbia, *Lancaster* (DB). Delaware was discussed in the spring report.

It was a good season for Merlins in the Adirondacks, where they were first found breeding in 1992. This summer at least 6 active breeding sites were reported in *Essex*,

SA Kestrel Research (S. Boyce, RW) banded 216 Am. Kestrel nestlings in n. Northampton, PA, the best result so far of a nest box program begun 5 years ago. Boxes increased from 12 in 1993 to 110 in 1997, 85 of which were occupied, and 52 of which successfully fledged kestrels. One banded bird has been recaptured in Florida, and local recaptures show that these young are repopulating the surrounding area. Nest box programs like this one and another at Montclair, NJ (J. Smallwood), redress the scarcity of natural nest sites and offer vital assistance to this seriously declining species.

Franklin, and Hamilton (JMCP). Peregrine Falcons reached record levels again in New York, with 34 territorial pairs (32 in 1996). Thirty pairs bred, and 25 were successful, fledging 49 young (one more than last year). Long Island's first successful nesting occurred on the Nassau Co. Medical Center, possibly by the pair that winters at Jones Beach water tower. New Jersey's breeding pairs remained stationary at 15, but productivity (1.0) was the "worst on record" for unknown reasons (KC). A pair attempted to nest on Philadelphia City Hall, which had been a nesting site in the 1940s (DB).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A pair of King Rails with six chicks confirmed breeding at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Westchester, NY (TWB). Sora was believed to have bred near its s. limit at Taylor's Refuge, Burlington, NJ (WD). Black Rails continue at Oak Beach Marsh, Suffolk, LI, the only breeding site in New York. Sandhill Cranes, now annual, were reported only from around Rochester in early June (M. Tetlow, KF).

Piping Plovers lost ground in their desperate struggle for a foothold on the beaches. Locally they could be numerous, such as on the new fill of the temporary "Pike's Inlet" at Westhampton Beach, LI, for the moment "extraordinary habitat" before houses are rebuilt (ES). Most of the established nesting locations suffered from high tides in early June, however, and all of them experienced heavy predation by foxes, gulls, crows, or feral house cats. Foxes learned how to dig their way under the shelters used on Long Island and New Jersey. In some places predation was total. New Jersey's Piping Plovers declined from 127 nesting pairs last year (132 in 1995) to 113. Pro-

ductivity was a poor 0.3 there: one fledged chick for every 3 pairs (DJ). Delaware's last remnant had 4 nests at Cape Henlopen S.P. They hatched 10 and fledged four (CB).

Both Am. Oystercatchers and Willets continued their "phenomenal" increase on the s. shore of Long Island, where they have now spread across the coastal bays from the n. side of the barrier islands to the s. shore of the mainland (ES).

Black-necked Stilts are now breeding at Little Creek and Prime Hook N.W.R., DE, as well as Bombay Hook (APE). The usual handful of Am. Avocets wandered N of the post-breeding concentrations in Delaware as far as Jamaica Bay (maximum three, July 19) and Stewart Park, Tompkins, NY, on L. Cayuga July 2 (SK). Two far inland at Codorus S.P., York, PA, July 6 (Philadelphia Birdline) could have originated farther west.

Upland Sandpipers had a "very good summer" on the Ft. Edward grasslands, Washington, NY, where 11 adults were observed by many in mid-June. Breeding was suspected in the Manorville, LI, grasslands (ES). Farther south, a few hung on in New Jersey; 6-8 pairs were censused at Lakehurst (D. Sutherland, MC et al.).

The Avalon sea watch tallied 152 southbound Whimbrels in 63 hours in July (DWa), confirming that species' almost exclusively coastal fall migration route. Curlew Sandpipers were found only in Delaware, with one (possibly two) birds in high alternate plumage at the Logan Tract and Port Mahon in late July (FR et al.). Stilt

SA An above-average 84,000 shorebirds were estimated present in the crucial staging grounds in Delaware Bay on June 4, perhaps delayed by the late spring. The peak May 27 had been only 204,000, however, about 10% below the average of recent years and far below the 425,000 estimated in 1986 when surveys began (KC). Horseshoe crabs, whose eggs are these birds' main food supply, are in rapid decline because they are heavily harvested for bait for eel and conch fishing. New Jersey Governor Whitman's moratorium on horseshoe crab harvesting was overturned in court in July, but the state was granted a stay until appeals could be heard in state supreme court. New Jersey is meanwhile drafting new regulations, but these would not apply to neighboring states or to waters beyond the 3-mi limit.

Sandpipers had one of their better late summers in Delaware, with a maximum of 70 in the Pickering Beach/Little Creek area July 27 (APE), and 60+ were at Brig July 31 (TBa).

There were no good concentrations of Ruffs. The best show was at Bombay Hook June 28-30, where two males, a chestnut and a black, displayed and fought in the presence of one Reeve (BP, MG, NP); one Ruff remained through July. The only other reports were singles in mid-July: Freeport, LI, July 19+; Jamaica Bay July 13-15; Cape May July 18 (G. Gordon, PL et al.); and Assawoman Wildlife Area, DE (ES, S. Dyke).

A **Wilson's Phalarope** nest with 4 eggs was found at the Chazy R. mouths on L. Champlain, Clinton, NY, June 7 (C. Mitchell), near where downy young constituted the Region's first breeding record in 1993. They were scarce as migrants, peaking at a measly five at Bombay Hook July 4 (FR). The only Red-necked Phalaropes ashore were at Brig in early June (F. Lesser, J. Danzenbaker), and at Colt's Neck, Monmouth, NJ, both in the first week of June (AS). The only Red Phalarope report came from Brig June 6 (MC, B. Henschel).

JAEGERS TO SKIMMER

The Avalon sea watch found only one Parasitic Jaeger in June and two in July; no Pomarines were reported from shore. Offshore, five Long-tailed Jaegers were remarkable July 12 in deep water on the continental shelf about 100 mi s. of Block I. (+PAB, DV).

The New York-New Jersey Port Authority shot only about 2000 Laughing Gulls at JFK Airport this summer, claiming success with the 2nd year of flying falcons against birds on the runway (*NY Times*, Sept. 15). Curiously, still no new Laughing Gull colonies have developed in the vast salt marshes of the s. shore of Long Island.

Following a good number of spring reports, three first-year Little Gulls were at South Amboy and Laurence Harbor, Middlesex, NJ, July 20 (BV). They were scarce on the coast, however. None was reported from Long Island, and only one in New Jersey, at Union Beach, Monmouth, July 26 (DHa). Only one was in Delaware, at the Logan Tract, June 8 (CBC, ES). Much more unusual was one or more at Tupper L., Franklin, NY, July 9 (C. Delehanty, T. Dudones). Black-headed Gulls, always scarce in summer and below normal in recent years, were found in 2 places: Port Mahon, in almost full alternate plumage, July 12 (m.ob.), and old "one-foot" back

SA A few Sandwich and Roseate terns continue to hang around Cape May and Cape Henlopen (C. Bennett) in midsummer, without evidence of breeding. After the total destruction (mostly by foxes) of the once-great colony at Cedar Beach, *Suffolk*, LI, Roseates are almost completely concentrated on Great Gull I., off Orient Pt., LI, where over 1500 nests were marked (HH). This is by far the largest Roseate Tern colony in the world. Only minor colonies persist elsewhere on Long Island. The biggest were 54 nests in Shinnecock Inlet (M. England) and 27 at Fort Tyler (M. Male), on the n. end of Gardiner's I. where the Great Gull I. team has been trying to install a new colony. A few birds, probably refugees from Cedar Beach, began colonizing Goose Flat in Great South Bay (M. Alfieri).

on Long Island at Sagg Pond July 20 (NYRBA). The gull "hot spot" on the Delaware R. at Florence, *Burlington*, NJ, remains productive in mid-summer. Unexpected was a first-summer Iceland Gull there June 5, with up to five Lesser Black-backed Gulls in various age classes, once unimaginable. One Lesser Black-backed Gull at Cape May June 12 (MO'B) and two at Pickering Beach, DE, June 29 (BP, MG) made up the rest of the summer's reports, nowadays a bit below par.

The NY DEC's census of Ring-billed Gulls in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence areas suggested that numbers were leveling off or declining. The main Oneida L. colony was below recent years (845 nests), while the Four Brothers I. colony in L. Champlain, which hosts about 15,000 out of the total 22,000 for the entire New York Great Lakes/St. Lawrence area, was the same size as when last censused 10 years ago (BMi, JMCP).

Gull-billed Terns consolidated their northernmost outpost on Long Island, where several chicks were banded from an estimated 4 pairs on N. Cinder I., Hempstead Township, *Nassau* (JZ). Some were carrying food into the marshes behind Avalon, but though a few were present in Delaware there was no evidence of breeding there. The Region's one Caspian Tern colony at Little Galloo, in its 11th year, swelled again to 1204 nests (C. Weseloh, BMi).

Least Terns were "like the old days" on the new fill of storm-battered Westhampton Beach, *Suffolk*, LI, but the houses are

due to be rebuilt there (ES). Elsewhere, they suffered from high tides in June, as well as predators, human and otherwise. Common Terns crowded them out at Breezy Pt., Jamaica Bay (DR). In Delaware, they may not have fledged any young at all (CB).

No statewide survey of breeding Black Terns was taken in New York this year, but local census results in *Jefferson* were not very encouraging. Perch River W.M.A. and Dexter Marsh W.M.A. had about 30% fewer nesting pairs than last year, but their success improved (51% hatched at least one egg) (IM). Many of the nests were on flotsam, mostly logs, some on artificial platforms, and in one case on a tire. A few lingered in Delaware all summer. **White-winged Terns** skipped Delaware for the 2nd consecutive summer, but one was along Salmon Cr. in Hilton, *Monroe*, NY, briefly July 29 (S. Skelly, KE, C. Spahn), at the very dock where one was observed in 1991.

Long Island's Black Skimmers, wiped out at Cedar Beach, concentrated at Breezy Point (about 600; DR) and Atlantic Beach (approximately 150; JZ). It is too early for New Jersey figures, and they do not nest in Delaware.

OWLS TO SHRIKES

About 30 young Barn Owls were banded in the Jamaica Bay nest box program, bringing the total to 329 (DR). Short-eared Owls now nest only in upstate New York, and rarely there. In addition to the possible *Livingston* site mentioned in the spring report, a displaying pair was observed in *Essex* (JMCP).

The news about Com. Nighthawk was all bad; Reid added Scranton, PA, to the long list of towns and cities where they no longer breed. Whip-poor-wills, by contrast, were found in hopeful numbers in the c. Pennsylvania hills. At Stony Creek, *Dauphin*, 17 were counted in early June (J. Hassinger), and New Era, *Bradford*, was a new site (T. Gerlach). At several sites in *Luzerne* they "seem to be increasing" (WR).

An ad. male **Rufous Hummingbird** visited the feeder of Nadine Cutschaw at Blairstown, *Warren*, NJ, July 28-31 (†T. Halliwell, FT), the 4th fully confirmed in New Jersey. New York's 2nd **Lewis's Woodpecker** frequented the Kurkowski feeder at Richfield Springs, *Otsego*, June 10-20 (S&C Hall, ph. D. Cesari).

Red-headed Woodpeckers remained in their s. New Jersey strongholds at Cape May and in the Lebanon State Forest, but were spotty elsewhere. Singles were in *Putnam*

(M. Usai) and *Dutchess*, NY (J. Hicks, P. Gabel), and one at Milwaukee, *Lackawanna*, June 15 (JH, RKO) was the first in several years in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found at 14 sites in *Wyoming* and *Sullivan*, PA, though only about half seemed to be full pairs (DG). The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near the entrance to Prime Hook N.W.R., DE, July 28 (*vide* PL).

Many commented on the profusion of Am. Crows even within towns (e.g., *Schenectady*; RPY), and right out on the beach, where Fish Crows formerly prevailed in midsummer (DR). A Fish Crow nest in the Salmon Run Mall, Watertown, *Jefferson*, NY, was the first n. of Syracuse in c. New York (B. Hughes).

Carolina Wrens remained low in upstate New York. Sedge Wrens were scarce and unpredictable, absent from some recently colonized areas but present in 2 areas of c. New York: 2 sites in the Cayuga L. basin (J&A Wells, B. Prentiss) and 2 sites in the Oneida L. basin, where they are not found every year (WPu). The southernmost was at Vernon Crossing Marsh, *Sussex*, NJ July 10 (J. Zamos, J. Dowdell, FT). At Tincum, an astonishing 110 pairs of Marsh Wrens were counted (E. Fingerhood).

Bicknell's Thrushes were reconfirmed breeding commonly on the summits of Hunter Mt. (some 30-40 pairs) and Plateau Mt. in the Catskills by a survey carried out by the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences. A Swainson's Thrush nest in *Sullivan*, PA (DG), was the first in n.e. Pennsylvania in 20 years (WR). Loggerhead Shrike went unreported for the 2nd year in a row.

VIREOS TO FINCHES

A male Blue-headed Vireo, settled but apparently unmated in Allaire S.P., *Monmouth*, NJ (J. Herder), recalls the localized Piedmont populations of the middle Atlantic states. "Lawrence's" Warblers were reported only from *Alleghany* S.P. (WW et al.) and Dishmill Cr., near Rochester, NY (KF), in June. Two singing male Yellow-throated Warblers were present in June at their recently established northern regular breeding limit on the upper Delaware R. on the *Orange-Sullivan*, NY, line (NYRBA). A Prairie Warbler nest was record late with 3 eggs July 26 in Amity Township, *Alleghany*, NY (VP). Palm Warblers, first found breeding in the Adirondacks in 1984, seem well established in appropriate forest bogs. At Massawepie Mire, Colton Township, *St. Lawrence*, 24 singing males were seen or heard (BL, D. DiTomasso, J. Fritz) and

another four at nearby Hitchins Bog (NL). Nine singing males were at 3 different sites in *Franklin* (W. Lanyon), plus two at Sabbatis Bog, *Hamilton* (WP, NL). Blackpoll Warblers bred again in *Wyoming*, PA, where at least 4 pairs were present at the Dutch Mt. site where breeding was first confirmed in the state in 1995, and 2 localities nearby (DG). Preliminary results from a Cerulean Warbler census in n.e. North America conducted by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology included an astonishing 250 singing males in riparian willows and cottonwoods at Montezuma (Evans et al.). A Mourning Warbler July 1 in the Walpack Valley, *Sussex*, NJ (FT), provided yet another suggestive record from n.w. New Jersey; nesting remains unconfirmed in the state.

The first Blue Grosbeak record for *Carbon*, NJ, was made on the Appalachian Trail at the *Northampton* line July 14 (RW). Dickcissels continue to try to reestablish themselves. Singing males were found again at last year's sites in c. Delaware between Milford and Slaughter Beach and at the entrance to Bombay Hook (APE, J. Skolniki, NP, BP). In New Jersey, the Hillsborough Township site, *Somerset*, was occupied again (BV), while the *Burlington* site mentioned in the spring report contained 6 nests and possibly 2 others (A. Binns, WD), thanks to the willingness of landowner Christine Connelly to delay mowing.

A male Clay-colored Sparrow sang all July at the Saratoga National Historical Park, apparently unmated (JG), adding to the growing number of midsummer records in c. New York. Another was present nearer the site of its first New York breeding in *Allegany* (B. Brooks). Grasshopper Sparrows can be abundant when conditions are suitable. Among our biggest reports were 15 in *Livingstone*, NY (KF, J. Fox); 32 counted and about 4 times as many estimated in the Calverton, LI, grasslands June 8 (RJK); and 200-300 pairs at Lakehurst (D. Sutherland, MK et al.). Two recently capped landfills in *Onondaga*, NY, have been colonized by Grasshopper Sparrows (WP). Henslow's Sparrows hung on in New York where habitat permitted. Some good recent sites declined (e.g. only one at Saratoga National Historical Park), but up to 14 males sang in *Livingston* (KF), and a few others were in Amity Township, *Allegany* (VP), and the Ft. Edward Grasslands, *Washington* (2 nests

with five young and another male; JG). The most southerly known to us was the long-established colony at W. Nicholson, *Wyoming*, PA, still active with at least four, perhaps seven, males (WR, RKO, RW).

A **Western Meadowlark** was recorded for 22 minutes at Colt's Neck, *Monmouth*, NJ; the tape is under study by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee as the possible first fully documented state record. Another was reported singing at Center, *Juniata*, PA, from late June into July (Philadelphia Birdline). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Goshen, *Cumberland*, NJ, June 27-28 (D. Dunlap).



Henslow's Sparrow is still holding on as a scarce and local breeder in the Hudson-Delaware region. This bird was at the long-established colony site at West Nicholson, Pennsylvania, on July 3, 1997. Photograph/Rick Wiltraut

EXOTICS

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) has reached this Region. This species, spreading rapidly in North America since arriving apparently unassisted in Florida, probably in the early 1980s, was confirmed there in 1986 (P. William Smith, AB 41: 1370-1379). One or two have apparently been present for perhaps a year at a nursery on the East Hampton-Amagansett town line, *Suffolk*, LI (PAB).

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): **Robert Andrie** (Niagara Frontier Area), **Tom Bailey** (TBA) (coastal NJ: 87 Wyndham Pl., Robbinsville, NJ 08691); **Irv-ing Black** (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), **Michael Bochnik** (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), Daniel Brauning (PA Game Commission), Elizabeth Brooks, P.A. Buckley, **T. W. Burke** (NY Rare Bird Alert), C.D. Campbell, Michael Casper, Kathleen Clark (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), Richard Crossley, Dorothy

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