

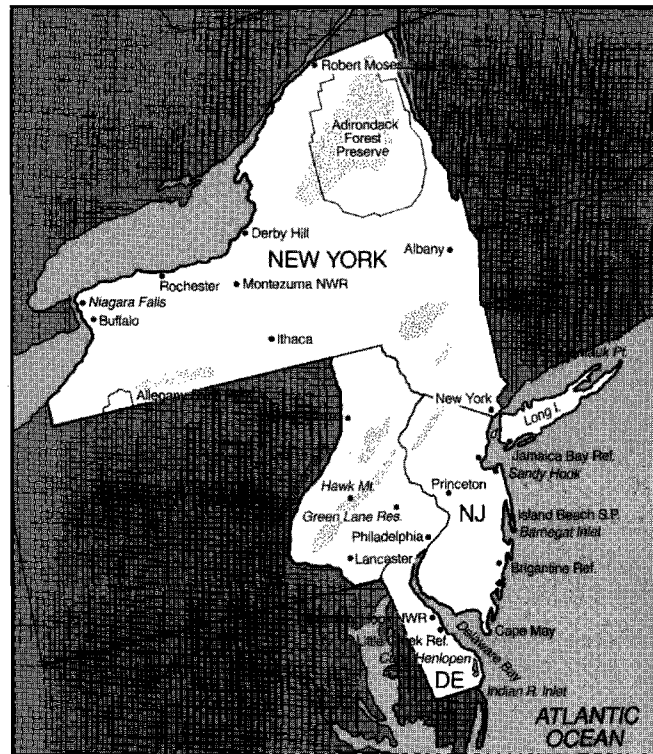
Shoals, NH, 7 Jun (RS) and Plum I, Jun 7–25 (JH et al.).

One of the outstanding rarities of the season was a male **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in breeding plumage at Haddam, *Middlesex*, CT, 18–19 Jun (D. Gumbart, ph. J. Hough, m.ob. *fide* GH) for a 2nd confirmed state record and one of fewer than 10 for the Region. Almost as seasonably inexplicable was a Snow Bunting at Nantucket I. 14 June (ER). Blue Grosbeaks made unusual early summer appearances at Southwick, *Hampden*, 23 Jun–23 Jul (SK, m.ob) and Williamsburg, *Hampshire*, MA, 27 Jun (GL). At the Region's only known breeding locality, a female Boat-tailed Grackle was observed carrying food at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT, 8 Jun (C. Barnard *fide* GH). Inexplicable is the only word to describe a Pine Grosbeak at Plum I. 17 Jul (DO). A pair of Red Crossbills that brought a juvenile to a feeder at Wellesley, *Norfolk*, MA, 2 Jun (CM) strongly suggested the possibility of local nesting; however, 10 White-winged Crossbills at Colrain, *Franklin*, MA, 25 Jul+ (RB) gave no such indication.

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Summer 2000 was exceptionally cool and damp in most of this region. New York City had its chilliest July since 1914, and July was the coolest ever at Albany (4°F below normal). New York City never exceeded 90°F all summer, unprecedented since records began in 1875. Rainfall was above average, except in upland western New York. Rainstorms downed early shorebird migrants at inland lakes and flooded fields after mid-July, and the persistent easterlies associated with them pushed numerous pelagic birds onshore. Offshore, abundant tubenoses and jaegers gathered around feeding whales. The precise mix of water conditions, food, and wind that amass these marine concentrations remains unknown

The wet season, with its abundant insects and lush understory, was often favorable for nesting. "Coming on the heels of two successive summers of drought, this summer's relative plethora of bird song and activity was a very refreshing change" (M. Perry). Delayed mowing because of rain or local practices boosted productivity of Eastern Meadowlarks in *Otsego*, NY (T. Salo) and in *Berks*, PA, along with Bobolinks, (RK) and of Upland Sandpipers at Fort Edward, *Washington*, NY (JG). On the other hand, wet weather may have hindered nesting eagles and peregrines, and something else cut Osprey productivity in coastal s. New Jersey (KC) and New York (BL). Deer overgrazed understory habitat from *Allegheny*, NY (VP) to Fort Washington Park, in the Philadelphia suburbs, where Hooded, Worm-eating, and Kentucky Warblers no longer breed (B&NM). Animal predators that thrive on human leavings, such as crows, Raccoons (see Great Blue Heron) and Red Foxes (see herons, Piping Plover) posed problems. The main problem was still the boss predator, whose jet-skis and off-road vehicles overwhelmed beaches, marshes and waterways

Vivian Pitzrick documented her 10,000th nest for the Cornell Nest Box Network, a House Wren near Scio, *Allegany*, NY, May 17. Work began on an updated New York Breeding Bird Atlas; the current edition was researched in 1980-1985.

Outstanding rarities included Red-necked Stint, Little Stint, a White-tailed Tropicbird report, Franklin's Gull, Bridled Tern, and an out-of-season Atlantic Puffin.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ); Conejohela Flats (Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA); Democrat Pt. (western tip of Fire I., *Suffolk*, Long Island, NY); The Four Brothers (islands in L. Champlain, off Willsboro, *Essex*, NY); HMEC (Hackensack Meadows Environmental Center, Rutherford, *Bergen*, NJ); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Refuge, New York City); Lakehurst (Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, *Ocean*, NJ); NYDEC (New York Department of Environmental Conservation); Port Mahon (marshes and bayshore east of Little Creek, *Kent*, DE); Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

An early Eared Grebe in partial alternate plumage at the Batavia Water Treatment Plant near Buffalo 26 Jul (WW) was one of 3 there so far in 2000; late summer post-breeding wanderers occasionally reach the East Coast.

Shearwaters and storm-petrels were seen abundantly from shore regionwide, beginning with easterly storm winds 15 Jul. The best of several good days on Long Island was 16 Jul, when "amazing totals" of 150 Cory's, 77 Sooty, 38 Manx (a state-record count), and 15 Greater Shearwaters, and 20 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were visible off East Hampton, *Suffolk*, along with another 300 more shearwaters too far out to identify (HMcG, AB). Offshore, "thousands" of shearwaters accompanied tuna schools in mid-July (O. Birhol). On 29 Jul, 15 mi. ESE of Montauk Pt., a company of whales (21+ Fin, 3 Humpback, and 5 Minke) fed among large schools of herring and smaller fish close to the surface. Over them turned masses of seabirds: "The sea was flat calm and absolutely covered in Wilson's Storm-Petrels both feeding and roosting. Our numbers are likely to be a significant underestimate because it was hard to keep track amid the excitement. We encountered several rafts composed of hundreds of roosting storm-petrels, and

feeding individuals could be seen scattered over the glassy water all the way to the horizon. The shearwaters were generally more concentrated over the feeding whales..." Tubenoses totaled 90+ Cory's, 150+ Greater, 17+ Sooty, and 12+ Manx Shearwaters, and 2500+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels (AG, AW, TWB, G. Benson). Memorable pelagic trips out of Lewes, DE, 4 & 10 Jun produced (among many other birds) a few Cory's, numerous Greater, and a good count of 161 Sooty Shearwaters 4 Jun, typically peaking in early summer. There were also 250 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. The rarest tubenose was a Leach's Storm-Petrel close to the boat about 35 mi. e. of Fenwick I., DE, 4 Jun (APE, FONT), the third recent early June record in Delaware. Amid this plenty, Northern Fulmars were notably absent.

The season's only American White Pelican lingered in the Thousand Acre Marsh along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, *New Castle*, DE, after 22 Jul. Brown Pelicans, now breeding up the Chesapeake Bay into Maryland, dispersed sparingly northward. Aside from 200 near Barnegat Light, *Ocean*, NJ, 30 Jun (A. Tongas), most observations did not exceed two dozen.

SA In 1999, after fishermen's complaints, the NYDEC began a five-year egg-oiling operation to diminish the Double-crested Cormorant mega-colony on Little Galloo I. in eastern L. Ontario (*N. Am. Birds* 53:367). Only 5119 pairs nested (5681 last summer), and only about 50 chicks hatched, all from untreated tree nests (BL). Elsewhere this species kept multiplying. A new colony of six nests in the St. Lawrence River near Morristown, *St. Lawrence*, NY, was the first on the American side (BL). They expanded to 1312 pairs in NY Harbor (PK), where their feces are killing heronry trees. The Four Brothers colony, against the trend, declined slightly for the second year to 1346 (JMCP).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The NY Audubon Society's Harbor Herons Project, in its 17th year, found 1563 pairs of herons of eight species breeding on 13 islands, an astonishing growth from nothing since the water was cleaned up in the 1970s. Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, and Glossy Ibis continued a five-year slide there, for unknown reasons, but Great Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron

numbers remained stable. Black-crowned Night-Herons composed 66% of the total (PK). Cattle Egrets were the only one among 10 species in the great Pea Patch Island heronry, *New Castle*, DE, to decline, from 803 pairs in 1998 to 518 (J. Yacabucci, Manomet). On the Four Brothers, Red Foxes on Islands A and B caused the nesting colony to decamp to C and D.

An entire colony of 450 pairs of Great Blue Herons on Ironsides I., in the St. Lawrence R., deserted their eggs, probably due to Raccoons. Some 200 pairs that attempted nesting on nearby Hemlock I. were driven off by the owner, and only about 50 managed to re-nest (BL). Great Egrets still press northward. Four chicks in 2 nests were banded in a new colony on the Four Brothers (JMCP). Breeding continued on Motor I., Buffalo (WW). Additional colonies exist even further north in Québec. A Tricolored Heron, very rare in upstate New York, reached Buffalo in mid-Jun (RA, BK); none nested in NY Harbor (PK). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, notoriously difficult to census, have colonized se. New York only since 1938. This season only 5 nests were found in NY Harbor (PK), and we received no Long Island reports. In New Jersey, 3 nesting sites were unusually far north in *Bergen*; one of these was well inland at Allendale, unknown in the atlas (1993-1997) (S. Thomas, R. Fallon, RR et al.). Pennsylvania breeding is still concentrated along the lower Susquehanna and Conestoga Rivers (DH). Now that White Ibis breed north to Virginia, post-breeding wanderers are expected; this season's only report was of an immature at Bombay Hook 2 Jul (C. Winters, R. Bussian). Glossy Ibis did not return to their northernmost outpost established last summer on the Four Brothers. Single White-faced Ibis, rare but regular, were at Jones Beach S.P., Suffolk Co., LI, 6 Jun (NYRBA), continuing from May, and Bombay Hook 3 Jun (MG).

Redheads nested at Upper and Lower Lakes W.M.A., *St. Lawrence*, NY (H. Armisted), for the first time in many years. They no longer breed, however, at some New York atlas sites, such as Jamaica Bay. Ring-necked Duck, an irregular breeder in the Adirondacks since 1946, was confirmed at Tupper L., *Franklin*, NY (CD). Thriving Hooded Mergansers were confirmed for the first time in *Berks*, PA, by a nest in a Wood Duck box near Lenhartsville (J. Schuker) and a brood at Birdsboro Res., Robeson Township (BU). Ruddy Ducks bred again at the H.M.E.C. (R. Kane),

where they first bred in New Jersey in 1958 (although missing in the atlas) and at Glen Morgan Lake, *Berks*, their only known breeding location in Pennsylvania (RK).

RAPTORS

Osprey productivity fell again, as in 1997 and 1998, in *Atlantic* and *Cape May*, NJ, for reasons unknown, though not at inland or north coastal sites (KC). Productivity was also low in coastal New York (BLs). After a busy spring for kites, one or two sub-adult Mississippi Kites hung around Cape May, as they have annually since 1980. Breeding remains unknown north of n. Virginia. Two turned up in Pennsylvania: Leesport, 5 Jul (J. Horn), the fourth *Berks* record, and near Easton, *Northampton*, 9 Jul (AK). One Swallow-tailed Kite appeared 15 Jun over Tuckahoe, *Cape May*, NJ (J. Liguori).

New York's breeding Bald Eagle population continues to grow 10–15% per year. Territorial pairs have grown from 14 in 1990 to 45 last year and 51 this summer, of which 35 pairs successfully fledged 71 young (64 in 1999 and 15 in 1990). A slightly smaller proportion of the nests succeeded this year, perhaps because of wet weather, but food was plentiful and three-chick nests increased to nine (P. Nye, Endangered Species Unit, NYDEC). In New Jersey, 23 active pairs laid eggs and 18 of them fledged 30 young, which included one eaglet fostered into a Maryland nest. State officials recovered 3 dead Bald Eagles, 2 electrocuted and one after collision with a power line. These deaths caused 2 nests to fail, but at a 3rd, the male managed to rear 3 young alone. Delaware had 16 pairs, up from 14 last year (A. Doolittle). Pennsylvania's 18, noted in our spring report, included a new pair in *Pike* and the first successful nest in N. Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lebanon* (DB).

Cooper's Hawks are adapting aggressively to suburbia. This season at least 3 nested in or near Reading, PA. One was in an abandoned Black-crowned Night-Heron nest in the West Lawn colony. The only conflict observed was reciprocal thefts of sticks (J. Brown, BU). A pair of Cooper's Hawks spent the nesting period at White Clay Creek at the edge of Newark, DE, for the second successive summer (C. Hecksher). The *Northampton*, PA, American Kestrel nest-box program, active since 1993, mounted 136 boxes, 83.8% of them occupied (the highest ever, as siting is perfected), and banded 315 young (S. Boyce, R. Wiltraut)

SA The region's growing population of reintroduced Peregrine Falcons occupies natural sites only in New York: 15 pairs in the Adirondacks, a new pair at Niagara Falls, and two in the middle Hudson R. Valley, *Orange* (BLs). Elsewhere they occupy man-made structures, where they are becoming media stars. Kodak has a web page of the eyrie on its tower in Rochester, NY, and the NYDEC website of an Albany pair was very popular. A newly successful Peregrine couple on the Rachel Carson building in Harrisburg, PA, and their 4 chicks (only one of which survived) received 34,000,000 hits for both stills and live video on a sophisticated Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection web site (DH, DB).

SHOREBIRDS

Spring shorebird migration extended as usual into June. The final aerial survey 7 Jun of Delaware Bay staging areas found 15,750, 75% of them Semipalmated Sandpipers, plus Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, and Sanderlings (KC). Some, such as a Red Knot on L. Ontario at the Chazy riverlands, *Clinton*, NY, 20 Jun and a Lesser Yellowlegs there 25 Jun, both in alternate plumage, (W. Krueger, C. Mitchell), could have been coming or going. A Semipalmated Sandpiper in basic plumage (a plumage rarely observed) at Stone Harbor Pt., *Cape May*, NJ, 5 Jun, along with a basic-plumaged Western Sandpiper there 5–16 Jun, call attention to the little-studied matter of where non-breeders summer (PL, J. Dowdell). On the return voyage, shorebirds "were literally dropping out of the skies because of bad weather" at Green Pond, between Easton and Bethlehem, *Northampton*, PA, 26 Jul. They included 115 Lesser Yellowlegs and 16 Stilt Sandpipers, sights "unheard of here" (AK). The same day nine species of shorebirds appeared at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, PA, and 2 Hudsonian Godwits and a Whimbrel visited the Conejohela Flats.

A Black-necked Stilt was far from its Delaware stronghold at Oak Beach, *Suffolk*, LI, 10–18 Jun (AG, AJL). American Avocets, normally abundant post-breeding wanderers from the west to coastal Delaware, remained there all this summer, 100 were counted at Little Creek W M A , e

of Dover, DE, 17 Jun (FR) Two, presumably eastbound, stopped in Pennsylvania Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, 15 Jul and Green Pond, *Northampton*, 25 Jul, where they are "really unusual" (F. Brock, AK) Those looking for prizes among bright returning male shorebirds in July were richly rewarded on Long Island A **Red-necked Stint** at Cupsogue County Park and Pike's Beach, *Suffolk*, 12–18 Jul (J. Fritz, ph. AW) attracted crowds A second bird found there 15–16 Jul proved to be a **Little Stint** (†E. Salzman, †C. Neri, D. Klauber, ph. R. Sanford, m.ob.) These constitute the 6th and 3rd confirmed New York records, respectively; neither was known in this region before 1979. Upland Sandpiper information is sketchy, but 10 pairs hung on at Lakehurst (TBo, DSu), their New Jersey stronghold and probably their current southern limit. The only Curlew Sandpiper reports were from *Suffolk*, LI: one briefly at Democrat Pt. 18 Jun (A. Ott) and one in basic plumage at Westhampton Dunes 4 Jul (AB). Bombay Hook was again the place for Ruffs, but they were scarce A splendid chestnut-and-black male was present 8–13 Jul (FR, APE, m.ob.), followed by a Reeve 22–30 Jul (FR, m.ob.). Twelve Red Phalaropes on the aforementioned 29 Jul whaling trip off Montauk were early

SA Piping Plovers had a second encouraging summer in New Jersey, thanks to nest exclusions against crows, gulls, and foxes, increased cooperation from beach managers, and commercial trappers of Red Foxes. The state's 115 pairs increased from 105 last year, and productivity grew to around 1.4 (DJ). Long Island totals were incomplete at deadline, but productivity was expected to drop below last year's 1.37 (Dan Rosenblatt, NYDEC). The NYDEC proposes to designate 17 miles of e. Lake Ontario shore as critical habitat for Piping Plovers, which would affect the way W.M.A.s operate in this area (B. Miller, NYDEC). Piping Plovers last nested on New York's Great Lakes shores at Sandy Pond, *Oswego*, in 1984. The last 3 pairs in Delaware fledged 5 young at Cape Henlopen S.P. (CB).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Jaegers were present right through the summer Most unexpected was a South Polar Skua off East Hampton, LI, with the

great pelagic movement of 16 Jul (HMcG, AB), Two Pomarine Jaegers were off Lewes, DE, 4 Jun (APE, FONT), along with amazing numbers in Maryland waters. Onshore observations of Parasitic Jaegers included one on the unexpected date of 15 Jun at Democrat Pt., and 3 each 15–16 Jul with the great pelagic movement off Shinnecock and East Hampton. One Long-tailed Jaeger, by far the rarest here, visited Democrat Pt. on the curious date of 14 Jun (SM). The Laughing Gull colony near J.F.K. Airport is down to 2500 pairs, more from marsh flooding than from the airport's control efforts (DR). The anticipated colony elsewhere in the coastal bays of s. Long Island remains undiscovered. A first-summer **Franklin's Gull** at Port Mahon was very early 23 Jul (MG, B. Peterjohn, FR). An adult Little Gull in alternate plumage at Hamlin Beach S. P., *Monroe*, NY, 19 Jul (WS) was not far from historic breeding sites. A first-summer Black-headed Gull there the same day (WS) was less usual on the Great Lakes.

Gull-billed Terns continued at their n. limit in the Great South Bay of Long Island, where 5–6 pairs frequented Hempstead, *Suffolk* (JZ). Caspian Terns, normally breeding only on L. Ontario, fledged one chick at Tow I., near Tuckerton, *Ocean*, NJ (J. Burger), continuing a trickle of New Jersey nestings since 1984. Three Royal Tern pairs, a species that bred once in New Jersey (1988) and may again, displayed courtship behavior in the skimmer colony in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May* (PL). This region's Roseate Terns are now almost entirely concentrated on Great Gull I., off the e. tip of LI, where an estimated 1952 pairs, the greatest colony outside Asia and Africa, cohabited with 10,000† pairs of Common Terns (H. Hays). Since Red Foxes panicked the important Cedar Beach colony in 1995, it is troubling that only a handful of Roseates nest elsewhere on Long Island. A few were observed at Cape May as usual, but breeding remains unknown in New Jersey. Up to 3 imm. Arctic Terns were at Democrat Pt. 10–14 Jun: one and maybe more first-summer (*portlandica* plumage, see NAB 53: 365), and at least 2 second-summer-type (SM, AJL, AG, P. Lindsay). These observations confirm an emerging pattern of non-breeding sub-adult Arctic Terns on e. Long Island in early to middle June, as in coastal New England (Richard R. Veit and Wayne R. Peterson, *Birds of Massachusetts*, 1993, p. 238). The northernmost substantial colony of Forster's Terns (50 pairs) still exists

alongside J.F.K. Airport (DR), while about 8 pairs, somewhat above normal, marked the northern limit in Great South Bay, Hempstead, *Suffolk*, LI (JZ). Least Terns struggle to occupy leftover bits of beach, having failed to adapt like the others to salt marsh. Long Island figures were incomplete at press time, but the New Jersey total of 1350–1600 adults (1900 last year) and about 720 nests at 18–20 sites indicated gradual slippage (DJ). Although they attempted to nest at each of Delaware's beach parks, no young seem to have fledged. Four **Bridled Terns** 30 mi. off Delaware 4 Jun, at the 30-fathom line, constituted a second June state record, following the first last year (APE, FONT).

SA A non-breeding Sandwich Tern, now regular in small numbers at Cape May, appeared also at Pike's Beach, *Suffolk*, LI, in mid-July (SM et al.). Nearby on 17–18 Jul was a bird identified as the Cayenne race of the Sandwich Tern, *S. s. eurygnatha*, of coastal South America, by several independent observers (J. Fritz, HMcG, †SM). This observation of a form never before recorded in the region has been referred to the New York State Avian Records Committee.

While the total number of Black Skimmers (2000–2300 adults) held nearly steady in New Jersey, the number of breeding areas ominously continued to dwindle. This summer skimmers used only six nesting sites in New Jersey. Over half the birds were in the Strathmere Natural Area, Corson's Inlet, *Cape May*. Productivity seemed poor, due to disturbance and tides (DJ). A remarkable record was a leftover sub-adult Atlantic Puffin at the 30-fathom line off Delaware on 4 Jun, the first state June record, though some May records exist (APE, FONT).

DOVES THROUGH TANAGERS

A White-winged Dove at Durhamville, *Oneida*, 11–15 Jun (B. Best, m.ob.) constituted a first for the Oneida Lake Basin and the most northerly New York State record. A Great Horned Owl nest in Alley Pond Park was a first for Queens, NYC (EM, SW). After nearly total disappearance of Common Nighthawks from the urban rooftops where they flourished a generation ago, rural areas offered encouragement: several in the Adirondacks (CD), 10

pairs at Lakehurst (TBo, DSu), and several at Cape Henlopen, DE (CB). A fledgling Three-toed Woodpecker at Powley Place, *Hamilton*, NY (D. Rohleder), always rare, was slightly south of atlas limits. Red-headed Woodpeckers, common here 60 years ago but today limited to vestigial remnants, looked better. In New York, breeding was confirmed in *Dutchess* for the first time since 1988 (J. Lucas). They were present at Pt. Gratiot, *Chautauqua*, and 13 were in the traditional Nations Road location, *Livingston*. In New Jersey, breeding was confirmed in *Atlantic*, and the established population continued in *Cape May*. In Pennsylvania, nesting was confirmed at two places in *Berks*, and an apparent family group frequented the Gettysburg Military Park in late July (Phila. Birdline).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, threatened in Pennsylvania, still breed in *Sullivan* and *Wyoming* (DG). A Western Kingbird was remarkably early 4 Jul at Cape May (J. Lukens). A pair of Eastern Kingbirds built a nest on a traffic-light stanchion in Springfield Township, *Burlington*, NJ, behavior observed in Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, but exceptional in this species (TBa). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported: Cape Henlopen S.P., DE, 8 Jun (CB) and Oceanside, *Nassau*, LI, 29 Jun (B. Overton), with probably the same bird seen the next day at Jones Beach S. P. Far more unusual was the Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Little Neck Bay, Douglaston, Queens, NYC, 1 Jun (ph. SW et al.) Philadelphia Vireos were present through June at two sites in *Putnam*, NY, 120 miles south of the nearest atlas site (H. Turner). A Carolina Wren building near Plattsburgh, *Clinton*, NY, 28 Jun (C. Olsen, M. Smith), was far north of atlas limits, as this species rebounds from its 1993–1994 winter kill-off. Elusive and threatened, Sedge Wrens were found singing in four locations in upstate New York: Pomfret Township, *Chautauqua* (T. Mosher, B.Klick); near Tupper L., *Franklin* (CD); Argyle Township, *Washington* (JG); Derby Hill, *Oswego* (WP); as well as in Pennsylvania at Newton Township, *Lackawanna* (R. Koval, J. Hoyson), most not regular sites.

Lawrence's Warblers were good finds at Smithboro, *Tioga*, NY, 3 Jun and 1 Jul (R.&R. Pantle, J. Baldwin) and Bombay, *Franklin*, NY, 7–8 Jul (JMCP). Northern Parulas feeding young in Alley Pond Park in June constituted a first Queens breeding record (EM, SW). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Mongaup, *Sullivan*, NY, 4 Jun,

where previously found in 1997, and another in the Sterling Forest, *Orange*, 25 Jun (M. Victoria) confirm this species' recent advance up the upper Delaware R. drainage into New York. Blackpoll Warbler continues to breed at Coal Bed Swamp, *Wyoming*, PA (DG). A Worm-eating Warbler was carrying food in s. *Albany*, NY, north of atlas limits (B. Budliger). A *Swainson's Warbler* reported singing near Easton, *Northampton*, PA, in mid-Jun was late and distant from both mountain and coastal breeding ranges (AK).

A dead Summer Tanager at Old Chatham, *Columbia*, NY, 9 Jun (K. Dunham, E. Grace) was far north of known breeding areas.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Clay-colored Sparrows continued to consolidate their presence in upstate New York. In addition to a nest in Andover Township, *Allegany*, an annual site since 1997 (EBr), singing males were found at Mendon Ponds, *Monroe* (D. Sherony, C. Cass, R. Mather) and at two locations in *Essex* (S. Barnes, C. Slatkin). More unexpected was a singing male far down the Hudson at Woodbourne, *Sullivan*, NY, where also found a couple of years ago (V. Freer, R. Davis, M. Collier, R. Schursky, K. Conklin). A count of 200 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows at Lakehurst gives some idea of how this species responds to favorable habitat (TBo, DSu). Henslow's Sparrows were absent from their traditional site at West Nicholson, *Wyoming*, PA, though 2 were found in adjacent *Sullivan* (R. Conant). This retreating species is common only well north, such as the 45 atlas reports in the Perch R. Grasslands, *Jefferson*, NY (*vide* BL) and over a dozen at Lancaster, *Erie*, near Buffalo (MM).

Dickcissels modestly continued their eastward re-colonization. Nesting was confirmed at Pomfret, *Chautauqua*, NY (R. Miga), and w. of Milford, *Kent*, DE (S. Dyke et al.). Bobolinks were not found breeding in Delaware, but southerly breeding pairs included 15 near Chesterfield, *Burlington*, NJ, 18 Jun (TBo) and 25+ in Tincum Township at the edge of Philadelphia (AM). A tradition of late mowing aids a good population at the base of the Kittatinny Ridge in *Berks*, PA (RK). A White-winged Crossbill irruption may be in the making. Singing males were "all over the place" in the Adirondacks (JMCP), and young were fed at Blue Ridge, *Essex*, NY, in July (D. Fiske).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS: A bird-conscious fishing boat skipper reported a

White-tailed Tropicbird about 20 mi s. of Montauk Point 15 Jun (J. Passie *vide* J. Ash).

Observers (Subregional compilers in bold-face): Robert Andrlé (Niagara Frontier Area), Tom Bailey (TBo), Andy Baldelli, **Chris Bennett** (*Sussex*, DE: Cape Henlopen S. P., 42 Cape Henlopen Dr., Lewes, DE 19958), **Michael Bochnik** (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), Tom Boyle (TBo), Cyrus Brame (Tincum N. W. R., Philadelphia), Daniel Brauning (PA Game Commission), Elizabeth Brooks, **T. W. Burke** (NY Rare Bird Alert), Kathy Clark (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), **Ward Dasey** (s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), Charlicie Delehanty, **A. P. Ednie** (*New Castle and Kent*, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), **Vince Elia** (s. coastal NJ: 106 Carolina Ave., Villas, NJ 08251), Focus on Nature Tours (FONT), **Jane Graves** (Hudson-Mohawk, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), **K. C. Griffith** (Genesee, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Doug Gross, Mary Gustafson, Andy Guthrie, **Armas Hill** (Phila. Birdline), **Deuane Hoffman** (lower Susquehanna, PA: 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111-1827), Dave Jenkins (NJ Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife), **Rudy Keller** (*Berks*, PA: 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512), Paul Kerlinger Brendan Klick, **Arlene Koch** (Lehigh Valley, PA: 1375 Raubsville Rd., Easton, PA 18042), R. J. Kurtz, A. J. Lauro, Paul Lehman, **Bob Long** (St. Lawrence, NY: 2807 Citation Dr., Pompey, NY 13138), Barbara Loucks (BLs) (NYDEC), **Hugh McGuinness** (east end, LI), Eric Miller, August Mirabella, Shai Mitra, **Michael Morgante** (Niagara Frontier, NY: 16 Lakeside Crescent, Lancaster, NY 14086), Brian Moscatello, Bill and Naomi Murphy, **Bill Ostrander** (Finger Lakes, NY: 872 Harris Hill Rd., Elmira, NY 14903), **Ed Patten** (n.w. NJ: 9 Cornfield Terrace, Flemington, NJ 08822), **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 (JBWR), Frank Rohrbacher, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), William Symonds, **R. G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), **Eric Sullivan** (Susquehanna region, NY: 42 Patricia St., Binghamton, NY 13905), Don Sutherland (DSu), **Pat Sutton** (Cape May Bird Observatory), Dan Tetlow, Bill Uhrich, **Brian Vernachio** (n.e. NJ: 794 Rancocas Rd., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060), Steve Walter, William Watson, Angus Wilson, **Al Wollin** (AWo; Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R. P. Yunist, John Zarudski.

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