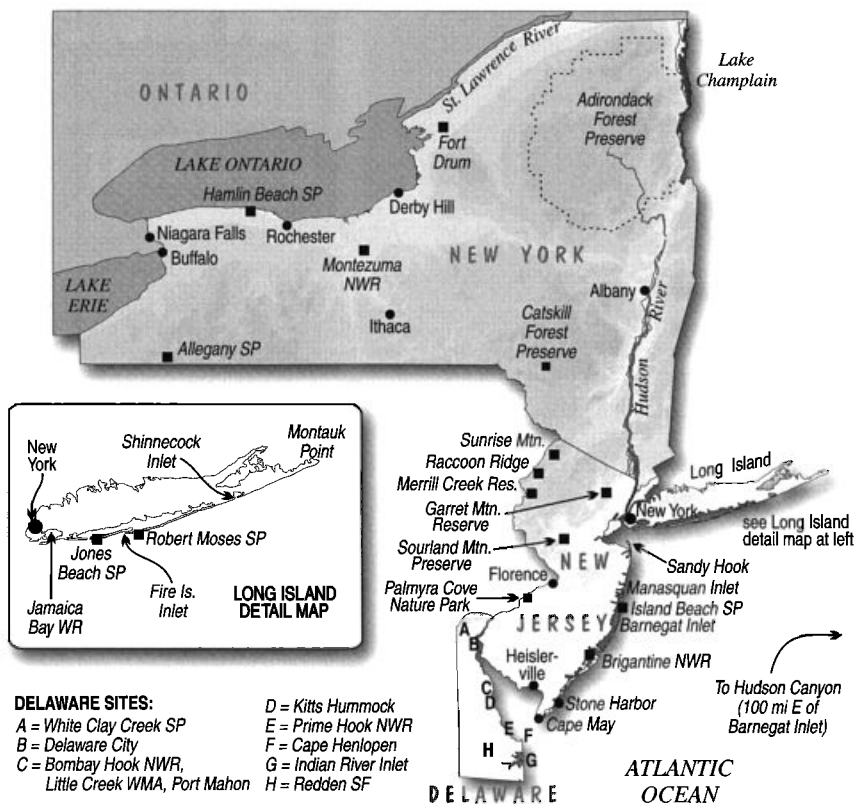


Hudson-Delaware



June was soggy and cold, continuing a cold, soggy late spring. Wilmington, Delaware had the wettest June ever recorded (25 cm of rain, nearly twice normal), and New York City had the wettest in a century (26 cm of rain). Along the coast, 13 consecutive rainy weekends extended into July. Farther north, rainfall was nearer average, but it remained cloudy and cool. July was hot and humid with more nearly normal rainfall, though it rained 14 days that month in Rochester and in New York City.

Bad weather was blamed for some nestling mortality in Ospreys, Bald Eagles, gallinaceous birds, and insectivorous birds (Tree Swallows, bluebirds, Purple Martins). Prevailing easterlies produced abnormally high tides at the mid-June full moon, compounding the damage done to beach and coastal marsh nesters by two extra-high lunar tides in May. We cannot measure the losses exactly, which were offset somewhat by re-nesting, but productivity was low in these species.

Migration ran late. Waders peaked in the first week of June, and passerines were still moving even later. For example, Prothonotary Warblers were at Central Park, N.Y.C. 6 Jun (P. Pollock) and at Mianus R. Gorge, Westchester, NY 14 Jun (TWB et al.), while Blackpoll Warblers sang at Margate, Atlantic, NJ 18 Jun (DAC) and at Webster, Monroe, NY 24 Jun (J. Boettcher, N. Platt).

Outstanding events included photographed Little and Red-necked Stints, a banded MacGillivray's Warbler, and the first New York breeding of Sandhill Crane.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); D.N.R.E.C. (Delaware Dept. of Nat. Res. & Env. Cons.); Broadkill Beach (unit of Primehook N.W.R., Sussex, DE); Fort Drum (Fort Drum Military Installation, Watertown, Jefferson, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City); N.J.D.E.G.W. (New Jersey Dept. of Fish, Game & Wildlife); N.Y.D.E.C. (New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation).

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Because Red-throated Loons linger less frequently into summer than Common Loons, several in Jul on the Long I. and New Jersey shores, including one in alternate plumage at the Carman's R. mouth, Suffolk, Long I. 19 Jul (Jim Clinton), were noteworthy. The Adirondack

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Cooperative Loon Project's "loon rangers," over 300 strong, censused Common Loons again in n. New York. Although results were incomplete at press time, they were expected to resemble those of 2002, when 383 ads., 59 chicks, and 9 imms. were found on 121 lakes (38 lakes were loonless), all but six of them within the Adirondack Park (Nina Schoch). Elsewhere, a pair nested for the first time in 15 years on the Saint Lawrence R. in Morristown Twp., St. Lawrence, NY (MS).

Pied-billed Grebes, difficult to find as a breeder in Delaware in recent years, had one confirmed nesting site near Wilmington at Harry's Pond, which is now slated for condominium development. A remarkable number of Red-necked Grebes remained from the great spring invasion: 3 on Hoopes Reservoir, w. of Wilmington 18 Jun (Michael Smith, ph. Bob Rufe) for the first Delaware summer record, and singles in the New Jersey Meadowlands at Kearny Marsh East, Hudson 15 Jun (MBr), on Boonton Res., Morris 4 Jul (DO, RR), and at Camden 22 Jul (*vide* Laurie Larson). Only a handful of Brown Pelicans moved n. this season.

Offshore birding was rather undistinguished, with the exception of 21 Jun, when 1000 Greater Shearwaters and 500 Sooty Shearwaters were 34 km se. of Montauk Pt. (JP); numbers were sharply down next day, though about 1000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were in the same waters 24 Jun (JP). Among tubenoses seen from shore were 2 Manx Shearwaters in the rain 1 Jun off Shinnecock (AB, SM) and one off Democrat Pt. 8 Jun (SM), both on Long I. Commercial whale-watching trips 26–48 km off Cape May found a few Cory's and Greater Shearwaters in late Jun, along with hundreds of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, as well as an Audubon's Shearwater 24 Jul. The only Northern Fulmar came to a fishing boat off Montauk 22 Jun (JP).

After years of increase, Double-crested Cormorant nests in New York Harbor declined, for unknown reasons, to 1098, an 8.9% drop (EJM). Somewhat reduced numbers on L. Ontario at Rochester were attributed to the N.Y.D.E.C.'s continuing population control measures, carried out since 1999 at Little Galloo I.; the species

is increasing, however, along the Saint Lawrence R. (MS).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Harry Armistead enjoyed a "nine-bittern day" at Upper and Lower Lakes W.M.A., near Canton, St. Lawrence, NY 16 Jun—a feat hardly replicable with American Bitterns farther s. in this Region. Six Least Bitterns at Tonawanda W.M.A.,



A remnant of the February/March 2003 invasion of the East and Midwest, this Red-necked Grebe at Hoopes Reservoir in Delaware 19 June 2003 was one of several that spent the summer at this latitude. Photograph by Bob Rufe.

Niagara-Orleans-Genesee, NY 29 Jun (P. Yoerg), 5–6 at the Raritan Arsenal, Somerset, NJ (T. Boyle, MBr), and 15 at Supawna Meadows W.M.A., Salem, NJ (Ward Dasey) were encouraging.

The 19th survey of the growing heron population of New York Harbor, sponsored by New York City Audubon, showed a 20% increase to 1837 breeding pairs of eight species, 59% (1093) of them Black-crowned Night Herons. The most encouraging development was a four-fold increase of Glossy Ibis in the harbor, to 250 pairs (EJM). On the down side, Glossy Ibis numbers remain at about a quarter of historic highs at the great Pea Patch I. heronry off Delaware City (1042 on 12 Jun, CB). That colony continues to decline; the most optimistic compilation of maxima for each species gives a total of only about 1600 birds counted from the Delaware side (CB), compared to 12,000 pairs in 1993–1994.

Our northernmost known Great Egret colony in the Niagara R. expanded again, with 29 birds found 7 Jun (William Watson); they may have bred again on the Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain, but study there has been interrupted (JMCP). A Tricolored Heron was far adrift at Greece, Monroe, NY, on L. Ontario 17 Jun (KCG). Cattle Egrets,

down to only two nests in New York harbor (EJM), were also far below historic highs at Pea Patch (206 ads. 12 Jun, CB); there were 4000 pairs in 1993. One was an excellent find at Eden, Erie, NY 20 Jun (Don Harris, RA).

Adult White Ibis, rare in this Region, showed up along the coast from May onward. It is uncertain how many individuals were involved. One banded bird at Jamaica Bay 23 Jun (Ken Allaire) may be the same as one earlier on Long I., in Connecticut, and on Cape Cod. What was probably another visited Cape May off and on in Jul (m. ob.). Another was seen along the Delaware Bay shore from May through mid-Jul. More typical was an imm. at Broadkill 28 Jul (BP). As in recent years, several White-faced Ibis were identified in Delaware and New Jersey in Jul, but none were seen farther north. A Black Vulture at Oak Orchard W.M.A., Genesee, NY 26 Jul (Jim Pawlicki et al.) was remarkably far north of its lower Hudson Valley breeding outpost.

Authorities in Union, NJ halted a controversial program of gassing Canada Geese after two days, 2 Jul, killing far fewer than the 2700 authorized under a federal permit. Trumpeter Swans, probably originating either from a Canadian introduction program or from wildfowl collections, are still nesting in Wayne, NY. One tried unsuccessfully to nest on the outskirts of Rochester, NY. Declining Blue-winged Teal went unreported in the Rochester area and were scarce throughout the Region. A female King Eider, one of the least likely of Regional waterfowl to linger after spring, summered at Jamaica Bay. Thirty-five Ruddy Ducks at De Korte S.P. in the New Jersey Meadowlands 9 Jul (Rich Kane), a former breeding area, were encouraging.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Ospreys had low productivity in s. New Jersey and on Long I. Rain and cold water were thought to have kept the fish deep. Prolonged feeding forays by parents exposed the young to hypothermia as well (KC, Mike Scheibel, N.Y.D.E.C.). In the Atlantic bays of Cape May, NJ, 10 of 16 nests failed, while the remaining 6 produced 11 young (Bob & Linda Carlough). Jamaica Bay's record eight pairs, however, produced 16 young (DR).

SA Several shorebird species moved north late, partly because of delayed egg-laying by Horseshoe Crabs in Delaware Bay. This year's peak aerial count of the globally-significant shorebird concentration there was the latest and the smallest since counts began in 1986: 100,855 birds on 3 Jun, about half the 1997 figure and about a quarter of the highest 1980s counts. These included 19,800 Ruddy Turnstones, 9800 Red Knots, 7800 Sanderlings, and 18,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, all low numbers. Ominously, "weight gain has been abysmal." Although New Jersey imposed a moratorium on the Horseshoe Crab harvest from 1 May to 7 Jun and a limit of 150,000 (half the number taken in 2002), Delaware backed out of similar measures, under pressure from eel and conch fishermen, who used forklifts to harvest Horseshoe Crabs, many before they could lay their eggs.

Once again, up to 3 subad. Mississippi Kites were seen sporadically around Cape May until 25 Jun, but there was again no sign of nesting and no reports from farther north. Bald Eagles suffered some weather-related mortality. New York State's 75 occupied nests had a 71% success rate (53 successful pairs), compared with 80% (56 pairs) last year (Pete Nye, N.Y.D.E.C.). In New Jersey, they expanded to 40 territorial pairs, 35 of which laid eggs. Ten failed, and the remaining 25 fledged 42 young (KC). Delaware, which had only four nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in 1982, now has 32. This success apparently does not please everyone—a pine tree containing a nest with two eaglets was chain-sawed down on the s. shore of Indian R. Bay, *Sussex*, DE. Ednie suspects that the property's new owner hopes to develop it. The New York City Parks Department repeated its controversial hacking experiment again this year, with 4 eaglets brought from Wisconsin to a platform in Inwood Hill Park, *Bronx*. One of last year's eaglets was killed by a train, another was shot in the Catskills, and the other 2 vanished.

Cooper's Hawk nests, increasing in suburbia, were confirmed in the New York Botanical Garden, New York City, and at two localities in *Suffolk*, Long I. Several pairs were present in Delaware, and a nest was discovered near Oak Grove, Seaford, *Sussex* (Glen Lovelace). Merlins nested at Binghamton, NY (Marie Petuh), far south of previously known breeding areas, and several in late Jul at Buffalo suggested breeding (MM). Peregrines passed a major milestone in New Jersey when two pairs laid eggs on

a natural cliff, the Hudson R. Palisades. One nest fledged the first Peregrine Falcon in 50 years on this classic, once frequently photographed site. Cliff usage is spreading in the Adirondacks; natural sites produced 29 young there this year (18 last year) out of a state total of 88 (Barbara Loucks, N.Y.D.E.C.). Total breeding pairs in New Jersey reached 18 that fledged 33 young (KC).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Ruffed Grouse have become hard to find in most of this Region, though they still outnumber Wild Turkeys in the Saint Lawrence River Valley of n. New York. Both species had low nesting success in that area because of the weather (MS). Elsewhere, Wild Turkeys were everywhere, including Manhattan's Battery Park 12 & 28 Jul. What is the secret of turkey success, when every other gallinaceous species is in decline?

Moorhens were disturbingly scarce on the L. Ontario shoreline w. of Rochester (RGS). In the Long I. and New York City areas, they seem to be "quietly disappearing." (SS). As we predicted, **Sandhill Cranes** were finally discovered nesting in New York, near Savannah, *Wayne* (John Van Neil, John Foust). Two others summered at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee-Orleans*, NY. A wanderer overflew New Dorp, Staten I., NY 15 Jul (Cliff Hagen).

One stellar find was a **Wilson's Plover** at Mecox Bay 7–8 Jun (SM, Pat Lindsay et al.), the first on Long I. since Mar 2000. Former breeders in New Jersey, they are now rare anywhere in this Region. Piping Plovers, the earliest beach nester and flooded out by two high lunar tides in May, suffered again in the full-moon tide of mid-Jun in unrelenting easterlies. Gulls, feral cats, and human beings continue to be a problem; someone cut enclosures at Gilgo Beach, *Suffolk*, Long I. and removed some eggs, carefully leaving one in each nest. With low productivity, the Long I. total was expected to slip a little below last summer's 383 pairs (MW). The Delaware population, at the brink of extinction five years ago, recovered to five nests and 14 young, but all of these were at one site, Cape Henlopen (HN).

The number of shorebirds loafing through the early part of the season continues to increase. For example, 132 Short-billed Dowitchers, 95% in basic plumage, remained at Stone Harbor Pt. 10 Jun (RC). Imm. Upland Sandpipers with 2 ads. 22 Jun suggested nesting at Dover Air Force Base, DE (F. Rohrbacher, L. Graf), but they might have bred elsewhere. Breeding has not been confirmed

this far s. in the Region for many years. The largest breeding population reported was 9 in Leray Twp., *Jefferson*, NY, but they are "down considerably from past years" at other n. sites such as Fort Drum (MS).

Two premium shorebird rarities appeared briefly in New Jersey: a **Little Stint** at Stone Harbor Pt. 9–10 Jul (RC, M. Fritz et al.) and a **Red-necked Stint** at Two Mile Landing, *Cape May* 21 Jul (RC, ph. MO'B). The only Curlew Sandpiper was in alternate plumage at Brig 18–19 Jul (Lloyd Shaw, CK, AM et al.). Ruffs were most frequently noted in coastal Delaware, as usual, where up to 4 were present 20–26 Jul at Bombay Hook and Taylor's Gut, Woodland Beach W.M.A. A Reeve was also at Brig 19–27 Jul (CK, Frank Windfelder).

Few Wilson's Phalaropes appeared, though one was at Broadkill on the late date of 15 Jun (ES); there is still no evidence of breeding in this Region s. of L. Champlain. Red-necked Phalaropes were moving late, with one at Mecox, Long I. 6–9 Jun (Rex & Birgit Stanford) and one 6 Jun at Stone Harbor, and they returned early (Brig 27 Jul, F. Windfelder).

SKUA THROUGH SKIMMER

The only South Polar Skua was at sea s. of Montauk Pt. 26 Jun (JP). Curiously, only Pomarine Jaegers were reported from shore, at Democrat Pt., Long I. 22 Jun (Seth Ausubel, Isaac Grant, Gene Herskovics) and Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ 19–24 Jun (Scott Barnes).

The Laughing Gull colony in the *Cape May* coastal marshes, the world's largest, suffered in the high tides of late spring and early summer, and many did not re-nest. Although about 2000 were shot at JFK airport again, the adjacent colony holds stable at about 3500 pairs (DR). The only Little Gull was, as expected, on L. Ontario 28 Jul at Hamlin Beach (WS). The only Black-headed Gull was at Mecox, Long I. from late May to 7 Jun (HMcG). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now present throughout the year. Individuals were on the coast of all three states, with a maximum of 4 at Port Mahon, DE 27 Jun (BP). On the Great Lakes, a subad. was at Hamlin Beach S.P. 1 & 4 Jun (WS, C. Cass). The first successful Great Black-backed Gull nest on the U.S. side of the Saint Lawrence R. was found at Murphy I., Waddington Twp., *Saint Lawrence*, NY (MS).

A few Gull-billed Terns are still breeding in the Great South Bay of Long I. in Hempstead Twp. (John Zarudski). Several pairs hung around Bombay Hook,

where they are surprisingly uncommon. Caspian Terns fledged 2 young again on Tow I., in Barnegat Bay, NJ (JaB).

Stone Harbor Pt., Cape May, NJ was the Region's tern capital this season. The town settled a dispute with New Jersey Audubon and the Littoral Society over illegal spoil-dumping by the creation of 4.4 more acres of Piping Plover habitat. Nine species of terns were there 2 Jul (MO'B), including Arctic, Roseate, Sandwich, Royal, and Black. It was the second consecutive summer for Arctic Tern ashore at Stone Harbor; this year an ad. and a second-summer bird were present (ph. MO'B). Some of these loafers are candidates for breeding; Royal Terns have bred sparingly on the New Jersey coast, and 8 ads. at Stone Harbor were seen courting and offering fish. In addition to the Stone Harbor report, Sandwich Terns (which breed as close as Virginia) were reported from Sandy Hook, NJ 12 Jun (one bird), with 5 at Broadkill 14 Jun (ES). Although Roseate Terns engaged in courtship feeding at Stone Harbor, and hung around Cape Henlopen, DE and Island Beach, NJ, the long-awaited first Regional breeding s. of Long I. still eludes us. On Long I., while Roseate Terns were slightly below average at Great Gull I. (1722 pairs, Helen Hays), the lack of auxiliary colonies is worrisome. The Great Gull Island Project has encouraged a colony on nearby Cartwright I., where 204 nests were marked 5 Jul (Matthew Male). The Cedar Beach colony was spooked by foxes in 1995, however, and the Shinnecock population, once around 50 pairs, has fallen to six pairs (MW).

Six Forster's Terns nesting on Lane's I., Shinnecock Inlet 27 Jun (MW) seem to be staking out a new ne. frontier on Long I. The Great South Bay population at Hempstead remains a healthy 158 pairs (JZ), while the Jamaica Bay colony is stable with about 70 (DR). Least Terns suffered from high tides and predation. About 1750–2000 ads. were estimated in New Jersey, on par for the last decade and a little better than the years 2000–2001 (TP, DJ). They fared poorly in Delaware. Two small colonies at Cape Henlopen S. P. were flooded out. At S. Bower's Beach, 11 nests fledged 4 young—a far cry from the approximately 200 pairs in Delaware Shores S.P. in the 1970s (APE). The N.Y.D.E.C. did not survey breeding Black Terns in upstate New York this season, where they have declined drastically. More lingered to the s. than usual, with a maximum of 6 at Stone Harbor Pt. 9 Jul (Gail Dwyer).

The N. J. D.E.G.W. estimated 2700 ad. Black Skimmers in New Jersey, more than last year (2200) but about in line with the previous 10 years (TP, DJ). Productivity was a low 0.5 per pair because of flooding and predation. Some delayed breeding until Jul, such as the record colony of 250 pairs in Barnegat Inlet (JaB). But a “large portion of the adult population did not lay eggs this year (reason not clear)” (TP). Many loafed in Delaware as usual, but 55 nests on Assowoman Bay at Fenwick I. on the Maryland border (HN), also noted last summer, constituted the first state breeding since boating pressure became extreme in Rehoboth Bay in the early 1980s (DAC).

OWLS THROUGH WRENS

Riepe banded another 30 Barn Owls in Jamaica Bay, where they have adopted nest boxes on low poles in the marsh. His total is now well over 300. Common Nighthawks hang on in big tracts of open country. A night census of Fort Drum in Jun turned up 53 (MS), while 13 were found on a 10-km stretch of pine barrens roadway in the Wharton S.E., Burlington, NJ 19 Jul (PD, Robert Driver). The only urban rooftop nest

reported was on an old factory in Rockaway, Morris, NJ (RR). The pioneering Chuck-will's-widow noted in spring in Oswego, NY (Robert Fish, m. ob.)—the Oneida Basin's first—sang until 2 Jun. Whip-poor-wills persist in fair numbers on ridge tops in Morris and Passaic, NJ (RR, Elizabeth Radis) and in the New Jersey pine barrens, where 20 were calling on a 14-km stretch of road in Wharton State Forest 28 Jul (PD), although they are absent around Rochester (RGS) and in the n. Catskills (WY). A night census of Fort Drum in Jun tallied 86 (MS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds continued to prosper. At Jenny L., Saratoga, NY, Yunick established his 8th consecutive record by trapping 183 (127 new, 56 returns, one six years old). He describes his yard as a “war zone” in late May and early Jun. Consumption of sugar set a new record of 1072 grams/day 3 Jun, and mounted again when young left the nest.

The N.J.D.F.G.W. conducted its first statewide census of Red-headed Woodpeckers, designated as Threatened in New Jersey. Only one pair was found in the n. and center of the state; 25–30 new sites and eight traditional sites were located in eight s. counties, most of them



A remarkable find anywhere away from Siberia in summer was this apparent *longipennis* Common Tern, also known as River Tern or Siberian Common Tern, at Stone Harbor Point, Cape May County, New Jersey. Photograph by Michael O'Brien.

SA One of the most interesting birds of the season to be documented in the Region, indeed one of the most intriguing in many years, was the apparent *longipennis* Common Tern, a Siberian nester never before recorded in the Atlantic basin, which was studied carefully at Stone Harbor Pt. 14 Jul (ph. MO'B, m. ob.). Old World authorities have reviewed the series of photographs by O'Brien and concur with the identification as *longipennis*, probably a bird in its second summer. See the “Changing Seasons” essay for more discussion.

in Cape May, Atlantic, Cumberland, and Burlington (KC, J. Dowdell). All our New York reports are from far upstate, except one at Livingston Manor, Sullivan (Wes & Amy Gillingham). A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Fort Drum in Jun constituted the first record there (MS).

Western Kingbirds, regular enough in fall, were surprising in midsummer at Iroquois N.W.R. 28 Jun (Terry Mosher) and almost simultaneously 28–29 Jun around Stone Harbor/Cape May (AM, Terry McFarland, Nick Pulcinella). Just as remarkably, single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared in three places: Keene, Essex, NY, in the Adirondacks, 5 Jul (Al & Susan Turner et al.); another the same day at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester, NY (TWB, ph. Gail Benson, AG); and another convincingly reported by non-birders at Oceanside, Long I. 23–24 Jul (*vide* SS).

Two singing male White-eyed Vireos at Westfield, Chautauqua, NY 21 Jun (Willy D'Anna, MM) aroused interest, as this species has never been confirmed breeding in nw. New York. Common Ravens have bred in the mountains of nw. New Jersey since 1991. This summer, following increasing coastal observations, they made a major leap into the lowlands. A pair fledged young on the Tenafly-Alpine stretch of the New Jersey Palisades, Bergen (BMo).

The Cliff Swallow colony on the Appoquinimink Bridge e. of Odessa, DE had nine nests and 24 birds 4 Jul (APE). By 23 Jul, it had expanded to the next bridge north, over Silver Run, Augustine Beach W.A. (C. Campbell). This species' s. limit along the coast is nearby in Maryland. Sedge Wrens had a good season in Jefferson and Saint Lawrence, NY, where 12–14 were located at several sites (MS); other scattered reports were limited to upstate New York.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Declining Golden-winged Warblers were reported less often than Brewster's Warblers around Buffalo (MM). Some holdouts at the s. edge of the range could be found in extreme n. New Jersey, near Layton, Sussex, in the Delaware Water Gap N.R.A., and in powerline cuts in the Pequannock Watershed, Passaic-Sussex. Lawrence's Warblers were reported at Tonowanda W.M.A. and from Dutchess and Suffolk, NY.

An apparent hybrid Northern Parula x Magnolia Warbler, believed in spring to be a Sutton's Warbler sang in Stokes S.F., Sussex, NJ 2 May–18 Jul (T. Sudol, Michael Duffy). Prairie Warblers are increasing at Fort Drum (MS) and in the

Oneida L. Basin of New York, where a singing male in Russia Twp., Herkimer, NY 2 Jun was 70 km n. of known breeding areas (BP). Proper successional vegetation may matter more than latitude in this case.

Prothonotary Warblers appear to be nesting in previously unknown localities in Union and Essex, NJ (W. Peterson, DO, RR) and Orange, NY in the lower Hudson Valley (Diana Sheridan). At the n. limit, they continue at Tonawanda W.M.A. and are now established on Oneida L. at Three Mile Bay W. M.A., Oswego, NY (BP). A Connecticut Warbler, rare in spring, was banded at Fort Tilden, Queens, NY 6 Jun (Tom Brown, Jarrod Santora, Tim White, Kristin Ampella). Potentially the outstanding warbler of the season was an apparent MacGillivray's Warbler banded at Kaiser-Manitou, w. of Rochester on L. Ontario, 4 Jun (Cindy Marino, ph. Laurie Zagmester). If approved by the N.Y.S.A.R.C., this will establish the 2nd state record, the first dating only from Dec 1999. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Alexandria, Jefferson, NY (MS) was well n. of previous atlas limits, and a Summer Tanager was beyond the Long I. breeding limit at Katonah, Westchester, NY 9 Jun (J. Askildsen).

Clay-colored Sparrows are engaged in a major range extension across n. New York. As atlas work discovered new breeding areas in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Wyoming, an "unprecedented influx" brought five pairs to the Rochester area, three of which nested successfully (*vide* RGS). Fort Drum had 30+ singing males, and a few others were in the Saint Lawrence R. Valley (MS). One singing 1–5 Jun in the lower Hudson Valley at the Mohonk Preserve, Ulster, NY (Jane Vecchione, Lin Fagan) was not completely unprecedented. This species seems to be invading from Ontario and favors Christmas tree plantations. A Lark Sparrow was surprising at Jones Beach 14 Jun (R. McGrath). Henslow's Sparrow numbers were "very depressed," even in traditional locations in the Saint Lawrence R. Valley (MS); 5 at Lancaster, just outside Buffalo 2 Jun (Brendan Klick, Don Harris) was the biggest colony reported. Dickcissels went unreported.

Purple Finches seem to be recovering from their crash of the early 1990s and had a good season in the St. Lawrence R. Valley (MS) and in the s. Adirondack foothills (RPY). An Evening Grosbeak was highly unusual though not unprecedented 16 Jun at Ridge, Long I. feeder (Joel Horman).

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